

## We don't want your trash, Ingersoll mayor tells Toronto

Ted Comiskey jokes that Toronto should dump its garbage in Christie Pits

[CBC News](#) Posted: Mar 01, 2016 6:41 PM ET Last Updated: Mar 01, 2016 7:11 PM ET

Keep your trash.

That was the blunt message that Ted Comiskey, the mayor of Ingersoll, delivered to Toronto Tuesday.

"My town, my residents, my neighbours do not want your garbage in our backyard. We are not a willing host," Comiskey told councillors at Toronto city hall. "We have never heard from anyone from the city of Toronto about the fact that you want to turn our backyard into a landfill."

- [How to make a family meal out of garbage](#)
- [Michael Moore says Toronto trash contributing to Flint's environmental woes](#)
- [Ingersoll residents don't want Toronto's trash](#)

Comiskey criticized city council for proposing that an old limestone quarry located about 800 metres from a subdivision in Ingersoll be turned into a dumping ground for Toronto's waste.

The project still needs an environmental assessment and provincial approval but it didn't stop Comiskey from going on the offensive.

"If you want to put your garbage in an old quarry I suggest you use the one on the corner of Christie and Bloor," the mayor said, "If memory serves me, during the last labour dispute, it was used as a temporary landfill. Why not make it permanent?"

Comiskey joked that his proposal was preposterous, asking, "Don't the same reasons apply for not putting a dump in Mayor Comiskey's backyard?"

Jaye Robinson, chair of the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee, agreed with Comiskey.

"He was loud and clear. He doesn't want Toronto's garbage and I can't say I blame him," Robinson told CBC News.

Eventually, the city of Toronto wants to divert 70 per cent of its waste from landfill. And while homeowners are nearly there, coming in at about 68 per cent, the city has so far managed to divert only 29 per cent of the waste apartment dwellers generate.

Emily Alfred of the Toronto Environmental Alliance feels the city could be doing a better job.

"If we recycled and composted and diverted everything we could we would only have about 15 percent left," she said. "That would extend our landfill by a number of years."

But, Comiskey and his community may not have to deal with Toronto's trash right away.

There's a little more room at the Toronto-owned Green Lane landfill near London, according to the city's Deputy Manager of Solid Waste, Rob Orpin.

"We had anticipated a 2029 closure for Green Lane, but a report out today now says 2040, so we have 24 more years of additional capacity," Orpin said.

Last week, filmmaker Michael Moore implicated Toronto in Michigan's environmental woes, claiming that the city's garbage was ending up in the state's landfills.

*With files from Jamie Strashin*

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Environment

March 1, 2016 6:19 pm

Updated: March 2, 2016 6:05 pm

## Mayor of Ingersoll doesn't want Toronto's toxic trash in his town's backyard

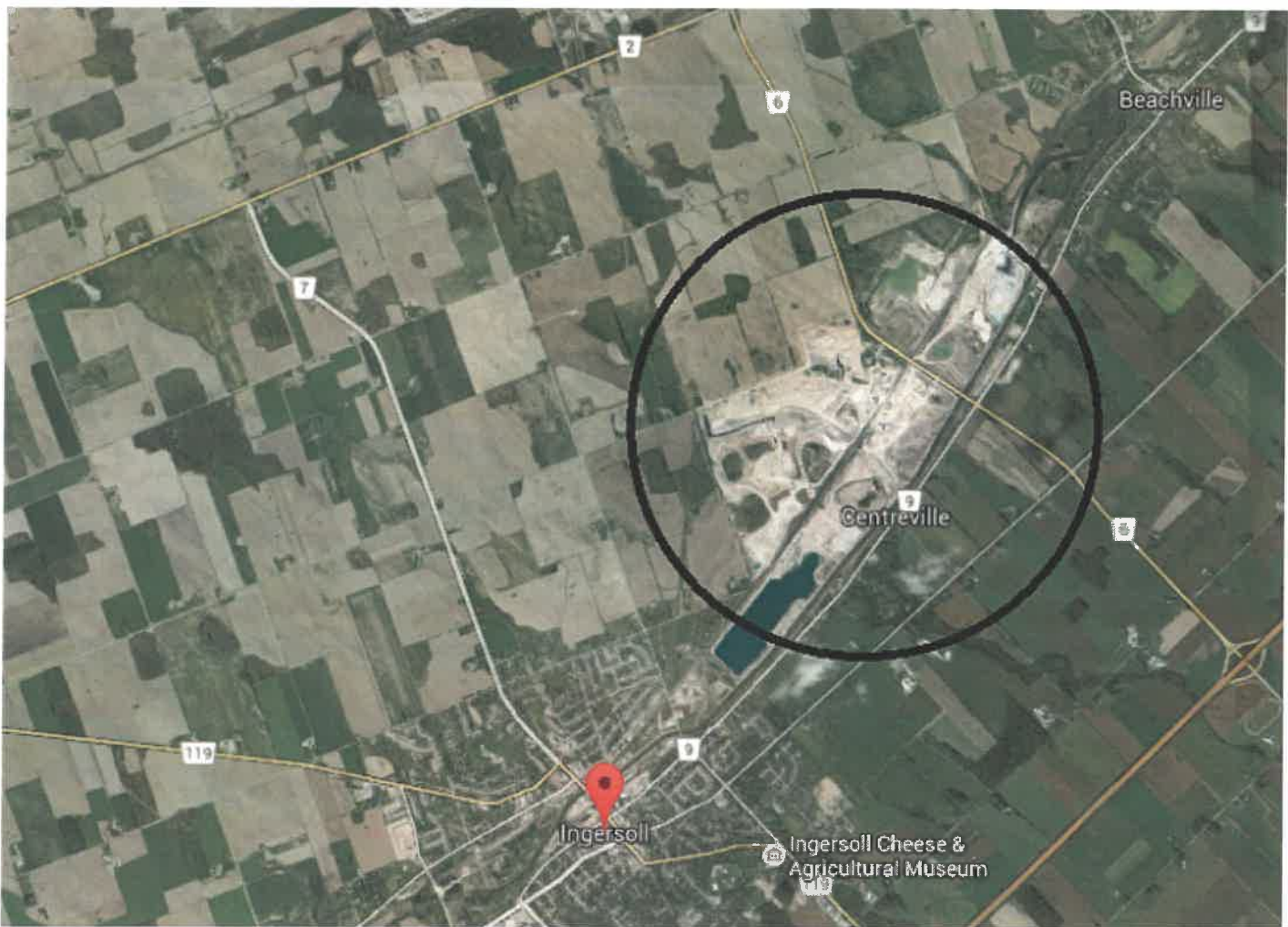
By Peter Kim

**WATCH ABOVE:** The mayor of Ingersoll, Ont. has told Toronto city councillors the town doesn't want the city's trash. Ted Comiskey worries toxins from Toronto's garbage will poison his residents.

TORONTO — Politicians were trash talking for most of the beginning of Tuesday's Public Works and Infrastructure Committee meeting at city hall.

Councillors welcomed Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey to the meeting, who railed against a possible plan to ship Toronto's garbage to a quarry near his town.

"It's preposterous," he said. "Waste is a problem, but sending it to another community is not the answer."



Comiskey worries toxins from garbage will leach into the water table near his town in Oxford County and poison its residents. The possible site is currently a limestone quarry 800 metres east from the border of Ingersoll.

“Every landfill liner leaks. This is a limestone quarry and limestone is extremely porous which means anything that leaks beyond the liner is going to be sucked in by the rock and make its way into the water table,” he said.

“I am not prepared to put the drinking water of my citizens at risk.”

Toronto must decide soon what to do with tonnes of physical garbage residents in the city produce. Its current dumping site, the Green Lane Landfill, will run out of room in 2029 at the current rate of recycling.

“85 per cent of the average waste that comes out of a household in Toronto is divertible. But we’re only diverting 53% of it right now,” said Emily Alfred, senior campaigner with the Toronto Environmental Alliance.

The worst offenders are multi-residential buildings according to Alfred. “Apartments divert about 26% of their waste.”

“This is a big city and we have to do a better job of diverting,” said committee chair Jaye Robinson, adding that much of the focus of the new waste management strategy currently being studied will target multi-residential buildings.

“We have to do a way better job of education and outreach.”

Many who live in apartments aren’t fully aware of the diversion programs available to them.

Other recommendations include by-laws that would mandate recycling in apartments and a vacuum system that would collect used household items.

Deputants at Tuesday’s committee meeting even re-introduced the idea of a plastic bag ban.

“The amount of plastic people are finding in their neighbourhood, on our city beaches – it’s something definitely we should explore,” said Robinson.

The final report will be presented in late Spring and is expected to make it’s way to council in July.

“Every municipality should look at what it’s producing and look at what to do with it themselves,” said Comiskey, who tried to get a meeting with the mayor but was not able to.

