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 Economist & Sun/Tribune

Clean up landfill site, town tells province

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Writer

The province of Ontario has been asked strongly to clean up a defunct landfill site in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The landfill site on Hwy. 48 south of Ballantrae has been a controversial topic for more than 20 years. Long time area residents and local politicians alike want the province to clean it up.

In an unanimous vote on June 18, Whitchurch-Stouffville council directed staff to notify the Ministry of the Environment to take immediate action and start the cleanup process linked to the old York Sanitation landfill site at the province's expense.

Organic compounds have been found in the groundwater and landfill gas has been detected at the site, but water monitoring suggests the surface water meets the provincial Water Quality Objectives, reported a senior hydrogeologist with town consultants Gartner Lee Limited.

Mayor Wayne Emmerson said it is his intent to send a "strong message" to the province, calling for an "all sides" monitoring program followed by a cleanup of the 90-acre site, owned by Waste Management Inc.

"This is a bad site," stressed Mayor Emmerson. "The province is being put on notice: We want more than monitoring. We are not letting our guard down."

The landfill site closed in 1985. Since then, it has been monitored for its environmental effects. Meanwhile, some monitoring was collected at the site as early as 1973.

Groundwater has been sampled

twice-a-year for the past 23 years, while samples have been taken from about 40 wells from across the site. Monitoring has also included surface water and landfill gas, Waste Management Inc. reported earlier.

One of the major concerns centres on leachates levels at the site — they have risen in 26 wells.

Council has appealed to the MOE several times over the last year.

The worries expressed by members of the public and members of council, including Mayor Emmerson are "not unreasonable," said Norbert Woerns, senior hydrogeologist with Gartner Lee Ltd. "People need peace of mind," said Mr. Woerns.

While the town waits for the province to intervene, Gartner Lee Ltd. is recommending that monitoring continue in order to measure the performance of the landfill over time. Additional monitoring of landfill gas migration and expansion of the gas monitoring program have also been recommended to include adjacent off-site properties where site access allows.

Also recommended are revisions to the monitoring program to focus on those parameters that are more indicative of the landfill impacts.

Council is expecting the ministry to report on the local landfill site soon. Residents are asking for assurance that they live in a safe area of the municipality. They want the ground water within a half mile radius of the landfill site tested. Mr. Woerns said this, too, is a reasonable request. "The people want us to look at it," said Mr. Woerns. "The people have concerns."

TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE "COUNTRY CLOSE TO THE CITY"

MUSEUM

SUMMER CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

**JULY 24, 25, and 26 OR
 AUGUST 21, 22, and 23**

9:30 a.m. - 12 noon OR 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Join us for our summer program for children ages 8 - 14. The program will consist of three half days, and you may choose either the morning or the afternoon session. A light snack will be served each day. Children will explore a variety of heritage activities and crafts, completing several projects to take home - including a kaleidoscope, a tote-painting project, and creating and working on an Indian Bead loom.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

COST: \$30.00 per three day session
 (Members: \$24.00)

TO REGISTER BY PHONE OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL: 905-727-8954 or
 toll free 1-888-290-0337

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum is located at 14732 Woodbine Avenue in the hamlet of Vandorf between the Aurora Road and the Bloomington Road.

The York Regional Forest and the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum invite you to...

THE LEGACY OF THE WHITE PINE

A leisurely and informative hike through the Hollidge Tract of the York Regional Forest

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 SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 21ST, 2002

Space is limited so pre-registration is required to avoid disappointment!

Admission is free!

Call the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum at
 (905)727-8954 or 1-888-290-0337

LIBRARY

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library Canada Day Weekend Hours of Operation

Friday, June 28th, 2002, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 29th, 2002, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday, June 30th, 2002, 12 noon - 4 p.m.
Monday, July 1, 2002, Closed

Library customers should note that on Saturday, June 29th, 2002 the Main Street will be closed for the Strawberry Festival from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Customers coming to the Library that day from the west should take Main Street to Blake Street (by the railway tracks), go south on Blake to Burkholder Street, go east on Burkholder to the Library/Pool/Fitness Centre Complex. Customers coming to the Library from the east

will have to go north on Stouffer Street to Millard Street, west on Millard to the Ninth Line, south on Ninth Line to Main Street, then continue to Blake Street as above.

