

County to harmonize tipping fees at three sites

JOHN CAMPBELL
jcampbell@northumberlandnews.com

NORTHUMBERLAND -- Fair's fair.

People who drop off garbage at the Bewdley transfer station will be paying less in tipping fees next year while those who use the Seymour and Brighton landfills will pay more.

The new rate, to take effect April 1, will be \$115 per tonne for all three locations.

Right now there's a huge disparity in the tipping fees: \$150 per tonne for residential garbage at Bewdley and only \$95 at the two other sites.

The rationale had been the higher charge was necessary to compensate for the cost of transferring the trash to either landfill for disposal, Adam McCue, manager of planning and technical support, explained in a report to county council Oct. 17.

However, that school of thought has come under attack in recent years by users of the Bewdley transfer station and local politicians, who argue the County charges a common rate for other services it provides. That includes snow removal, emergency services, and garbage collection, where everyone pays \$2.75 for bag tags, "regardless whether your residence is right across from the landfill or your house is 50 kilometres away," Mr. McCue told council.

The new harmonized rate reflects inflationary increases that have occurred since the tipping fees for the two landfills were raised by \$10 in 2008.

When in place, the new fee will put Northumberland in line with what's being charged in seven other municipalities surveyed, the average being \$113.

Based on 2011 figures, 22,709 loads of residential garbage were taken to the Bewdley transfer station (compared to 30,261 loads for the two landfills). The cost per average load was \$22.50; when the new tipping fee takes

effect, that cost will drop by \$5.25.

Users of the other locations will see their cost go up, on average, by \$5 per load.

Industrial, commercial and institutional users will see a bigger difference in their cost per average load: a drop of \$9.10 at Bewdley, an increase of \$23.50 at Seymour and Brighton.

The Seymour landfill will become a transfer station next April because it will be too expensive to continue operating as a dump.

Hauling garbage from Seymour to Brighton will cost Northumberland an extra \$100,000 a year as a result.

Also, the County will begin accepting payment by credit card next year for waste taken to the three sites, which will add another \$21,000 to its costs in fees paid to credit card companies.

However, the harmonized tipping fee will generate approximately \$224,000 more in revenue, Mr. McCue said, leaving the County with \$103,000 to spend as it sees fit.

Options include reducing the waste services division's levy requirements in future years, accommodating fluctuations in revenues received for the sale of recyclable materials, paying higher fuel costs or addressing capital needs.

■ GET BAKING
NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY
Contest OCT 30/12
seeks the
Perfect Pie

CECILIA NASMITH
Northumberland Today

WARKWORTH — If you think you make the perfect pie, you can make it official at the 33rd annual Perfect Pie Contest Nov. 3 in Warkworth.

Sponsored by the Warkworth Chapter No. 279 Order of the Eastern Star, the contest invites bakers of all ages to submit their best work for judging in a variety of categories: fruit, apple, pumpkin, filled, savoury, meringue-topped, maple syrup, pecan and the best pie with local ingredients (bison, cheese, pork, beef, fruit, maple syrup).

There are also a few special categories: men's open, junior apple (for bakers aged 12 and under), youth aged 13 to 18 (any kind) and Warkworth Chapter members (any kind).

A few ground rules apply. Pies must have pastry crusts (no crumb tops), and contestants can enter only one pie per category. Chocolate pies go into the filled category, and any pie with a meringue top is entered under meringue-topped.

Bring your creations to the Warkworth Town Hall Centre for the Arts (40 Main St.) between 9 and 10:30 a.m. A panel of very competent judges will then evaluate each on the criteria of general appearance, crust and filling.

Then come back at 1:30 p.m. for the fun. For a nominal admission, you can enjoy a piece of your favourite pie with a beverage, as well as live entertainment, presentation of awards and the thrill of an old-fashioned pie auction.

Proceeds typically support the benevolent projects of the chapter as well as the Worthy Matron's project - this year, the Kidney Foundation of Canada.

cecilia.nasmith@sunmedia.ca
twitter.com/NT_cnasmith

■ ON EXHIBIT: Opens Nov. 17

Colborne Art Gallery
presents All Things
Bright and Beautiful
NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY
CECILIA NASMITH
Northumberland Today

COLBORNE - All Things Bright and Beautiful brings a wonderful group show and sale to the Colborne Art Gallery, not to mention a unique Christmas-shopping opportunity.

The annual Christmas exhibition and sale by member artists runs through Dec. 23, and has its opening reception Nov. 17 to which everyone is invited. Between 2 and 4 p.m., you can meet the artists, sip a cup of hot cider, nibble on some delicious treats and perhaps find a special Christmas gift or two.

Gallery artists will be selling art work in all sizes and price ranges at a time of year when everyone is looking for the perfect gift, everything from cards and ornaments to full-sized works of art for the home - far beyond the proverbial page-taken-from-a-sketchbook-and-framed.

Proceeds from these sales will go toward developing an even better gallery for the community to enjoy.

Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, and the gallery is located at 51 King St. E., Colborne.

For more information, call 905-355-1798 or visit www.thecolborneartgallery.ca.