In a statement to Global News, John Tory’s office wrote, “The Mayor appreciates Mayor Comiskey coming to City Hall to provide his feedback on the City’s waste management strategy. Our staff will take his comments into consideration when developing the final strategy.”

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News / Toronto

# Ingersoll mayor wants Toronto to keep its own trash

Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey suggests Torontonians dump their garbage in Christie Pits.

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TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ted Comiskey, the mayor of Ingersoll, Ont., rejected a proposal to turn a quarry near his town into a landfill. "Every landfill liner leaks," he says.

By: Torstar News Service Published on [Wed, Mar 12, 2014](#)

The mayor of a southwestern Ontario town known for cheddar cheese has some sharp words for Toronto — keep your garbage to yourself.

Ted Comiskey, mayor of Ingersoll, told the public works committee Toronto's long-term waste strategy should not include burying trash in a proposed landfill in a quarry near his town. Toronto's current landfill, Green Lane near London, is expected to be full by 2029.

A city staff update suggests Green Lane's life could be extended by increased waste diversion and new technologies to deal with trash, but the timelines mean the city shouldn't rule out continued burying.

"Every landfill liner leaks," Comiskey said Tuesday.

"I am not prepared to put the drinking water of my citizens, my neighbours at risk because Toronto, despite all other suggestions in the (waste strategy report) appendix, wants to keep the burying option open.

"This quarry (in Zorra Township) is 800 metres from a subdivision in the town of Ingersoll. We are not a willing host."

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Comiskey noted that, during the 2009 Toronto civic workers' strike, Christie Pits park near Bloor and Bathurst Sts. was converted into a temporary landfill. If Toronto wants to bury garbage, make it permanent, he quipped.

"The neighbours probably wouldn't take as long this time to adjust to the stench, the noise, the traffic, the rodents and the vermin," he said, adding that burying waste in his "backyard" is just as preposterous an idea.

Comiskey concluded by inviting councillors to the Canterbury Folk Festival in July to see his town and "where you want to put your garbage."

After the presentation Councillor Anthony Perruzza asked Comiskey: "What are your best cheeses out there?"

"It's come to this, has it?" the Ingersoll mayor said, laughing but adding the town is best know for cheddars.

Public works chair Jaye Robinson took a more serious tone, saying Comiskey should appear in an ad to convince

Torontonians to divert more waste from landfill, adding: "Thank you very much and we heard you loud and clear."

Toronto's final long-term waste strategy will go to public works in June and city council in July.

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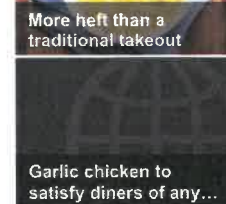
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Ted Comiskey, the mayor of Ingersoll, Ont., rejects a proposal to turn a quarry near his town into a landfill. "Every landfill liner leaks," he says. (RIDER, DAVID / CITY OF TORONTO)

By **DAVID RIDER** City Hall Bureau Chief

Wed., March 2, 2016

The mayor of a southwestern Ontario town known for cheddar cheese has some sharp words for Toronto — keep your garbage to yourself.

Ted Comiskey, mayor of Ingersoll, told the public works committee Toronto's long-term waste strategy should not include burying trash in a [proposed landfill](#) in a quarry near his town. Toronto's current landfill, Green Lane near London, is expected to be full by 2029.

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## Southwestern Ontario Landfill Proposal

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### News Article

Statement: JMCC responds to Province's decision on Walker Southwestern Landfill proposal

Created by tconte on [3/18/2016 5:26:34 PM](#)

March 18, 2016 - "The JMMC is disappointed in the decision by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change to accept with amendments the Terms of Reference for Walker Environmental Group's Southwestern Landfill Proposal.

"We believe Oxford's municipalities put forward, through the Peer Review Team submissions, convincing evidence and information regarding the ecological, economic, social and health implications of a mega-landfill for this location in our community. Our citizens have voiced their concerns loudly and clearly to the provincial government. To learn that the Southwestern Landfill proposal will now move to an Environmental Assessment process is devastating news to our community.

"We are further disappointed to learn the Minister did not grant our requests for a full Health Impact Assessment, but has left Walker to determine whether or not to expand the scope of the Health Risk Assessment: a far less comprehensive review than what would be required by a Health Impact Assessment.

"This community is not a willing host and will continue to oppose Walker's landfill proposal. We share the profound disappointment of our citizens in this failure to protect our people from the impacts of Walker's mega-landfill. The only outcome we can support is the outright rejection of the Terms of Reference and the denial of this project.

"At the same time, the JMCC remains committed to continuing to oversee an independent multi-disciplinary peer review process to ensure the objective, scientific information about the impacts of the proposal will be available to Oxford residents and all other stakeholders.

"To that end, we will also work to ensure Walker Environmental Group commits to a full Health Impact Assessment, as submitted to the Ministry by the Oxford County Medical Officer of Health and endorsed by the four Oxford County JMCC municipalities."

Margaret Lupton

Chair, Joint Municipal Coordinating Committee

Mayor, Township of Zorra

[Read the full news release](#)   [Download a copy of the statement](#)



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## Walker Environmental's Terms Of Reference Approved

Saturday, March 19th, 2016 8:46am



**The Ministry of Environment has approved Walker Environmental's plan for an environmental assessment of the Southwestern Landfill Proposal.**

OXFORD COUNTY - The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has approved Walker Environmental's plan, for an assessment of the Southwestern Landfill Proposal. The area where the proposed landfill would be will be assessed by the company.

Darren Fry, Director of Strategic Growth for Walker says this approval is a big step towards getting the landfill.

"The approval of the Terms of Reference is a significant milestone for everyone involved with the Southwestern Landfill EA. It confirms that there is a rationale for this project and that a robust framework is in place to guide us through the next phase. This approval now allows us to begin the technical and scientific studies that will provide answers to the many questions the community has raised."

Although this a big step in getting the landfill, but it does not mean the project has been approved.

The Joint Municipal Coordinating Committee has released the following statements in response the approval from chair Margaret Lupton.

"The JMCC is disappointed in the decision by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change to accept with amendments the Terms of Reference for Walker Environmental Group's Southwestern Landfill Proposal.

"We believe Oxford's municipalities put forward, through the Peer Review Team submissions, convincing evidence and information regarding the ecological, economic, social and health implications of a mega-landfill for this location in our community. Our citizens have voiced their concerns loudly and clearly to the provincial government. To learn that the Southwestern Landfill proposal will now move to an Environmental Assessment process is devastating news to our community.

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“To that end, we will also work to ensure Walker Environmental Group commits to a full Health Impact Assessment, as submitted to the Ministry by the Oxford County Medical Officer of Health and endorsed by the four Oxford County JMCC municipalities.”

The Oxford Environmental Action Committee also issued a statement which disagrees with the approval.

We will work to get more reaction from community members and the OPAL alliance next week.

## LANDFILL

### Terms of Reference approved for proposed Zorra landfill project

John Tapley, Jennifer Vandermeer and Megan Stacey, Postmedia Network  
Sunday, March 20, 2016 6:13:32 EDT PM



The site for a proposed landfill in the Beachville area.

ZORRA TOWNSHIP - Terms of Reference for Walker Environmental's proposed Southwestern Landfill have been approved by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change with extensive amendments.

In an email received at 4 p.m. Friday, March 18, it was explained this is not a final decision on the project, but a workplan that outlines the studies and consultations Walker must complete to demonstrate whether the proposed project can be done in a way that is protective of the environment and human health.

"The amendments to the Terms of Reference are extensive and provide additional direction regarding the extent and nature of the environmental studies to be completed as part of the environmental assessment," said the email sent by Lindsay Davidson of the MOECC.

The amendments also address concerns raised by the public and government review agencies and include requirements to consider:

- cumulative impacts on human health, air quality, drinking water, surface water and climate change-related issues such as greenhouse gas emissions; and,
- separating recyclables and organics from the waste received at the proposed landfill that may have other end uses outside of landfill disposal.

The email further states there will be several opportunities for the public to provide comments as the environmental assessment moves forward and that all public comments will be carefully considered before a decision is made on the proposed landfill.

Oxford County residents have been waiting for news on this development since the terms of reference for the southwestern landfill proposal were submitted to the ministry in 2014.

Local officials were not pleased with the news, though all expressed determination to continue fighting against the project.

"We believe Oxford's municipalities put forward...convincing evidence and information regarding the ecological, economic, social and health implications of a mega-landfill for this location in our community," said Zorra Mayor Margaret Lupton in a press release from the Joint Municipality Coordinating Committee.

Lupton chairs that group, which includes representatives from the four municipalities most directly affected by the landfill proposal.

"Our citizens have voiced their concerns loudly and clearly to the provincial government. To learn that the Southwestern Landfill proposal will now move to an Environmental Assessment process is devastating news to our community," she added.

Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey said he is "totally disappointed" with the ministry's decision, but "certainly in no way discouraged."

