

Municipality of Tweed Waste Disposal Sites

Waste, specifically the disposal of waste, is one of the major issues facing every municipality. The Municipality of Tweed has two waste disposal sites: the waste site on Marlbank Road which is currently active and used by all residents of the municipality; and the waste site on Hunt Road which still has active status but which has not been open to the public for several years.

Maintaining these waste disposal sites involves more than just opening and staffing the sites. It is more than just trenching a hole, filling it with waste and placing fill on top. Rather it is the strict management of waste sites in accordance with Provincial guidelines and local best practices.

Ministry of Environment Guidelines

The management of waste disposal and landfill sites is the responsibility of municipalities under the direction of the Ministry of the Environment. MOE guidelines are in place to ensure sites are managed effectively, waste is deposited in accordance with site plans, off site leachate is controlled, environmental impact is monitored and site closure followups are regulated. Waste sites are licensed by Certificates of Approval which are authorized by the Ministry of the Environment and which include specifics on the size and location of sites and types of wastes that can be accepted.

The Municipality is required to prepare and submit development and operations plans for both the Marlbank Road and the Hunt Road sites. The scope of work for these plans will address off-site leachate impact; containment attenuation zones; and site life expectancy calculations.

Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring

In addition to preparing development operations plans, the Municipality retains the services of a consulting firm to carry out annual groundwater and surface water sampling from the groundwater monitoring wells which have been installed in and around the sites. Annual environmental monitoring reports are produced for the Municipality and copies provided to MOE.

Life Expectancy of our Sites

One of the main objectives of the Municipality is to extend the life of our waste sites. Why? Because the closure of a waste site is a long, involved and costly process. And the opening of a new waste site is even more involved and costly, not a popular initiative and perhaps not even possible in some areas.

The most recent calculated years of life remaining for the Marlbank Road site is approximately 25 years. Preparing and following an updated development and operations plans for the site will ensure that daily operations maximize this proposed site life.

The site life of the Hunt Road is estimated at less than 20 years. A development and operations plan will confirm the life span calculation and identify re-activation plans and timeframes.

How do we Extend the Life of our Sites

By ensuring that the sites are managed effectively under approved operations plans ... and by keeping recyclables out of the landfill. The Municipality has undertaken several measures to ensure the efficient operations of the waste disposal sites, including the following: removal of bulk items on a monthly basis; support and promotion of household hazardous waste collection days; participation in Ontario Tire Stewardship program; application for approval for electronic waste collection at the site; controlled use of site through resident ID cards; and use of construction passes for management of construction debris.

How will Clear Bags Help

The implementation of clear garbage bags will reduce the amount of recyclables being deposited in the landfill trenches. What is the rationale for clear bags? Despite many years of public education and encouragement for recycling, recyclable materials are still being placed in garbage bags which are dumped in the site. If recyclables are visible in clear bags, those bags won't be permitted in the site. Recyclables belong in the blue bins not in the waste trenches.

What are the Operational Costs of our Sites

For 2013 the estimates for monitoring wells, leachate and containment assessment and development & operation plans are approximately \$40,000.00 for each site. Add to this the annual monitoring and the regular operating expenses of staffing and maintaining the Marlbank Road site on a daily basis - total 2013 budget estimates for WDS expenses are \$335,000.00 - including operating expenses, environmental monitoring, D & O plans and bulk items removal.

Recycling costs are treated separately and involve a levy paid to Quinte Waste Solutions for the pickup and removal of recyclable materials. The total 2013 levy budget is \$50,000.00.

Who Pays for these Costs

The costs of maintaining the municipality's waste sites are covered by tax dollars, user fees and bag tags. Tax dollars pay for staffing and operating costs, monitoring and operations plans. User fees and bag tag revenues pay for removal of bulk items and most capital expenses.

Recycling costs are separate from site operating costs and are borne by all taxpayers. Every taxpayer pays a portion of the recycling services levy as part of their general tax dollars.

Household garbage collection costs are paid directly by the taxpayers who receive this service. Village residents and businesses pay a separate fee for door-to-door collection. The total of the collection contract is divided equally among the households and businesses and billed as a separate amount on their yearly tax bills. Rural residents responded overwhelmingly to a recent survey - 91% of those who responded do not want door-to-door household garbage collection.

Our waste sites are important municipal assets and vital components of the Municipality's services to taxpayers. Careful planning and diligent management is crucial to their sustained life and ongoing operations.

