

YORK SPENT SIX YEARS STUDYING OPTIONS FOR WASTE DISPOSAL

# Northerners vow to block trash

From page 1.

Kirkland Lake Mayor Dr. Richard Denton and Timiskaming-Cochrane MP Benoit Serre said Northern Ontario is not a willing host for Greater Toronto's waste.

And both Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP David Ramsay and Pierre Brien, MP for Timiskaming, Quebec, threatened to lead efforts to block the delivery of trash by train.

"There are 26 municipalities in Timiskaming and 22 have voted against this. Toronto and regional councils don't have a clue to the resistance they are going to get to this," warned Brien.

"There will be blockages and civil disobedience. I have never seen people opposed to anything like this before. We are talking about farmers whose livelihood is at stake. I'll be the first one on the track blocking the train."

When Fisch told Brien he should be discussing law-abiding measures, the fiery MP shot back it's important the region understand the social unrest the decision will cause.

And Ramsay added resistance is strong from citizens on both sides of the Ontario-Quebec border, including the Timiskaming Algonquin First Nation.

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— Pierre Brien  
MP for Timiskaming, Quebec

"If that train ever leaves Toronto, it is never going to arrive," he said. "The garbage will never go into that site. I — and others — will see to that."

York Region has spent the past six years studying options for its waste disposal once the Keele Valley dump closes in 2003.

American Ref-Fuel Co. and Republic Services of Canada Ltd. made bids to take the trash to dumps in the United States.

Their final bids have not been revealed, although it is believed to be about \$50 per tonne.

Meanwhile, critics are still questioning whether Adams Mine's proposed

hydraulic pumping system will fail. The pit will be sealed after 20 years, but leachate must still be pumped away from the water stream for the next 100 years.

Although Rail Cycle North has received approval to dump waste in the mine, consultant Michael Pratt said four "minor" approvals are still required, three relating to water issues.

"I take exception to the words 'minor' approvals outstanding. Leachate is not minor," said Markham Regional Councillor Ralph Aselin.

"How are we able to send garbage north when people are not willing hosts?"

But King City Mayor Margaret Black, who has lobbied hard for a new sewage system in King Township to prevent contamination of local water, said the environmental assessment of the Adams Mine proves people will not be affected.

"If it fails, it won't impact as many people. It's a hard thing to say and I'm very sympathetic to the whole cause, but we have to do something," said Black.



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## New technologies being considered to divert waste

BY PATRICK CASEY  
Staff Writer

York Region will consider using new and emerging technologies to help divert more than 50 per cent of its waste from a Kirkland Lake landfill.

The region has hired Miller Waste Systems to operate a transfer station in either Richmond Hill or East Gwillimbury, where recyclables and wet compost will be separated from the remaining trash earmarked for a train headed north to the abandoned Adams Mine.

Spending \$25.1 million each year to collect, sort and dispose of its waste, the costs will escalate to between \$47.3 million and \$58.9 million once the Keele Valley landfill site closes in 2002.

Capital costs included in the final pricing arrangements for the transfer station range from \$5.1 million to \$9.5 million, depending on the site and collection options.

However, council agreed Thursday to spend the next year studying new diversion options after listening to representatives from Newmarket-based Canada Composting Inc. and Guelph's Super Blue Box Recycling Corp. (SUBBOR).

Both firms boast a high-tech recycling approach to create high-grade compost and renewable energy out of trash that normally finds its way to a landfill site.

Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor told his colleagues not to shut the door on new alternatives, especially when those methods are in use in other countries.

And Richmond Hill Mayor Bill Bell said incineration remains a popular choice in Europe.

"Every time we say the word incineration, people run for the hills," said Bell. "I am in favour of a balanced approach, but incineration gets rid of everything."

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