"Now the science is going to have to prove it's a totally healthy and safe exercise they're going to conduct and we will be there every step of the way," Comiskey said. "We will be on top of every issue. I believe in the end science will prevail and this is not the place for a mega landfill."

He said he is saddened to consider that burying waste is still an option.

"We will continue to fight to prevent this from happening," Comiskey said. "It won't affect me, it'll affect my children and my grandchildren. We must make sure that we do everything we can to prevent this."

"We had thought that the Minister might not make the right decision. The right decision would have been to say no to the dump at this point, because he's had more than adequate community response to it, to the tune of 50,133 letters. He's had five independent scientists that it can work. He's had his own scientists tell him the proposal is not workable. I don't know why he's gone forward with this," said Bryan Smith, chairman of Oxford People Against the Landfill (OPAL).

"I'm always worried by the prospect that somebody's going to pollute my land, air and water, of course I'm worried. I have every reason to believe that the Minister should have turned it down already, and that the Environmental Assessment Act will oblige him to turn it down. If that doesn't work I guess we'll have to oblige him."

Walker Environmental Group also issued a news release shortly after the MOECC Friday.

"The approval of the terms of reference is a significant milestone for everyone involved with the southwestern landfill environmental assessment," said Darren Fry, director of strategic growth for Walker Environmental Group in the release.

He said the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change decision confirms there is a rationale for the project and that a robust framework is in place "to guide us through the next phase."

"This approval now allows us to begin the technical and scientific studies that will provide answers to the many questions the community has raised."

Fry said as a next step, Walker will publish a notice of commencement that identifies the official start of the study phase of the environmental assessment.

"Opportunities to participate and provide input during this next phase will be clearly communicated and explained," he said. "We look forward to continuing to work with the community liaison committee, technical experts, municipalities, First Nations and interested members of the community."

Mike Watt, executive vice-president of Walker said the company is committed to investing in infrastructure in Ontario to stimulate economic development and create new employment "while protecting the environment within Oxford County."



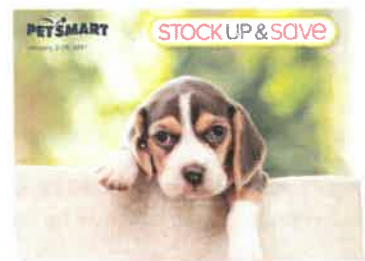
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Tuesday, March 22nd, 2016 2:08pm



### Walker Environmental Group is ready to move forward in the process to build a landfill in Oxford County

INGERSOLL - Walker Environmental Group is excited to start the lengthy process set out in the approved terms of reference for them to build a landfill at the Carmeuse site near Ingersoll.

The company met with local media today and discussed a variety of topics including the overwhelming sentiment from the public and the County that we are not a willing host. Project Lead Darren Fry admits it will be a challenge to sway public opinion, however he does say they are willing to listen.

"We do understand there are a lot of questions and a lot of concern in the community about this proposal, what's interesting to note is that now as we move into the study phase we begin to let science and the technical studies answer a lot of the questions they have that we haven't been able to answer at this point, so as we move forward we are going to be able to answer a lot of those questions."

At least 61,000 people have written letters saying they don't want the landfill in Oxford County and the County has said they are not a willing host. Fry says they can still move forward despite all of this.

"Walker Environmental is pleased and excited



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"waste management is a shared provincial responsibility, so while we understand the concerns of the municipality, we have to look at this facility from a provincial perspective and first conclude the environmental assessment, we will only build this facility if it can be done safely."

Fry says it will be at least a couple of weeks before they will start the environmental assessment process and we are still several years away from getting a firm answer on the landfill. The exact site of the landfill has not been set in stone as well as they could potentially move it to other sites at the Carmeuse property. The only reason they would move the site is if the environmental assessment says they would make less of an environmental impact at another location. The facility, if it does end up getting approval would receive industrial and institutional waste from businesses and recreation facilities from Ontario and wouldn't operational until 2022.


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Wednesday, March 23rd, 2016 5:52am



**Ernie Hardeman has asked the Minister of Environment to make a commitment to the safety of Oxford's drinking water over the proposed landfill.**

INGERSOLL - The proposed landfill by Walker Environmental Group outside of Ingersoll was brought up by our local MPP Ernie Hardeman at Queen's Park.

Hardeman wanted to make it clear that Oxford County is not a willing host for this landfill.

"I know the Minister has received thousands and thousands of letters, postcards, and emails from constituents who are concerned about the impact on our drinking water. They will be happy to have the commitment from the Minister of Environment that he will not approve a landfill that puts our water at risk. At ROMA the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Agriculture stated that a municipality would not be forced to take the garbage if they are not a willing host, can the Minister confirm that this government will not force our community to take another municipality's garbage?"

He also asked the Minister of Environment Glen Murray to give us his assurance that the landfill will not be approved if it puts our drinking water at risk.

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Bed Of Roses

10:54am



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"Today is World Water Day and to mark this occasion the people of my riding are looking for a commitment from the Minister of the Environment. As you know the people in my community are worried, not just about where the garbage could come from, but the risk to our drinking water of a landfill located on fractured bedrock near the Thames River and one of Ingersoll's main municipal water supplies. Can the Minister give us his assurance that the landfill will not be approved if it puts our drinking water at risk?"

Environment Minister Glen Murray responded by saying the short answer is yes and he also noted that all that has been approved at this point is a terms of reference.

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## NEWS

### Oxford MPP sides with community groups opposing the dump, but Walker Environmental says health and environmental safety is a priority



By Megan Stacey, Woodstock Sentinel-Review  
Wednesday, March 23, 2016 7:18:56 EDT PM



Darren Fry, director of strategic growth at Walker Environmental, shows the proposed site for the Zorra Township landfill - a former quarry on Carmeuse Lime and Stone property. (MEGAN STACEY, Sentinel-Review)

The next stage in the proposal to create a landfill in Zorra Township will officially kick off in the next few weeks, Walker Environmental said Tuesday.

The environmental assessment, which marks the next phase in a years-long process to begin constructing a dump near Ingersoll, involves a battery of tests to determine the impact on environment and human health.

“(The government approval) confirms that there is a rationale and the purpose for this project exists. It now begins to allow us to move into the environmental assessment phase, or the study phase, and to begin to answer all the questions the community has,” said Darren Fry, director strategic growth at Walker Environmental.

Completing that environmental assessment could take up to two years, Fry estimated, before the final submission is made to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

“(It will be) many years after that, if the facility were to be approved, before it would begin to accept waste,” Fry said.

But local advocacy groups are determined to keep that from happening.

The Oxford Coalition for Social Justice is one of the groups mobilizing for the next stage in a long fight against the landfill.

"It doesn't just affect our community, it affects the communities around us and eventually, completely around (the region). I think this is a much bigger issue than just our area," said spokesperson Lori Leblanc.

During question period on Tuesday, Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman asked the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Glen Murray if he would commit to turning down the proposed landfill should the project put Oxford drinking water at risk.

"The short answer is yes, he would turn it down if it's proven they couldn't guarantee our water safety," Hardeman said in an interview.

Murray also noted that Oxford is a provincial leader in sustainability.

"I commit to work with your community, with your mayor and with yourself to ensure that if the decision, in the end, is to site a dump there, that it meets every single standard," Murray said during question period.

Hardeman said that he was happy to hear that commitment from Minister Murray.

"I still would have rather seen a 'no' answer (to the landfill), but I was somewhat heartened by his answers," the MPP said.

For the coalition, the landfill is a question of social justice.

"If the proposed dump actually does get in, it will affect everybody's health, it will affect our water, it will affect the earth," Leblanc said.

But Fry said safety is a top priority for Walker.

"The environmental protection and the science associated with modern landfills are not to be confused with the dumps of bygone eras of 50 years ago," he said, citing the Walker landfill in Niagara, which is about ten years old, as a modern example.

"The liner associated with that landfill is approximately 15 feet thick. Modern waste management facilities, modern disposal facilities, are fully protective of the environment," Fry said. "We will only develop this facility if it can be done safely."

The reality is that Ontarians produce a lot of garbage, and it's got to go somewhere.

"We generate waste at work, at home and at play. Waste generated at home is the waste that we put out at the curb, and that's collected by the municipality," Fry said, noting that makes up about one third of Ontario's waste footprint.

"The other 60 per cent or so is waste that's generated at businesses and areas of recreation, and that waste is managed by the private sector," he added.

It's that garbage – from industrial, commercial and institutional origins, coined "ICI waste" – that the Zorra landfill would receive.

Leblanc said reducing waste is another target for the coalition's outreach during the fight against the dump.

"We still want to continue educating people on reducing, reusing, recycling," she said.

"In this society we're not going to be able to stop producing garbage unless we find a way to deal with this."

