

ENVIRONMENT: East Gwillimbury home to new hazardous waste centre — located across from proposed transfer station site

Odour no problem at hazardous waste site: Fisch

BY JENNIFER BROWN
Staff Writer

East Gwillimbury's new hazardous waste centre is across the street from one of two sites named for the proposed regional waste transfer station, but officials say that doesn't mean York's trash site has been finalized.

Located at 95 Bales Dr., off Davis Drive and east of Woodbine, the new hazardous waste and recycling depot looks on to the 160-acre parcel of land the region is considering for a recycling, composting and transfer station.

The other proposed site is at Hwy.

404 and Major Mackenzie Drive in Richmond Hill.

Although regional chairperson Bill Fisch said there are several factors that favour the East Gwillimbury site, including its size, proximity to Hwy. 404 and the considerable buffer to residential areas, other issues must be considered before the decision is finalized a year from now.

"This site is larger, which creates a buffer for people, and the big concern is truck traffic, which is why a 400-series highway is so important. There is also the issue of odour, but what we have



BILL FISCH
Larger site close to Hwy. 404 provides buffer

seen in so many parts of the country is odour, is not a problem because of the technology they use," said Fisch, who emphasized that the region will consult residents before making a decision.

And the manager of solid waste for the region said proximity to the

new hazardous waste site has no bearing in deciding where a garbage transfer site should go.

"I don't think the location of this depot would influence that decision. We have yet to complete a very detailed study before that decision is made," said Jeff Flewelling.

The 58-acre Richmond Hill site is now zoned rural residential.

But Richmond Hill has already targeted the area to be an industrial/commercial area.

The East Gwillimbury site is zoned rural residential/commercial and is one kilometre from an estate neighbourhood on Warden Avenue, whereas the Richmond Hill site is a quarter-kilometre from the nearest subdivision.

When a decision is made, its success will rely on the region's goal to have half its garbage diverted from landfill sites.

With four hazardous waste sites now established, Flewelling said the region is moving ahead with its waste diversion strategy.

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The new \$1-million hazardous waste depot is open two days a week — Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Permanent depots such as the one in East Gwillimbury replace the mobile programs the region operated on a temporary basis.

The East Gwillimbury depot also accepts scrap metal, large metal appliances and cardboard.

Hazardous wastes include cleaning agents, automotive fluids, pesticides, paints, medicines, solvents, batteries, propane cylinders and syringes.

If you have any concern about a product, look for hazardous materials symbols, including a skeleton hand indicating corrosive materials, skull and crossbones indicating poison, exploding fragments or a fire indicating flammable products.

Because of their impact on the environment, none of these materials should be tossed in the garbage, poured down the drain or buried in the yard.

HEALTH

Nurses stationed at Main St. booth

Find out if your blood pressure is at a healthy level during Stouffville's Strawberry Festival.

The Markham/Stouffville branch of the Heart and Stroke Foundation will have registered nurses on duty from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Main Street in Stouffville, Saturday, July 3, during the festival to assist residents in determining their blood pressure level.

The blood pressure clinic booth will be set up all day offering information on heart disease and related diseases, says spokesperson Jean Barclay.

Stouffville's Main Street will be buzzing with action throughout the day for festival-goers.



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