

Problems for Tiny site

by David Krayden

A report from the Ministry of the Environment may have put Tiny Township council's preferred location for a new landfill site in jeopardy.

The letter was written by Keith Neuman, a sociologist in the policy and planning branch of the MOE. It was sent to Niall McMillan, an environment planner with the Environmental Assessment Branch. McMillan forwarded a copy of the report to Tiny's environmental assessment coordinator with the Proctor and Redfern Group.

In his own letter attached to the report, McMillan stated, "I strongly advise you to address these comments and the comments of all other government reviewers and incorporate suggested changes into the final EA document prior to formal submission."

What does Neuman suggest?

He accuses the draft environment assessment report of not having "properly addressed potential effects of the alternatives considered on the social environment."

It accuses Tiny of ignoring "social factors," and "downplaying the potential environmental affects of continued use of a specific area for landfill operations, like Perkinsfield, which has already suffered significant environmental degradation and the resultant social stress from an existing site."

The report says the Ministry of the Environment - and specifically district officer for this area, Ian Gray - was not sufficiently consulted during the site selection process and that alternative sites were not seriously considered.

Gray says the document holds as much weight "as all the others" which the MOE prepares.

"The only option which wouldn't hold Tiny up in the Environmental Assessment hearings would be to proceed and try to win at the later process."

But Gray confirmed that if Tiny tries to "rectify all the problems" now it might enter those hearings six months later than planned.

However, the North Simcoe Waste Management Association's case for Site 41 (the parcel of land on Concession Two of Tiny Township where it wants its dump) will not be contingent upon Tiny's timetable. Tiny and the association will have separate Environmental Assessment hearings.

The Deputy Reeve of Tiny Council says the report is "more or less par for the course." But Dr. Peter Brasher has harsh words for its author.

"It's the sort of thing I'd expect from a newly-appointed civil servant with no local

knowledge. He's acquainting his 'expertise' - and please put that word in quotation marks - against the values and knowledge of the local people."

"This sociologist, Neuman, makes one point all through his report, that it would be unfair to continue the Pauze dump - but he makes no differentiation between the location and operation of that site."

Brasher says MOE really can't comprehend the needs of Tiny like the residents there can.

"If you're a civil servant and you were asked, 'What's the quickest way to my work?', he'd start a study. He's not from this area and he can't understand some very simple facts," said Brasher.

Brasher contends that Neuman fails to understand the difference between containment sites and attenuation sites and constantly confuses the two terms in his report.

"He questions our down-playing the clay (at Site 41). That clay is so sticky and fragile that I don't think it would work. We question whether that clay is even viable: waste might burst right through it."

And as for the District Officer for MOE being consulted during phases of the site selection process, Brasher says Gray was invited to attend many public meetings.

"But we weren't very likely to consult Mr. Gray every step of the way. He was invited to see the selection process but we damn well weren't going to have him there for the deliberations." Brasher suggested Gray should be gagged.

"We know what we want and we know what we'll tolerate. Mr. Neuman doesn't know that. We can't very well ignore this report but we certainly can't take it too seriously either," Brasher says.