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## NEWS WOODSTOCK & REGION

### Community groups organize after Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change approves Walker landfill project terms of reference with amendments



By Megan Stacey, Woodstock Sentinel-Review  
Wednesday, March 23, 2016 8:43:20 EDT AM



OPAL chair Bryan Smith updates the group's running count of letters sent by local residents to Environment Minister Glen Murray demanding he reject the proposed landfill in Zorra Township on Friday, March 18. OPAL spoke with residents about their efforts from this booth at the Woodstock Home Show. (MEGAN STACEY, Sentinel-Review)

A plethora of local community groups are gearing up for a new fight after the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change approved the terms of reference for the landfill project proposed for Zorra Township.

They're all trying to make one thing clear: Oxford is not a willing host.

Many of the environmental groups that have sprung up over the past few years are united in that common goal.

Fighting the landfill project proposed by Walker Industries has been a long-term feat for grassroots organizations across the county – many formed specifically with the purpose of rejecting the dump.

"I share the fury of all Oxford residents who are now learning that the Ministry of Environment has capitulated to Walker Industries and again passed up an opportunity to stop Walker's mega-landfill proposal," said Oxford Environmental Action Committee president Suzanne Crellin in a release.

But she also emphasized that ministry approval of the terms of reference does not equate to approval of the actual dump.

The next stage for Walker Industries is an environmental assessment, including a number of studies and tests to demonstrate how the proposed dump will impact the environment and human health.

The company must show that the project has no adverse cumulative impacts on human health, air quality, drinking and surface water, and climate change-related issues.

But the Joint Municipal Coordinating Committee – which represents four local municipalities most directly impacted by the proposed landfill – said that is not enough.

"We are further disappointed to learn the Minister did not grant our requests for a full Health Impact Assessment, but has left Walker to determine whether or not to expand the scope of the Health Risk Assessment: a far less comprehensive review than what would be required by a Health Impact Assessment," said Zorra Mayor Margaret Lupton, also chair of the JMCC, in a release.

The JMCC works with a peer review team of 20 experts to conduct their own examination of information contained in the landfill proposal.

The Oxford Coalition for Social Justice also released a strongly-worded statement in response to the MOECC decision.

"(The coalition) rejects any notion that that garbage should be hauled from outside our boundaries and dumped into a quarry near the ground...further, we are aware that the impacts of the dump on air quality, on road safety, on costs to local residents for roads, and on the diminishing stock of agricultural land are all negative," the statement read.

As environmental activist groups have organized to protest against the dump, their campaigns have become increasingly visible around the county.

Signs cover local lawns and bumper stickers adorn many vehicles.

Activists are visible at just about every community event.

OPAL chair Bryan Smith said that the Ministry's amendments to the terms of reference is an indication that the hard work paid off.

The Ministry outlined 15 required areas of study in its approval.

"Those conditions greatly expand the stringency of the process and mean that Walker cannot anticipate a quick start to a dump operation, OPAL wrote in a later press release.

Now OPAL and other local committees are gathering support to ensure Oxford voices will be heard – again.

"We went to an event where (Minister Glen Murray) was talking about climate change, and one of the things he said is that people are going to have to make some noise. I wondered how much noise and what kind of noise that would take," Smith said.

Local residents aren't taking any chances, he added.

"We're going to get some noisemakers, and make sure he hears us, and make sure he hears very clearly that scientific opinion, that public opinion, is entirely against a dump in Oxford County."

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## NEWS

### County amendments to official plan focus on sustainability

By Bruce Chessell, Woodstock Sentinel-Review  
Wednesday, April 13, 2016 1:07:30 EDT PM



The Oxford County Administration building in Woodstock.

Significant amendments to Oxford County's official plan regarding waste management will be brought before council Wednesday.

The proposed changes are an effort to better reflect the county's commitment to community sustainability when it comes to the consideration land use.

Director of community and strategic planning Gordon Hough said the changes are primarily amendments to policies related to waste management that speak to a number of issues, including the expansion and creation of landfills, as well as what can be done with recycling and reusing materials.

"In October 2013, the county passed a resolution kind of in response to the initial proposal

from the southwest landfill site. There was a proposal to investigate this," Hough said. "So over the course of the last couple of years, we did some research, drew from the Future Oxford Sustainability Plan and came up with what we thought were policies that would better reflect the county's commitment towards sustainability."

Hough said the existing policies were already satisfactory. While initially a response to the south west landfill proposal, that resolution also looked at sustainability in a broader sense.

As for what's being amended, Hough said most of what's being changed in the official plan's second chapter- CountyDevelopment Strategy - has to do with either building in sustainability or bring ing the policy up to speed with 2014 provincial policy statements.

When it comes to chapter five - Waste Management - Hough said the county decided to organize the plan a little differently.

"We built in more of the enabling type policies that reflect Future Oxford," he said, "with respect to things like recycling, reusing, recovering and diverting waste, as opposed to sending it to landfills."

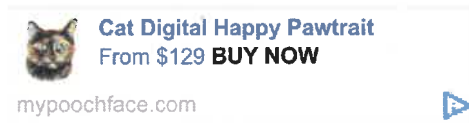
Hough said the second part of the amendments reorganizes the policies around expanding existing landfills and creating new ones around added policies."

An example of this, Hough said, Oxford has created a new criteria that assesses the impact of new landfill proposals on people and communities from a human health perspective.

"It was kind of in our policy before," he said, "but we kind of just made it clearer and better articulated.

"Really a lot of what we've done is just that. We've taken the existing policies and provided clarity to them."

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Thursday, April 14th, 2016 3:35pm



**Oxford County has made a few improvements on their official plan when it comes to waste management.**

Oxford County council has amended their official plan when it comes to Waste Management.

The biggest change was to amend the official plan with respect to prohibiting, restricting, limiting or otherwise regulating new landfill sites in Oxford. Warden David Mayberry tells Heart FM they can't just outright ban landfills because that is a provincial jurisdiction.

"But they did want to say if we are going to do wise planning for the use of land then we want to make sure we are doing things as efficiently and as appropriate as we can."

Mayberry says they found their plan was mostly up to date, however they did make a few improvements on things like working on a comprehensive waste reduction and waste management strategy.

"Working with business and industry on waste reduction and waste management strategy and we realize we want to do both, we want to have a plan and we want to reduce before the we have the amount of material we have to deal with in the first place."

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## NEWS

### Royal Roads students educate schoolmates about proposed Beachville landfill

By Heather Rivers, Woodstock Sentinel-Review  
Friday, April 29, 2016 2:43:33 EDT PM



Grade six and seven students at Royal Roads Public School in Ingersoll presented an assembly on Friday designed to educate other students about the proposed landfill and the organization Oxford People Against the Landfill. From left Tyler Bergman, Danielle Romanuick Brooke Taylor, Ewan Warnock, Brayden Wilson and Darren Gerrow. HEATHER RIVERS/WOODSTOCK SENTINEL-REVIEW

INGERSOLL — When they first began the project Royal Roads Public School students never envisioned it would gain the momentum it did.

But on Friday Grade 6 and 7 seven students, who began looking at importance of international and local issues as part of their curriculum earlier this year, presented a multi-media assembly designed to educate their entire school on what the effects of the proposed Beachville landfill site might have on the community they live in.

The assembly included a slide show, as well as skits and dance, highlighting the importance of advocating for their environment.

“Our class was doing a project on trying to make a difference, we came up with trying to help stop the dump,” explained student Ben Thomas

Besides the multi-media assembly, featuring students as well as OPAL president Bryan Smith and Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey, the students will also host a letter-writing day where the entire school will send letters of protest to the premier and Minister of the Environment.

“When we first decided to study the dump, we didn’t know it would turn out to be an assembly or a student-letter writing day,” said student Riese Franklin. “We learned students our age can make a difference.”

Student Erika Hayashi said fellow students who learned about the dump for the first time were “shocked about it.”



"Some of us had parents who were already members of OPAL," she said. "But I feel like the rest of the class it hit them how much this could affect their future."

Smith explained students have a large role to play in environmental issues surrounding their community.

"They can do quite a lot," he said. "I think they can do research into countries in the world that have no landfills or that don't create garbage or have a garbage shortage."

Teacher Llyn Roode said the students came up with the idea for the project completely on their own and developed a project designed "to educate their whole schools about the issue and motivate to do something about it."

hrivers@postmedia.com



## This Week's Flyers

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Submitted photo

April 25-26 was Christian Education Celebration week at Woodstock Christian School. To celebrate, the school hosted a number of different events to include alumni, current families and grandparents, including a picnic lunch, Grand Friends Day, Volunteer 100, the Driver Appreciation as well as the 80 year production Anne of Green Gables. The school has been in Oxford County for more than 80 years and continues to receive much support. As a way to show thanks, the entire school participated in Jump Ropes for Heart and raised over \$2,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Students from Grade 6 took charge of the event, creating stations for groups of students on Tuesday, April 26.

