

Pilot project at Schreiber sewage plant may eliminate need for drying beds in sewage treatment

A pilot project at the Schreiber Sewage Treatment Plant may point the way to the elimination of drying beds in disposal of sewage.

Right now, the sludge produced at sewage plants has to be shipped to drying beds, in order to reduce its water content.

When it leaves the plant, the sludge is about two per cent solids, which is too liquid to bury in a landfill.

The drying beds allow the water to drain off, increasing the solid content of the sludge — or "cake" as its called when it's been dewatered — to 35 per

cent. The cake is then trucked to the landfill site and buried.

But a new method, which is scheduled to be in use in Schreiber around the end of March, would eliminate the need for drying beds.

Instead, the sludge will be emptied into filter bags at the plant. Water then drains out of the bags and goes back into the plant.

The resulting cake is anywhere from 35 to 50 per cent solids, and is then taken directly to the landfill site.

The cost of implementing

the new system, estimated at \$75,000, may seem prohibitive.

But compared with the estimated \$300,000 cost of building new drying beds, it would actually be a considerable saving.

And shipping costs would also be reduced. Since the need for drying beds is eliminated, the cake would be shipped only once, directly to the landfill site.

The technology has been on the North American market for only three months, but has been in use in Italy for the past couple of years.

Downhill Ski Club works

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cussions regarding an access road near the Legion will take place with Council, not the Ski Club.

"The Ski Club doesn't build roads, it's the Township of Terrace Bay that builds roads," he says.

"We're willing to make a decision, but with the appropriate people. We'd be foolish to deal with the Ski Club."

Once the issue of an access road is resolved, the club must determine what kind of governmental support they will be able to receive.

"We had a meeting with Brian Collins from the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation (in October), and he told us we needed backing from the Township," says Melody Mateev.

With sufficient support, Mateev says they would be eligible for matching grants of 50

per cent. "We can go for 50 per cent of the cost of building the chairlift, and then later go for 50 per cent of the cost of building the chalet, and so on" she says.

"There's different areas eligible for grants."

She also says the four clubs will be getting together to work out which grant each should apply for.

"Right now we're preparing to get together with the other clubs, get everybody's input, and then go to the township for support," she says.

"It's going to come down to either the Township taking everything over, or them turning everything over to us, and then supporting us financially," says Garry Richards.

"But if all the funding goes through, we hope to be starting in 1993."

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