



Coke expansion could start soon

The Town of Penetanguishene and the Penetang Bottling Company are coming closer to a site plan agreement that would allow for the Coke plant expansion, said Paul Hodgins, the town planner.

ed," he said.

Hodgins said initially, many issues including aesthetic and drainage ones had to be addressed. Town engineers and bottling company officials would have to discuss and overcome several hurdles before the town could proceed with the site plan agreement and zoning bylaw amendment, he said.

In July, town engineers requested more details on

storm drainage, a retaining wall, truck access from the plant onto Thompson's Road and a new driveway.

According to Dr. Philip Jones, the town's consulting engineer, progress is being made and details will have to be finalized before a site plan agreement can be reached.

The town's official plan designates the area as neighbourhood residential; that is, development

should be restricted to housing. However, the official plan is also flexible if the proposed development is beneficial for the community and is not contradictory to the intent of the plan.

Hodgins added "there has always been a tacit understanding that the application should be approved, provided various technical issues were satisfactorily addressed."

80 acres adjacent to the Pauze landfill site) rates low regarding groundwater and agricultural resources risks but rates high in economic and social ones.

The Perkinsfield site is relatively close to dense housing, present and future, according to a chart passed out by the township's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC).

As well, the site is quite close to the Huronia District Airport, which recently received permanent customs services, therefore making it able to receive international aircraft.

The area's prime economic resource—cottages and tourism—could benefit dramatically by the changes proposed by the MTC, says a commercial community leader, but the dump, if located too close to the airport, could limit the area's economic potential.

Economic Development Commissioner for the Midland Chamber of Commerce Matthew Parry has said the changes to the airport will make the area much more attractive to

help promote this area to industry," he said.

But, he added, the positive effect could be next to nil if the dump moves closer to the airport.

"In the long-run, depending on where it (the dump) is located, it would definitely affect the attractiveness of the airport," Parry said.

When asked how it would affect international industry, he added "They (Tiny Township's Environmental Advisory Committee) will be closing a lot of that out."

"Industries that are progressive, with nice surroundings, often high tech ones, usually find sites that are near airports attractive," he said.

President of the Tiny Township Ratepayers' Association Anthony Lancia agreed with Parry, saying industry would be attracted to the area if the airport continues to expand.

"It makes it more attractive for industry to come here—international companies with branch plants. They could land, clear customs, see their people and get out quickly."

the airport continues to grow. Tourists would be more likely to drop in for weekends, he said. He added the area would be more attractive to more distant tourists.

"How do you draw them? By making it easier for them to come. Fly them in for a day," he said.

As well as having economic impact, the proposed dumpsite could limit Perkinsfield's growth. Already, consultants' reports say the groundwater there is poor, and an application to build a subdivision has been turned down because of inadequate water resources.

The consultants acknowledged the water resources would be adversely affected, but because the water is already polluted, it did not matter as much as if they were not.

"There's a low value to groundwater resources in the Perkinsfield area, because of indiscriminate waste management practices in the past," Pratt said. "That aquifer will remain polluted for 100-plus years."

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Season's Greetings

The International Year of Peace is almost at a close. As we pause to reflect, it is our hope that we continue to work for world peace and harmony.

In Canada, we share a special sense of family and community, particularly at this time of year.

To all — a wish for happiness and prosperity in the coming year.

*The Hon.
David Crombie
Secretary of State
and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism.*