Woodsrock. In total, they will create 46 new units, 26 of which are part of the stage-two construction at the Harvey Woods Lots on Vansittart Avenue. The County will award \$91,800 to HOC Holdings Ltd. to build 20 units on Dundas Street while Indwell will receive just over \$1 million to complete the Harvey Woods Loft expansion. Councillor and Tillsonburg Mayor Stephen Mohr was asked about the balance in the reserve fund for housing should the county want to support other housing projects in the near future. Paul Beaton, Oxford's director of human services, said there is about \$1.6 million left in reserve.

County council moved to award Royal Fence Ltd. more than \$1 million to install guide rails on a number of county roads in 2016 and 2017. Several areas were identified as safety concerns in a 2014 report on bridges in the county. Only two contractors submitted bids for the project and Royal Fence, based in Dorchester, Ontario, was less expensive and more local.

County council approved several bylaws at a day's meeting, including one that designate Broadway Street in Burgin to allow a centre. Changes to draft the Municipal Facilities Bylaw were approved.

County council approved a plan to support two organisations constructing affordable housing proposals in

Director of community and strategic planning Gordon Hough said that "our policies were ... very comprehensive." But his presentation outlined how the county would amend the Official Plan to have policies for proposed new landfills distinct from policies regarding current dumps. The change would also require any proposed landfill projects that are not intended to accept waste from Oxford to have explored options for placement outside of the county. Several local environmental activists spoke, directing their opposition to the proposed Walker landfill near Ingersoll.

The Walker Environmental Group also submitted a letter through a Toronto law firm expressing the belief the proposed amendments "inconsistent" with the provincial policies on waste management. Caruso Lines and Stone also submitted comments outlining the need to ensure "continued availability of mineral aggregate resources," adding that Oxford is home to some of the highest quality limestone in Ontario.

Further, the presentation on the Official Plan Amendment was received as information, but the council will be debating this application amendment at the next meeting.

Affordable Housing proposals Council approved a plan to support two organisations constructing affordable housing proposals in

County council approved a plan to support two organisations constructing affordable housing proposals in

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# COMMUNITY

Oxford County council approves funds for affordable housing projects and bears about possible amendment to the Official Plan.

MPAC rep highlights trends update on 2016 property assessment notices from Amanda MacDougall, regional manager from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation. These notices are sent out once every four years. Residential property assessment notices went out to Oxford property owners April 16. The deadline to apply for a reassessment is Aug. 16 - 120 days after the notice is issued. Other property categories, including farms and businesses, will have their notices sent out in October. MacDougall briefly highlighted some of the trends seen in Oxford County this year, which include rising prices in areas of the region closest to urban centres like London and Kitchener, thanks to commuters. The typical value of a single-family home is up about two per cent, to \$244,000.

**Official Plan Amendment**  
The waste management policies of the county were briefly discussed at Wednesday's council meeting. An update to the Official Plan Amendment was proposed back in October 2013. Essentially the application for changes relates to the county's policies on landfills, both current and any proposed future landfills. Policies in the current plan date back to 2005.

County council approved a plan to support two organisations constructing affordable housing proposals in

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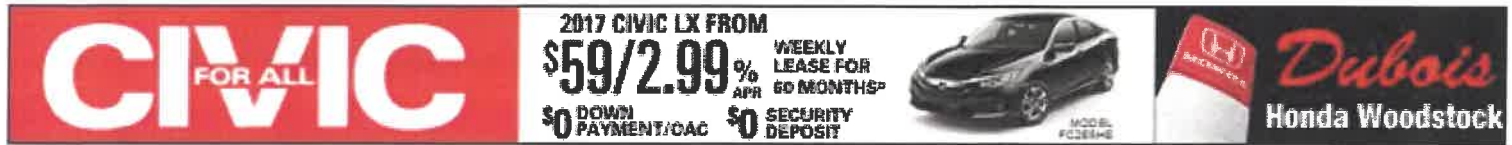


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## NEWS WOODSTOCK & REGION

### Oxford County council votes to amend official plan regarding waste management

By Bruce Chessell, Woodstock Sentinel-Review  
Thursday, June 9, 2016 10:10:28 EDT AM



President of the Oxford Environmental Action Committee Suzanne Crellin and acting president of Transition to Less Waste Mike Farlow (from left to right) address Oxford County council to show support for the amendments to the official plan that would greatly affect waste management and the creation of new landfills within the county, at Wednesday's meeting. (BRUCE CHESSELL/Sentinel-Review)

The council chambers erupted with applause from the gallery Wednesday morning, as county council unanimously voted in favour of proposed amendments to the county's official plan.

The amendments focus on waste management, as well as creating stricter policies on the creation of new landfills and the expansion of existing ones.

A full gallery, comprised mostly of environmental advocates and activists, sat through all of Wednesday's meeting in anticipation of council's decision on the proposed amendments to the county's official plan, which came up during unfinished business after being deferred four times since first coming up in April.

The delays were largely due to representatives from Walker Environmental Group (WEG) who submitted statements through Toronto law firm Gowling WLG, in April stating that the amendments were "inconsistent" with the provincial policies on waste management. On Wednesday, county staff made available another letter from Gowling WLG that stated WEG's disagreement with many of the proposed amendments.

Director of community and strategic planning Gordon Hough said it wasn't unexpected that WEG would disagree with the amendments.

"When you're dealing with any kind of applications there are always opinions about those things," Hough said. "We're quite content with what we've done a lot of work on this and we're very confident in the position we've taken and the policies we've drafted."

WEG did have some influence over the final draft of the amendments though. Hough said the company's original letter pointing out inconsistencies did force county staff to make the amendments more consistent.

"There were a couple things in their original letter that we looked at," Hough said. "One thing that they commented is that the criteria we were using for both new landfills and the expansion of existing landfills weren't consistent. So we did make them consistent... We actually (worked) on the policies for expanding landfills to make them as demanding as the (provincial) policies for a new landfill."

During council's discussion of the amendments, Coun. Don McKay asked Hough if these amendments gave county staff the 'strength' to turn down applications for new landfills. Hough said that these amendments provide a better opportunity to address the county's concerns, but they can't prohibit a landfill in their policies in accordance with provincial legislation.

"We think these policies give us a better opportunity and more tools to assess the application with respect to the county's needs," Hough said. "Anything that has to do with a provincial legislation where the approval is actually in the hands of the province, you can't pass bylaws or policies that prohibit something, because in effect what you are doing is taking that decision making authority out of the hands of the province."

"So what we have to do is develop policies that respect that," he added. "This kind of development is a huge impact and we want to make sure that the county has policies that address the county's concerns."

Bryan Smith, president of Oxford People Against the Landfill (OPAL), appeared in front of council to speak in favour of the amendments and said he was pleased that there was a unanimous vote to approve the amendments.

"OPAL is opposed to a dump and these official plan amendments take us forward as a county in terms of how we will deal with waste and give us additional tools for saying we should be looking for alternative methods and alternatives to dumping in any measure on any time," Smith said.

Mike Farlow, acting president and founder of Transition to Less Waste, also appeared alongside Suzanne Crellin, president of the Oxford Environmental Action Committee, to show their support for the amendments as well.

Farlow said he felt great about council's decision.

"For over 15 years, Transition to Less Waste has been working towards reducing the waste that Oxford is generating," Farlow said. "This will help us to support that we are looking after our own waste and we're going to reduce ideally down to zero waste in Oxford County. It just provides the county with the power to encourage that and make that happen."

Crellin also said she was very pleased with the decision, adding that it is fantastic that the county sided with them on opposing any landfill that would be for 'outside trash.'

"I believe that when we get to the end step of this at the provincial level, which is probably going to be what's called a joint review tribunal... This is going to give our county the tools to say that we're moving in a sustainable direction, we're supportive of Ontario's waste free goals and we do not accept any proposal that does not meet criteria for just caring for our local waste disposal needs," Crellin said.

Warden David Mayberry said that what they've tried to do with these amendments is say that this is a community that believes in a sustainable future and wants to make sure that they are thinking of the long term.

"That's really the kind of vision that we're trying to put out there," Mayberry said. "We're in it for the long term, and that our children and grandchildren deserve to be thought of when we're making decisions. So while I'm not 100 per cent convinced that the province would agree with our position, I am convinced that it is probably as far as we can go and stay within the legal scope that we can work within."

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# News

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## Small Ontario town is tired of Toronto's garbage — literally



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Daksha Rangan  
Digital Reporter

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Wednesday, June 29, 2016, 9:45 AM - Tom Comiskey, mayor of Ingersoll, Ont., has a message for Toronto: *Keep your trash to yourself.*

Comiskey caused a stir in March after suggesting that Toronto should dump their garbage at Christie Pits, one of the city's public recreational areas and sports facilities.

On June 20 the small-town mayor brought his message to the public works and infrastructure committee, saying that Toronto ought to keep their garbage within their own city limits rather than trucking it off to Ingersoll -- 150 kilometres southwest of Toronto.

