

Three proposed landfill sites targeted by Interim Waste Authority hug the east border of Halton Hills. Norval, in fact, is only 2.4 km south west of the largest, Site B-22C. Its borders are Winston Churchill Blvd., Wanless Rd., Heritage Rd. and the CNR tracks (Lots 14, 15, 16, Conc 6,

City of Brampton. Site B-22D, Lots 14 and 15, Conc. 5 and 6, City of Brampton is basically the same site but a little smaller and Site B-15B encompasses Lots 16 and 17, Conc. 6 City of Brampton, bordering on Mayfield and Heritage Rds.

Three proposed landfill sites hug Halton Hills' east border

By WENDY LONG

Special to the Independent/Free Press

Local residents Pam and Dave Soward are crusading for public awareness of proposed Peel dumps that could significantly affect Halton Hills.

The Sowards mapped one kilometre impact zones around three nearby proposed dumps, technically located in Peel region, and were frightened by the results. Their research has led them to believe that the long term effects of one of these dumps could be environmentally detrimental at a local level.

The Sowards gathered the site information and data compiled by Interim Waste Authority Limited, created by the provincial government in April 1991 with the mandate to create three landfills to serve Greater Toronto.

Interim Waste is searching for one landfill in Peel, one in Metro Toronto and one in Durham. The short list of preferred sites (four to six for each region) will be released in September as step five of the six-step search process. Currently a total of 21 proposed dump sites are being considered in Peel region.

The Sowards contacted the Credit Valley Conservation Authority and copied topographical maps of the areas of the proposed dumps to compare them with Interim Waste's maps.

Specifically, the three proposed sites that the Sowards are concerned with are Site B-22D, Site B-22C, and Site B-15B. All three sites are located near Winston Churchill Blvd. The one kilometre impact zones that the Sowards mapped all contain environmentally significant areas within Halton Hills.

They feel that Interim Waste's research has overlooked certain factors.

"Interim Waste did not consider the present quality of ground water," said Dave Soward. "There may be other more appropriate

sites where the ground water is already polluted."

Soward also feels that Interim Waste used the future land use planning criteria ineffectively.

"They should not abuse planning," said Soward, which he believes is the case. "Only address what the land is being used for now. That's just imagination (to do otherwise)."

Soward feels that the planning grade given by Interim Waste does not reflect financial feasibility.

"It will leak. There's no dump site ever that hasn't leaked," stated Soward. "If they're so convinced that the dump sites won't leak why aren't they putting them in the polluted industrial areas by the lake? Their faith is all being put in this thing not leaking."

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The Sowards are upset that Halton Hills hasn't shown much, if any, reaction to the proposed Peel dumps.

"You have got to get out and survey, 'What are you doing to Halton Hills?'" said Pam Soward emphatically.

They mailed a four page letter to Interim Waste (with another copy going to town council) last week documenting their findings and concerns on the topics of agriculture, biology, economics, geology/hydrology, heritage and land use in relation to the three proposed dumps.

The Sowards themselves live on Winston Churchill Blvd. but feel their fight will benefit everyone in Halton Hills, as documented in the letter.

In a telephone interview Interim

Waste expressed appreciation of the Sowards' correspondence.

"This is the best thing we could get," said Bob Dormer, an Interim Waste program advisor for the Peel landfill search. "We've been encouraging residents in the area to do just this."

Dormer explained that many of the Sowards' concerns are going to be addressed in steps five and six of the search process, where the proposed dumps and their impact areas will be researched at "a greater level of detail." He said that at step four Interim Waste has not yet had an opportunity to walk the individual sites.

"It was impractical to go out and get the water quality of 118 sites," added Dormer. "We will be looking at that in the future steps."

As well, three other criteria have been added to step five, including archaeology.

Dormer stressed that it is important for the public to understand the progressive approach Interim Waste has taken, narrowing the number of potential sites and engaging in public consultation throughout.

Dormer said that Interim Waste will check on any inaccuracies reported by the Sowards.


The Sowards and a group of other concerned Halton Hills residents are meeting with Interim Waste Tuesday at the Sowards' request.

"We want them to be aware of where it is and how close it is," said Pam Soward of Halton Hills citizens. "The people of Halton Hills need to write and let Interim Waste know how it's going to affect them."

Pam also urges people to go to meetings and gain information.

"Are they (landfills) necessary?" questioned Pam.

"We need to do more recycling and then look more closely at incineration. The Blue Box is nothing (on the large scale). We can go beyond that."

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