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Tinney in charge

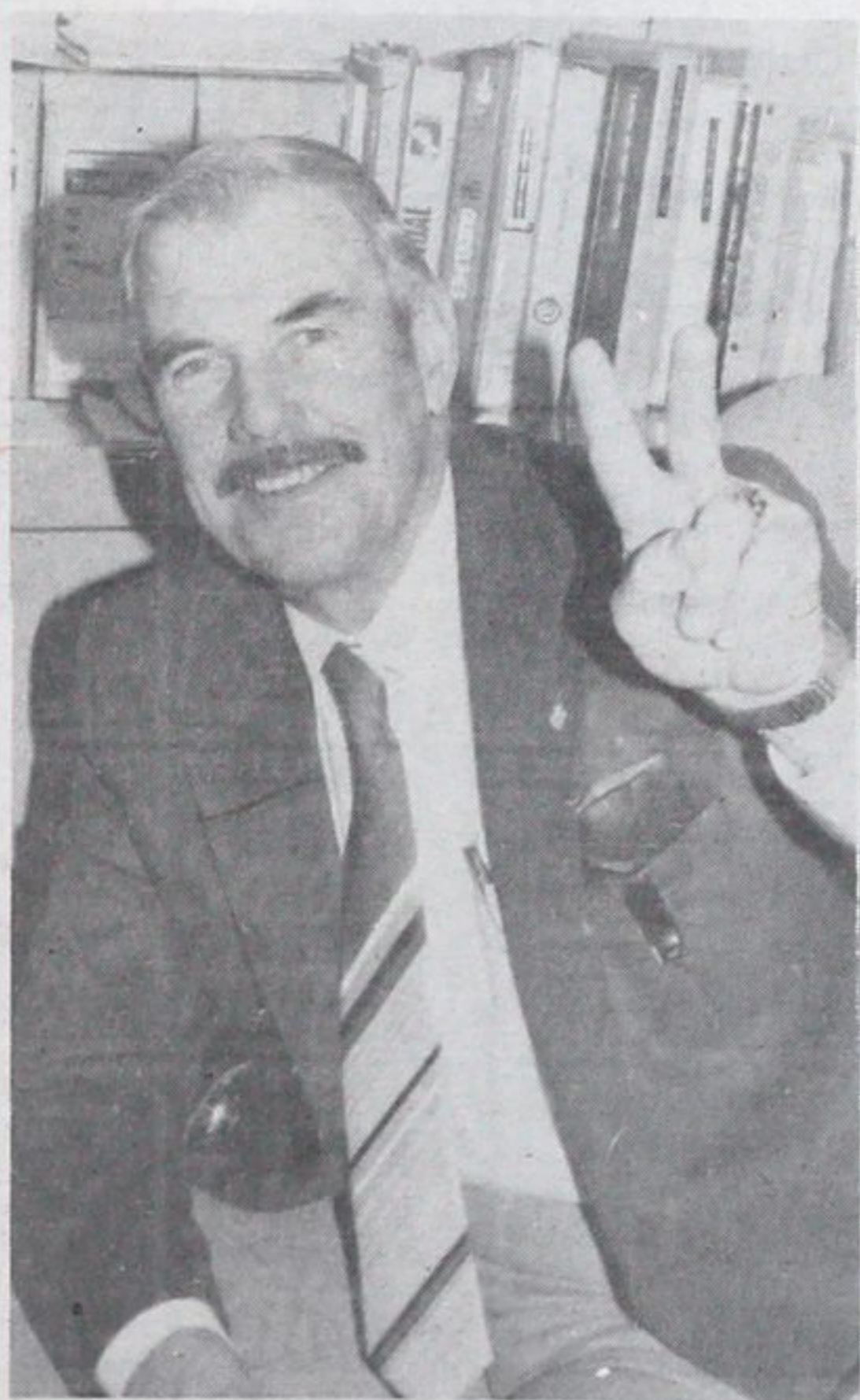
As of January 1, 1988, it's going to cost you \$45 per tonne to bring building material to the transfer site.

Bruce Tinney doesn't want to see garbage trucked unnecessarily to Toronto.

Tinney says this material contains a good deal of matter which is recyclable, and this is one way of encouraging people to dispose of it in more economical ways.

Tinney, in addition to being the Reeve of Tay Township Council is the new Chairman of the Transfer Station Committee, an organ of the North Simcoe Waste Management Association.

Also on the committee are Penetanguishene Councillor Lionel Dion, Midland Councillor Nancy Keefe and Tiny Councillors Ross Hastings and Montcalm Maurice.



Bruce Tinney



We've got a problem here:

Reeve Morris Darby is surrounded by his Deputy Reeve and councillors as some important business is discussed. Tiny has some

more important business to discuss at their next meeting on Dec. 16. The Council's choice of a landfill site may be rejected if cer-

tain "sociological factors" aren't considered. Tiny has cancelled this week's regular council meeting.

Recycling is the answer

The President of the Georgian Shores Waste Reduction Group has urged the NSWMA to "plan now for the future." Peter Stubbins was at the regular monthly meeting to talk about recycling and show some video tapes on how it's being done in other municipalities.

In some of the cases presented, almost 70 per cent of waste was saved from the landfill site and recycled, reduced, reused or reclaimed.

Figures like that are usually considered impossible to achieve Stubbins says.

The association listened very carefully as Stubbins described how "the four Rs" can drastically reduce taxes.

In an interview after the meeting, Stubbins described his feelings for the association as "very enthused."

Stubbins said the NSWMA is showing real initiative in trying to solve its waste reduction problems.

"I think we have a well-intentioned system," he said.

Stubbins insists that North Simcoe can achieve a 55 per cent rate of recycling. "I'm a little hesitant to say 70 per cent but that might be a realisable goal."

If we are to achieve numbers like that, then more public participation in the system is a must. Right now, Stubbins says about 30 per cent of the population is participating in the recycling program.

"That falls far short of the 90-100 per cent which they're getting in South-West Oxford."

That kind of co-operation might only be had if recycling was mandatory, something Stubbins says is "ultimately going to happen, but it would be nice to see how many people would voluntarily participate."

He points out that people in Huronia have had enough time to become involved. People have had two and one half years; people aren't stupid, just lazy."

Stubbins says there is only one option to not recycling: "An environment which is more polluted and taxes which are higher."

What the waste reduction president wants the NSWMA to do is take a broader view of recycling since "if you take smaller steps it's more costly. Let's plan and build one large facility: I mean whether they like it or not, we're already involved in the process, McLellan is taking away recyclable objects so they don't have to be trucked to Keele Valley."

Since we already have a recycling plant, more recycling would mean more revenue but not more costs since the structure is already in place. Also, Stubbins says, more jobs would be created.

"With recycling, you're doing something for yourself. You are doing something to save money, lessen the impact of waste on the environment. I think it's something to get enthused about."

Rotary Club and polio: see pg. 3