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"My town, my residents, my neighbours do not want your garbage in our backyard. We are not a willing host," Comiskey told the City of Toronto in March. "We have never heard from anyone from the city of Toronto about the fact that you want to turn our backyard into a landfill."

Comiskey frustration comes after a private waste disposal company informed him of plans to bring the GTA's commercial and industrial waste to a landfill in Oxford County, the CBC reports.

"I do not want your garbage. ... You create your waste inside your borders. Then deal with it inside your borders," Comiskey told the committee.

His first attempt at rejecting Toronto's waste garnered some nods, the CBC notes. But this time, his plea wasn't as well-received.

"You're barking up the wrong tree," Counc. Chin Lee, a committee member, told Comiskey. "[W]e don't have authority to do anything about it; it's a provincial responsibility."

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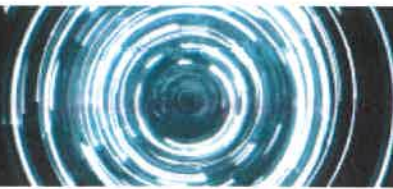
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## NEWS WOODSTOCK & REGION

# Walker Environmental open house to update local residents on proposed landfill does little to satisfy Oxford People Against the Landfill



By Megan Stacey, Woodstock Sentinel-Review  
Thursday, September 1, 2016 6:29:19 EDT PM



Image: 1 of 3



OPAL and other community members wave their signs as a car turns on to Spruce Road near the Colombo Club on Thursday, Sept. 1, 2016. The group was arranged on West Hill Line across from the club, where Walker Environmental Group held an open house regarding its landfill proposal. (MEGAN STACEY/Sentinel-Review)

They'll never give up the fight.

Oxford residents opposed to the proposed Walker Environmental landfill near Ingersoll made their presence known at an open house hosted by the company at the Colombo Club on Thursday.

Walker organized the event to share updates now that the project has "restarted" after amended Terms of Reference were approved in March of this year.

Right now the company is focused on design and work plans for the landfill site, and other aspects of the projects like traffic routes. They expect to begin conducting all the necessary studies required by the Environmental Assessment (EA) in spring of 2017.

Darren Fry, project director for the southwestern landfill, noted that the process, designed by the Ministry of Environment, outlines steps the company is required to follow.

"What comes before the studies is the general design. We need to know what we're going to study."

The open house was the first public consultation event for the EA process, said Joe Tomaino, EA process manager. (The next public meeting is Oct. 13, also at the Colombo Club.)

"In the next year and half we'll start our impact studies and our EA report, and then there's a second decision made by the Minister (of Environment)," Tomaino said.

The points of contention for community activists – potential contamination of ground and river water, traffic considerations, effect on the local environment, and nuisance to nearby residents – haven't changed.

Outside the hall, protestors waved signage at every car that came up West Hill Line, but it seemed they didn't have much convincing to do; all honked back.

For Bryan Smith, leader of Oxford People Against the Landfill (OPAL), it's not really a matter of debating specific issues, like the best route for trucks to travel, or whether the layer of soil at the bottom of the liner will be 1 metre or 10 metres thick.

He'd rather see the landfill proposal rejected altogether.

"The notion that they'd bring 17 million tonnes of garbage into Oxford County and put it in the water table – that's the overriding concern of this entire community," Smith said.

But he was also disappointed that the public consultation was scheduled for a few days before a long weekend.

"What are people thinking about right now? They're thinking about the last weekend of summer," he said. "(Walker's) timing is not very good."

But the prevailing theme among local residents seems to be concern about the potential impacts of a landfill on groundwater, the Thames River, and other sources of water.

Walker displayed a life-size demonstration of the 15-foot liner that separates garbage from the quarry floor in its Niagara landfill at the Beachville open house. That landfill, opened in 2009, is extremely similar to the proposed Oxford one.

The barrier between trash and ground is made up of a variety of materials underneath the synthetic liner, including gravel, clay and at least one metre of low permeability soil at the bottom.

But OPAL wasn't convinced.

"They say the liner is safe, and we say science says otherwise," Smith said, citing a Napanee-area dump, closed in 2011, that is leaking.

It's certainly a common theme for questions from the community, Fry said.

"I think it's important for people to know that these facilities are highly regulated and actively monitored to ensure they're protecting the environment," he said, adding that groundwater and surface water is monitored by an independent consultant many times per year at Walker landfills.

"And we're required to report on the results of that monitoring every year," Fry added.

Howard DeJong, another community member protesting the landfill, said he isn't buying it.

"What guarantees do we have? That's the whole point. It's probably not going to leak in my lifetime. But my kids are going to live here," DeJong said.

Opponents have also expressed concern about the haul routes proposed by Walker.

The "shortlist" includes two routes that would see trucks use Pemberton Street in Ingersoll. But it's highly likely those paths will be struck from the list due to a tight turn onto Pemberton from Beachville Road, as well as the higher number of residences that live on that haul route, Fry said.



"The EA requires us to look at all possible options. We have to look at those options and determine if they're legal, technically feasible, are they commercial viable? If they can meet that screening then they'd pass through to the next step of the assessment," he said, noting that at least one proposed haul route has already been axed.

The haul routes, along with four other key pillars of the landfill – exact location, design, treatment of leachate and management of landfill gas – will be discussed at next month's meeting, and the preferred option for each area announced at a public session in November.

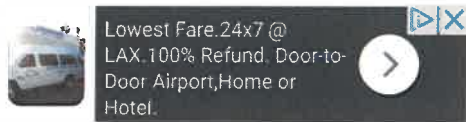
Fry noted that despite a changing environment, there is still a need for landfills in Ontario, and said that Walker is "participating in that transitioning economy." That also includes work like processing organic waste and re-purposing former landfills.

But Smith and his team aren't going to stop protesting, no matter what assurances they hear from the company. They just don't want to see a dump created near any of their neighbours, regardless of explanations.

"They can make money. The problem is the price that everybody else pays for that," Smith said.

"Why should we have other people's waste dumped on us?"

mstacey@postmedia.com



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## OPINION

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR: 600-acre site must be included in Walker Environmental Group's landfill study

Tuesday, September 6, 2016 4:33:08 EDT PM



Walker Environmental Group (WEG) has maintained that there are "different locations or configurations on the Carmeuse Lime (Canada) site where the landfill could be located and developed" other than quarried area in phase two of licence 2136.

At the CLC meeting July 27, WEG presented their preferred location in the quarried out area of phase two of licence 2136 and listed the reasons/excuses for not carrying other locations forward for a complete evaluation during the year-long study period that are part of the Carmeuse landholdings in Oxford County.

The exclusion of their Option 1 was challenged as it applied to the unlicensed approximately 600 acres north of Road 66, west of County Road 6 (37th Line) and south of road 68, in the area described as Quarry Area.

It was clearly stated that the 600 acres must be carried forward along with WEG's preferred location, for a full and complete evaluation during the study period so that the Ministry of Environment and Climate Control (MOECC) will be able to make a fully informed decision. To date this has been rejected by WEG.

At the CLC meeting Aug. 24, additional reasons/excuses were presented in an effort to justify the exclusion of the 600 acres. Their position so far seems to be based on four main points: the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), the Township of Zorra Land Use Plan, Oxford County Official Plan (OP), the fact that it is located in the Quarry Area and the fact that it would not be commercially viable.

As far as the PPS is concerned, it has been pointed out that it is not legislation and therefore not etched in stone. I am sure elected officials are very familiar with the fact that the OP can be changed, also the Quarry Area designation is very questionable because it covers property owned by Carmeuse, Federal White and Lafarge plus some private properties that should never have been included.

It would be appropriate for the 600 acres and the private properties to be included in the "Limestone Resource" designation, which of course covers a significant area in Zorra, plus it must be noted that there is limestone in other parts of Oxford County and many other areas of Ontario.

As far as the commercial viability of the 600 acres is concerned, I do not believe that anyone in Oxford County - be it elected official or private citizen - should care if WEG makes a lower profit on this location versus their preferred location.

There are a number of reasons that the 600 acres must be carried forward for a full and complete evaluation that would include both potential sites being evaluated during the study period.

The 600 acres is located a significantly greater distance from the more densely populated areas of Beachville, Centreville and Ingersoll. It is farther from the Thames River, the flooded West Quarry Pond (WQP) that is referred to by some as a lake, the Rural Cemetery, and of course the wells that supply water for all of the municipalities and private properties.

In addition, the fact that it is farther from populated areas greatly lessens the potential for the inevitable adverse effects from dust, noise, odours, blowing litter and loss of property value, etc.

A landfill on the 600 acres would be much safer for our drinking water (groundwater) because it would be located on top of undisturbed bedro above the water table as opposed to being located in severely fractured bedrock and potentially into the water table in the quarried out preferred location.

It is absolutely imperative that all elected officials, individually and as council members, clearly state publicly where they stand on this issue a that they instruct their representatives on county council to support an Official Plan change that will remove all unlicensed properties - both those owned by resource companies and privately owned - from the Quarry Area designation and they must demand that the 600 acres be carried forward for a full and complete evaluation during the study period.