For more information, please call the Library at 905-642-READ (7323), ext. 223.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library Summer Hours

**Friday, June 28 -
 Thursday, September 5, 2002**
Monday - Thursday - 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday & Saturday - 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday - 12 noon - 4 p.m.

LEISURE SERVICES

Berry Bash

Register now at the Skatepark for our Berry Bash competition. Lots of prizes for each category. Call 905-642-3172 for more information.

Summer Program Registration

There is still space in all our summer swim lessons. Register at the Lebovic Leisure Centre.

Register now for one of our Summer Camps, Sports camp or general day camp, don't wait until its too late. Register at the Leisure Centre.

If you have NOT yet received confirmation or aquatic lessons or camp, please call us at 905-642-7529 ext. "0".

CRAFT & PLAYTIME

Summer Sessions (For 2 1/2 - 5 Year Olds)

This program is designed to offer children the opportunity to learn through arts and crafts, games, story time, circle time and songs. Let an experienced Early Childhood Educator dazzle your child and expand their imagination. Parent participation is welcome.

Session #1

When? Mondays - 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.,
 Monday July 8th - July 29th
Location? Lebovic Leisure Centre
Cost? \$40.00 (4 weeks)

Session #2

When? Wednesdays - 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.,
 Wed July 24th - August 28th
Location? Lebovic Leisure Centre
Cost? \$60.00 (6 weeks)

Register at the Lebovic Leisure Centre 905-642-PLAY

Lebovic Leisure Centre introduces Buddy Weeks July 8 -14 or August 12 - 18

2 for 1 classes*
 *members of the aerobic/aquafit program can bring a buddy for free

*non-members receive two single visits to class for the price of one

Applies to all aerobic or aquafit classes on our new summer schedule.

Summer schedule is available at Leisure Centre or call 905-642-7529

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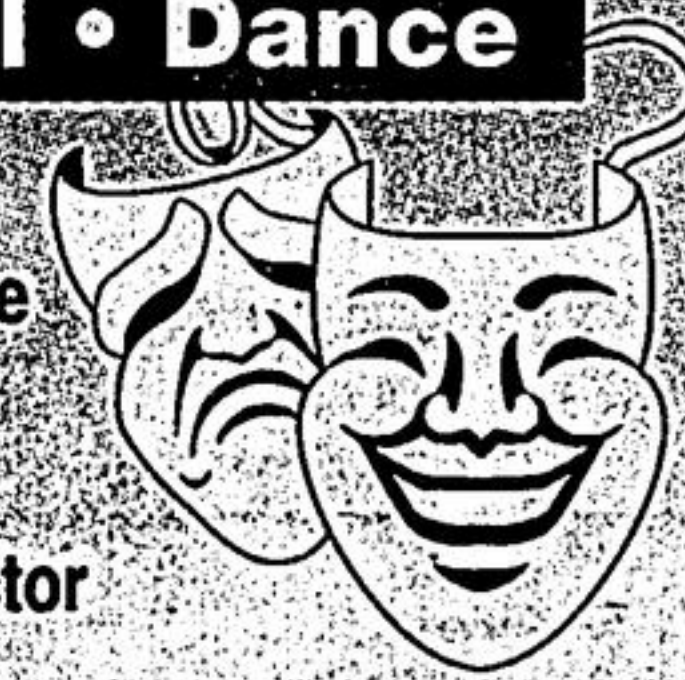
- Sophianne K. Roberts, Dance
- Heather Brandon, Voice
- Matthew Lawrence, Acting
- Conrad Boyce, Artistic Director

A Variety Showcase, and a Full-length musical, will be presented publicly at the end of camp.

Only a few more spots available on a first-come, first serve basis. Reserve your spot now!

To register, or for more information, call Conrad at

(905) 852-4969



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