

## Consider landfill impact on CVCA watershed

The following is an open letter sent to the Interim Waste Authority by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA).

Mr. C.E. McIntyre, P.Eng.  
General Manager  
Interim Waste Authority

Dear Mr. McIntyre:

**Re: Landfill Site Selection Process**  
The Interim Waste Authority embarked on the most critical phase of the landfill site selection process for Durham, Peel and York/Metro, shortlisting the proposed sites and the detailed analysis of the environmental impacts of each site.

Media reports indicated that three new technical committees - one for each region - were created to steer technical studies of the proposed dump sites by independent experts in such areas as agriculture, biology, economics and hydrology. It is our understanding that the new technical committees included representatives of local citizen's groups, municipalities and regional governments.

Recently David Crombie in 'Regeneration', the report of the Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront, recognized the critical role of conservation authorities as watershed managers and noted that "there are encouraging signs that some municipalities are shifting to more ecosystem-

based planning and the challenge is to encourage this approach everywhere so that these opportunities are used to ensure a healthy and sustainable future for the region."

When Crombie's final report was released in May, we were pleased by the response of Ontario environment minister Ruth Grier when she announced that she "fully supports the work of the Crombie Royal Commission... and the Ontario government is moving in the same direction."

While we accept the reality that solid waste must be handled responsibly and further accept the political need to review the site selections based on regional and municipal boundaries, it is critical that the water-based environmental impact of the short-listed sites be analyzed on a watershed basis.

The water resources of the Credit Valley do not recognize political boundaries.

We would urge you to keep foremost in your mind that the impact of the landfill sites on the whole watershed must not be ignored. The Credit Valley Conservation Authority has advocated the ecosystem approach to water management for some time. The residents and community groups within our watershed recognize us as custodians/managers of the entire watershed and will be looking to us to ensure that decisions made adhere to the principles of ecosystem planning.

In recognition of this responsibility, we would like to take this opportunity to offer whatever advice and assistance we can to the Interim

## Letters

to the Editor

Waste Authority so that sound, ecosystem based decisions are made. We look forward to cooperating with you on this vitally important issue.

Yours very truly,  
Vicki Barron,  
General Manager, CVCA

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Best regards,  
James A. Warrington,  
Halton Camera Club



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