Members of the public must be prepared to state clearly to their elected representatives which of the two possible locations they prefer: the safer 600 acres that is farther away from all of those things listed above or the location preferred by WEG in the fractured bedrock that is muc closer.

Regardless if it is an elected official or private citizen, picking a preferred location does not in anyway indicate support for the landfill proposal simply indicates which location you believe would be the safest if it was approved.

The opposition groups have to decide where they stand on this issue, simply saying "I don't want it" is not going to lead to rejection by the MOECC, there are not any votes available to the citizens of Oxford County and the MOECC makes decisions based on what they believe to t factual information.

Politicians and private citizens should all give careful consideration to information that is being put forward as fact, much of it is at best misinformation

To be completely clear, I do not speak on behalf of anyone other than myself.

Don Clark, Ingersoll



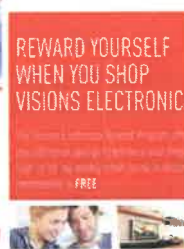
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# The Ingersoll Times

www.ingersolltimes.com

Wednesday, September 21, 2016



## A reason to smile

Ingersoll man steps up during Tim Horton smile campaign



## Santa's new ride

Annual Ingersoll Community Cruise and Show brought in a big crowd



## Halls Creek Unique

Festival of Creativity provided plenty of hands on experiences



The photo

In a letter to Walker Environmental Group, the Town of Ingersoll has expressed "serious concern" that the company isn't following the requirements of the approved terms of reference for the proposed Southwest Landfill.

## Ingersoll calls out Walker in letter of concern

Town expressed 'serious concern' that landfill terms of reference aren't being followed

John Tapley  
Ingersoll Times

The Town of Ingersoll has expressed "serious concern" that Walker Environmental Group isn't

following the requirements of the approved terms of reference for the proposed Southwest Landfill.

It outlined issues with information provided by Walker at a Community

Liabilities Committee (CLC) meeting on July 27 and with a consultation booklet - landfill footprint and design alternatives - in a letter to Walker dated August 17, 2016.

"The CLC meeting was attended by representatives from the town and the town has reviewed the design booklet," wrote Ingersoll

CAO William Tigert. "Having carefully considered the conclusions of the design booklet, the town hereby expresses serious concern that Walker has departed from the requirements of the approved terms of reference."

He references section 7.2 of the terms of reference, which states that: "During

the environmental assessment (EA), Walker will establish and evaluate specific alternatives with each of these five categories of alternative methods in consultation with government agencies, aboriginal communities and interested members of the public."

CONTINUED > PAGE 2

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- Port Dover | 697 Highway 6 West | Call Chris at 1-888-903-8056
- Simcoe | 100-216 West Street | Call Laura at 1-888-904-0696
- Tillsonburg | 114 Broadway Street | Call Mariah at 1-888-904-2051
- Woodstock | 469 Dundas Street | Call Adriana at 1-888-902-5420

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# Ingersoll calls out Walker in letter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Notwithstanding the requirement referenced above, Walker seeks to eliminate EA evaluation for the majority of the alternative options and designs presented in respect of the landfill footprint and landfill design," Tigert wrote. "In some instances, Walker has omitted presentation of viable alternatives for consideration altogether. Many of the options that have been screened out or omitted merit EA evaluation."

Tigert wrote that it is "especially alarming" that Walker has blocked the involvement of independent experts in the selection of its preferred options for the design of the proposed landfill.

"Such decision interferes

with the public's right to meaningful engagement and comment and risks carrying forward designs that are not safe or otherwise in the public's interest."

Tigert sets out revisions that "the town believes are necessary regarding matters discussed in the design booklet."

"In the design booklet, Walker proposes to eliminate four out of the five landfill footprint options, allowing only option 3 (the active quarry and lime plant) to proceed to be studied in the environmental assessment. The town disagrees with the proposed elimination of option 1 (the greenfield lands)."

Tigert wrote that the greenfield lands should be evaluated and compared to the environmental effects of selecting the active quarry and lime plant.

"We understand that the greenfield lands are not currently licensed for future mining and there are no foreseeable plans to mine the aggregate of the greenfield lands. The greenfield lands are relevant to consider because there may be less egregious environmental impacts associated with using a site that has not been previously mined."

Tigert wrote that there are examples of landfills placed in fractured limestone sites, which have resulted in leaking and ground water contamination.

"If Walker refuses to study more than one alternative footprint, an inference of bad faith must be made against Walker because, at the time of submitting the ToR in which Walker committed to evaluating various alternatives,

the restrictions on the sites now referenced in the design booklet were already apparent. The failure to include consideration of alternative footprints is in violation of the ToR and the EA process.

The town is calling for the greenfield lands to be included as one of the alternative options in subsequent environmental assessment studies.

The second "required revision" the town is calling for is for Walker to provide alternative liner designs for consideration because the design booklet only identifies two landfill liners for consideration.

"While the design booklet indicates that the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change designed two generic landfill liner systems, it is unclear whether there are other liner systems that would also be suitable to study during the environmental assessment process."

The town says independent experts should be encouraged to advise and offer comments on behalf of the public regarding which liners should be carried forward.

"Walker must identify and include proper EA consideration of liner designs that have been used in other landfill sites located in abandoned quarries."

The third revision is to provide for additional footprint orientations, including

hybrid and disconnected orientations.

"The design booklet provides for only two orientations of the landfill within the proposed option 3 footprint. From these options one is proposed to be removed because of insufficient volume. Walker fails to explain, however, why a hybrid option is not feasible with a combined west-east and north-south orientation - which could have sufficient volume. Similarly, Walker should include the division of the footprint orientation into two or more separate areas."

The town's fourth demand is for Walker to retain all criteria identified by the landfill design comparative evaluation (criteria and indicators).

"Several criteria is proposed to be screened out at this stage based on rationale that some criteria does not identify differences between the 'conventional' option and the 'deep' option."

Tigert wrote that the town disagrees with Walker's decision to screen out criteria for the purpose of comparing results between the conventional and deep options because, contrary to Walker's position, the town believes that study of such criteria might identify differences between the two options.

"If any criteria is to be

screened out at this stage, the process to do so needs to be inclusive and transparent, which would require the input of independent experts that represent members of the public."

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"The participation of independent experts are necessary to ensure that checks and balances are in place when it comes to technical information that requires specialized knowledge for the public to understand and advise on. This is a cornerstone of the environmental process that cannot be compromised at any stage."

When the letter came up for discussion at council September meeting, Tigert noted that the town's comments on Walker's plans shouldn't be interpreted as a change in its opinion of the proposed landfill.

"The town has not ceded its position on the landfill - that it doesn't want it," he said.

Mayor Ted Comiskey echoed Tigert's comment.

"It's not that we're agreeing to anything when they bring things forward," he said. "This is our opportunity to comment."

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John Tapley  
Ingersoll Times

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## News

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## Petitions – Ingersoll Landfill

October 4, 2016

**Mr. Ernie Hardeman:** I have a petition here signed by a great many people in my riding, particularly around the town of Ingersoll, who have concerns about the siting of a landfill site in their community. It is:

“To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“Whereas many of the resources of this planet are finite and are necessary to sustain both life and the quality of life for all future generations;

“Whereas the disposal of resources in landfills creates environmental hazards which will have significant human and financial costs for;

“Whereas all levels of government are elected to guarantee their constituents’ physical, financial, emotional and mental well-being;

“Whereas the health risks to the community and watershed increase in direct relationship to the proximity of any landfill site;

“Whereas the placement of a landfill in a limestone quarry has been shown to be detrimental;

“Whereas the county of Oxford has passed a resolution requesting a moratorium on landfill construction or approval;

“Therefore be it resolved that we, the undersigned, humbly petition the Legislative Assembly as follows:

“To implement a moratorium in Oxford county on any future landfill construction or approval until such time as a full review of alternatives has been completed which would examine best practices in other jurisdictions around the world;

“That this review of alternatives would give special emphasis on (a) practices which involve the total recycling or composting of all products currently destined for landfill sites in Ontario and (b) the production of goods which can efficiently and practically be recycled or reused so as to not require disposal in landfills.”

I affix my signature, Mr. Speaker, as I agree with this petition.

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[Petitions — Landfill](#)

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**Constituency Office**



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Thursday, October 6th, 2016 5:37am



Walker Environmental will be listening to questions and concerns about the proposed landfill during public workshops.

BEACHVILLE - The public has an opportunity to take part in public workshops to discuss the proposed Walker Landfill.

Project Director for the Southwestern Landfill Environmental Assessment Darren Fry says they will cover a wide range of topics during the course of the meeting.

"So we'll look at things like where on the property could the landfill be developed, we'll look at different types of landfill liner designs, we'll be looking at and discussing different haul routes and site entrances, how infrastructure within the facility could be developed and different technologies employed."

