



Beyond this laneway entrance, lies the controversial Bremner Disposal Site, Hwy. 48, three miles north of Ringwood. The suitability of the premises, as a Town-

sanctioned garbage dump, has been hotly debated by local council.

# A conducted tour of the Bremner site

By Mark Niblett  
STOUFFVILLE - I toured the Bremner Disposal Site. It's a dump.

The terminology, 'a dump' should not be misconstrued, since that's the kind of business carried on there.

As one who doesn't make a habit of wandering about such places - or in 'sanitary landfill sites', for that matter, I thought the place looked pretty good.

When I visited the property, in the company of Tribune Editor, Jim Thomas, we were received by the firm manager, Russell Cox. Certainly, he displayed no hostility (although he did ask to see our press cards), but rather, he was most co-operative. He even chauffeured us about in a company pickup truck.

Aside from an air of desolation, the place is in no way offensive to the eye. It looks pretty sterile, however, but I suppose that's preferable to having it 'crawling with life'.

Admittedly, there was considerable snow

on the ground and, from under it, one could see orange garbage bags, old tires and rusty metal. None of this, however, in great quantities.

Mr. Cox answered our questions freely. He was most adamant on the issue of liquid waste being brought in.

"Not a drop", he said. "There's been no liquid waste dumped here in more than two years".

He pointed out two rather 'stationary' tank trucks parked near the entrance. One had no plates at all, and the other obviously hadn't been moved in some time.

"These people talk about liquids being brought in here", he said, with a touch of bitterness, "I wonder how they'd like to have \$24,000 tied up in equipment they can't use".

We watched some of the actual filling operation. It appeared to be a reasonable procedure, packing down garbage and covering it over. It's obvious that some paper and plastic will fly

around, when it's packed down by a bulldozer - it's hard to see how that can be avoided.

We drove - or rather, slithered - across one of the 'cells' which had been packed with garbage and covered over. It was firm, with only an occasional bit of refuse appearing above the surface.

Mr. Cox felt some critics had been unreasonable.

"One council member talked a lot about the reports done by the Conservation Authority and the O.W.R.C.", he observed, "but he didn't

follow it up. Those conditions that were criticized have been corrected now".

He also attacked people who come in over the fences, and repeated the invitation conveyed to Council by Mayor Ken Laushway: "Anybody is free to look around if they will come in through the front gate and ask".

I am not an expert in waste management; and the inspection we made was neither prolonged nor intensive. Ecology is an issue, today, and arouses a lot of intense emotions and, to a large extent, I share those feelings. But

garbage won't vanish into thin air, and as long as the 'disposable society' is around, it will need places like the Bremner site.

This doesn't satisfy anybody one way or the other of course, and, as far as I'm concerned, it doesn't end here. I have a feeling that future visits, perhaps in the spring, could reveal new factors.

But as it stands, I find myself compelled to agree with Mayor Laushway, who said, "I don't know how anybody could run a disposal site better than these people are doing it".

## Editor's Mail

### 'Nuisance' ratepayers

Dear Editor:

Second only to the Front Page of The Tribune, is undoubtedly your own 'Roaming Around' column. In it, you very aptly reflect the home town scene for your readers.

In this same connection, a delegation of ratepayers attended a meeting of Council, Dec. 14, 1971. They also had been doing some 'roaming around' and were witness to events around the site of the Bremner Dump.

Your editorial comment on the said delegation (Dec. 16), could not have been

from first-hand knowledge, for these people would not have been there had the dump been operating as a model land-fill project. Just for the record, I personally do not favor even sanitary land-fill at this location.

You have, in the past, (and I agree), criticized us for apathy - for not attending Council meetings. Well, we attended, and were properly heard. We then listened while one councillor in particular, challenged our integrity and treated us as if we were nothing more than a damn nuisance.

With respect to Mayor Laushway's report on the condition of the said dump, I must contend that it is misleading. Sure, the area is now in a very presentable condition - about as presentable as anyone would make it, knowing they were going to have a visitor.

Your report (Dec. 30), when the Mayor said: "He doesn't know how anyone could operate a

disposal site better than these people are doing it", shows how little he knows or cares about our future environment.

With tongue in cheek, our provincial government is promising proper recycling of waste in Pickering. This is a better means of disposal than was seen by our Mayor.

To further quote the Mayor (Dec. 30): "I don't think anyone should condemn it (the dump), sight unseen".

Might I remind him, that the delegation (Dec. 14), have seen it and lived with it. None of these gentlemen are blind nor do they have any nose impairments.

I would like to extend an invitation to you, Mr. Editor, to enter the dump from the east, unrestricted and view the debris along the fences as you go - notice the pile of lumber, only partially covered - look at the 45 gallon drums (the Mayor calls them old empty containers) that are not yet covered - continue on to the kettle of liquid industrial waste (1/4 acre more or less) - view the drums floating in this waste - notice the 9 or 10 test hole pipes around you - touch one or two of them because you helped cover this



Ken Laushway 'Inspected it' Merlyn Baker 'Can smell it'

cost and then reflect on what was reported at Council.

Was there any recommendation to fence the pond?

The danger is as monstrous as any unattended swimming pool.

The Mayor has said that 1972 would be 'a year of planning'.

I say, let us plan well and deliberate alternatives carefully so the plans we make will be in the best interests of our children and theirs.

We have inherited a good land and should not desecrate it for our immediate needs.

Happy New Year, and may everyone on Council in the spirit of true democracy, respect delegations as groups of individuals who have a right to be heard.

Robert S. Lewis, R. R. 2, Stouffville.

### Conservation areas Development plan

STOUFFVILLE - Bruce's Mill is one of the conservation areas to be included in a five-year development program.

The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority has approved in principle the program, which will cost a total of \$3.75 million. Among those areas affected are Clarendon, Greenwood, Milne, Oak Ridges, Glen Major and Goodwood.

Plans call for a variety of work, such as road paving, fencing, creating campsites, picnic areas, and landscaping. If approval is granted by the full Authority meeting and by the Province, this program will commence in 1972 and run until 1976.

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**John Deere Day**

An afternoon and evening film, feature, entitled John Deere Farming Frontiers, will be held at Keith Hutchinson Farm Supply Ltd., Hwy. 48, two miles north of Ringwood, Tues., Jan. 18 at 1.30 and 8 p.m. The program will feature the latest in developments and research, related to agriculture.

**FRANKLIN ARMSTRONG NEWS**

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