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Composting pilot project to take place in Cramahe

By JOYCE CASSIN
Special to the Chronicle

Some residents in the northern portion of Cramahe Township will be taking part in a composting pilot project beginning in August, Pam Russell, Director of Transportation and Waste for Northumberland told Cramahe Township council Apr. 3.

With the life span of the Seymour landfill only one to two more years, and Brighton landfill's life span set at eight years, the project will determine if a composting system should be added to the existing waste system, and whether it is feasible in both rural and urban areas. Two hundred households in the urban portion of Brighton will also take part, with a temporary compost pad constructed on the Brighton site.

Composting in the rural areas is a likely a waste of time as rural people have dogs — and gardens, Cramahe Councillor Ed Van Egmond said. Northumberland CAO Bill Pyatt argued that many rural people are having problems with animals getting into their composters, but that the pilot project will determine whether composting will be feasible in the rural areas or not.

Other changes in Northumberland's waste collection program has already seen residual at the recycling facility improve from 36 per cent down to 24 per cent since it began last fall.

Residents received a list of what items are considered recyclable and how to recycle all items. Since smaller grocery bags are now being recycled separately,

this has eliminated opportunities for residents to "hide" their household waste in grocery bags inside clear recycle bags.

"People were hiding a lot of nasty things in these grocery bags," Ms. Russell said.

Another project that will help extend the life span of the Brighton site is the landfill remediation. Staff will mine the existing cell, separate the soil (74%) from the actual garbage (26%) and take out recyclables such as steel before compacting the garbage and putting it into a newly constructed engineered cell on the site. This program is expected to increase the life span of the Brighton site up to 13 years.

Due to landfill approvals costing millions of dollars and up to 20 years for approvals, Ms. Russell said the county is looking at partnering with Durham York on a proposed thermal technology facility. The capital cost to build the facility that is expected to be operational in Aug. 2011, is \$250-million.

"It's cheaper to throw it into the ground in the short term, and there's no doubt alternative methods are more costly, but it's more cost effective in the long term," Ms. Russell said.

Cramahe Mayor Marc Coombs suggested Ms. Russell work with the industrial park to get a central recycling depot where businesses may place their recycling. A business owner contacted Mr. Coombs and suggested they take part in the recycling efforts in the County. Ms. Russell was positive about the idea.

"They don't necessarily need roadside pick up," Mr. Coombs said. "But, they would like to get into recycling."

NEW BIZ



PHOTO BY MANDY MARTIN

Tom Hawboldt readies a new batch of muffins at T's Coffee, King Street East in Colborne.

T's Coffee welcomes the coffee break crowd

Tom Hawboldt believes in Colborne. In fact, he's hoping his investment in his hometown is going to help him leave the city behind once and for all.

T's Coffee shop has opened on the south side of King Street East in Colborne. The "soft" opening was Saturday, March 31, and the grand opening — ribbon-cutting and dignitaries — was Wednesday April 10.

Fresh thermoses of coffee blends are at the ready: 100% Colombian, premium blend, 100% Colombian decaf, hazelnut and cream and French vanilla. To compliment the coffee, Tom whips up fresh batches of assorted muffins and cookies. There are fresh bagels available, too.

"If someone's having a meeting or want coffee and snacks, delivered, they can phone me ahead of time and I'll gladly do that," he says.

Plans are to have ice cream come the warmer weather.

Four years ago, Tom and wife Joan moved to Colborne from Toronto.

Joan had been facing a serious health when, "She opened a house magazine one day and saw a house, pointed to it and said she'd love to live there. So, one day in August, I drove down to Colborne to look at a house and fell in love with it," Tom recalls.

"I took pictures, showed Joan and she agreed. We put in an offer and moved. We love it here."

Tom continues to commute to his job with the Toronto Transit (Commission), but dreams of one day being able to leave the city behind for good.

"We've lived in Colborne for four years now and I kept telling my wife someday I would open a coffee house and store here. I looked around and there was a need for a coffee shop.

"Then, this store became available and I grabbed it before anybody else did. I was the lucky one."

He plans to hang enlargement of historic Colborne photos on the walls "so visitors to town get a taste of what's here". He's also planning some trim and décor finessing in the spotlessly clean shop.

T's Coffee is open 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 5 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Hours may be extended during summertime. Call 905-355-5982.