Fry says they want to hear from the people who live here in Oxford and invite questions and concerns.

"We will be having a number of round tables for community members to participate - we are developing a workbook. And their questions and their comments will be addressed and will be recorded."

The workshops will be held at the Colombo Club in Beachville on Thursday October 13th. The first session

<http://www.heartfm.ca/news/local-news/public-workshops-focus-on-proposed-landfill/>

Recently Played

- Taylor Swift  
Bad Blood 11:53am
- Dido  
Thankyou 11:50am

...on Thursday, October 14th. The first session is at 3 p.m. and the second session is at 6 p.m.

They do ask that you RSVP ahead of time so they can send materials out before the workshop. To RSVP call 1-855-392-5537, email [info@walkerea.com](mailto:info@walkerea.com), or [visit the EventBrite page](#).

Registration is available at the door, and they will set aside a few extra workbooks.

Fry says there will be another round of public workshops in November.

- [Travel](#)
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## More from Local News

-  **Brantford Rapist Escapes Prison**

Police are searching for a long term offender from Brantford who has escaped from prison in Kingston.

-  **Heavy Fog Wreaks**

Havoc in Oxford County  
Oxford OPP responded to 13 collisions over the weekend as motorists had to deal with heavy fog.

-  **Police Identify Victim in Fatal Crash**  
A young woman has died after a fatal crash on Highway 59 Friday morning

-  **Ingersoll** Building the Future of the  
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	<b>American Authors</b> Best Day Of My Life	11:42am
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Police are searching for a long term offender from Brantford who has escaped from prison in Kingston.



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**NEWS**

**Walker Environmental screens a variety of options for the landfill site, design, haul routes, treatment of leachate and gas management, as residents continue to protest its placement in Oxford County**

By Megan Stacey, Woodstock Sentinel-Review  
 Friday, October 14, 2016 12:56:14 EDT PM



A Walker Environmental map showing six proposed paths for company and customer trucks to take from Hwy. 401 to the landfill site. The likely choice is route 3, which travels up Country Road 6 and then west on a private road (yet to build), as that path would pass fewer residences and use roads already designated for heavy truck traffic.

Residents of Oxford are less than pleased that Walker Environmental is moving ahead with the environmental assessment process for the proposed landfill in Zorra Township.

At this stage in the process the company is identifying options for five important components of the landfill – its placement, design, haul route treatment of leachate and managing gas that the dump would produce.

On Thursday evening, Walker held roundtables at the Colombo Club to inform residents about the options that were considered and given the green light. All the alternatives are analyzed for feasibility in terms of cost, legality, and available technology.

But residents at those discussions weren't impressed with the plans.

Opposition groups like Oxford People Against the Landfill (OPAL), which picketed opposite the Colombo Club at Walker's open house last month and again during the roundtables, have long made their hatred of the landfill known.

But now residents and formalized groups fighting against the landfill are being forced to consider the plans for the landfill. They're pushing back with a simple message about the options Walker presented.

"They really were just trying to get me to say 'which one do you prefer?' I'm saying none of them are acceptable to this community," said Mike Farlow, a local environmental activist and founder of Transition to Less Waste.

But the environmental assessment process rolls on.

By November, Walker will have highlighted one "preferred alternative" in each of the five areas. That chosen option will then move forward through the rigorous study process required by the environmental assessment. Another public meeting will be held at that time, though a date has not yet been set.



Walker Environmental document that illustrates the site for the proposed landfill in Zorra Township. Area marked in red.

Here are the plans for those five landfill components as they stand right now:

## LANDFILL PLACEMENT

**Chosen option:** Southwest Active Quarry and Lime Plant

**Rejected options:** Four other sites on Carmeuse property

Walker has determined that the preferred spot for the landfill is to the southwest of Carmeuse's current active quarry and lime plant. The site would be directly east of Line 35, bordered by the railway track at the south and extending east from the end of Road 64 at the northern edge.

The company needs a minimum of 53 hectares (131 acres) of space to provide room for the landfill and its buffer.

No other option investigated by Walker – including northeast of County Road 6; directly north of Centreville along Beachville Road; and farther north, in future quarry lands between Line 68 and Line 66 – had the needed space.

Several of those options were also ruled out because of conflict with provincial or federal laws (such as policies to protect valuable lands or bodies of water, which are found within a few of the sites that were screened for possible use).

This landfill placement, also called its "footprint", is one of the most contentious issues, with many residents and activists saying that the site should be much farther east – so far east, in fact, that it is moved outside of Oxford County and closer to the GTA, a potential source of the trash that would come to the dump.

## LANDFILL DESIGN

**Chosen options:** Deep and conventional landfill styles

**Rejected option:** Above ground landfill

There are three possible landfill designs, and Walker has chosen to further evaluate two of those options.

The deepest design keeps most of the waste below the ground, with the landfill liner sitting very close to the quarry floor. A "conventional" design would see waste both above and below ground. That structure is shallower, but protrudes higher above the ground. Since the waste is not so deep into the ground, the landfill liner is raised above the quarry floor, with natural soil filling in the space between.

An above ground design was screened out, because the site does not provide enough space to collect trash above the ground.

Project lead Darren Fry noted that the higher the landfill, the greater the chance for wind (to blow trash or dust) and potential odours.

A couple that live right beside the proposed landfill site mentioned that the design would create an eyesore in their backyard.

"It wouldn't look too pretty for us."

EA process manager Joe Tomaino said that Walker's Niagara-area landfill is a conventional design.

No matter which design is chosen, the landfill is then "capped." And in either case, trash would be separated from the soil or quarry floor underneath the landfill by a 3.5 metre liner. In addition to a synthetic liner, there are layers of gravel, clay and low permeability soil at the bottom of this liner.

## HAUL ROUTES

**Chosen options:** Five under further study

**Rejected options:** An eastern route and a rail route

Seven different traffic routes were analyzed and screened by Walker to determine which path makes the most sense for transportation of waste from Highway 401 to the landfill site. The company estimates there would be about 100 trucks travelling to and from the landfill every day the facility is open.

All the proposed routes will exit the 401 at County Road 6 and travel north to Beachville Road. Those roads are already designated for heavy truck traffic, though some local residents at the roundtables suggested that County Road 6 is overloaded currently.

The likely winner is a path that continues north on County Road 6 and then heads west on a private road, yet to be built, to reach the landfill. Walker indicated that this route "shows the most advantages."

Two routes were rejected, including one that headed east on Beachville Road and north on 41st Line, as the cost to reconstruct a bridge over the rail tracks was too high. Transporting the waste by rail was another option screened out by Walker, as it would be difficult to manage trash from different sources, not to mention costly.

A total of five remaining routes will be further evaluated, including three that travel west on Beachville Road and then north on Pemberton Street. But Walker made clear that those routes would likely be screened out due to the number of homes and other factors.

A traffic study will be conducted as part of the environmental assessment.

## LEACHATE TREATMENT

**Chosen option:** Treatment on-site

**Rejected options:** Utilizing municipal wastewater treatment plants and evaporation

Rain or snowfall that comes in contact with waste at the landfill is called leachate. This water that leaches out of the landfill would need to be treated and cleaned before it is returned to the environment.

Walker has decided to manage this water in an on-site treatment plant. Essentially the water is collected by pipes in the landfill liner, and pumped to a treatment plant. From there, it is returned to the environment, likely the Thames River. But where and how the water will move from the treatment plant to a body of water has yet to be determined.

For a landfill of this size, Fry estimated that two to three employees would be needed to run the treatment centre.

There was some concern expressed by residents about the scope of treatment and the flow of water that would be released into a local water system. Tomaino indicated that the process is "no different than the wastewater treatment facility in any municipality," which handles water flushed down the toilet, or washed out of a sink or tub, among other sources.

Walker cannot pipe or haul the leachate to municipal wastewater facilities because Oxford County by-law prohibits it. The only other option, c site evaporation, hasn't been widely used and proven in Ontario.

In response to citizen concerns, Fry indicated that Walker would be removing leachate from the landfill for "a very, very long time," probably more than 100 years. In the event that the company cannot handle that process (if Walker went bankrupt, for example), a provincial financial assurances fund into which all landfill and related companies make contributions would be used.

## GAS MANAGEMENT

**Chosen options:** Flaring and renewable uses

**Rejected option:** Venting

Gases produced by the landfill would be dealt with in one of two ways, both of which are in use at Walker's Thorold facility. The "baseline" treatment is to essentially burn the gas, removing the methane and releasing carbon dioxide. Another option is to harness that gas and use it as renewable energy.

In Niagara, Walker sends the gas to a nearby paper mill.

"A facility of this size, you could have enough gas, a significant volume of gas, to use as a renewable energy source – so to put into engines produce electricity or to send to an industrial user – for over 50 years," Fry said, noting that Carmeuse or another local company may want the energy to power their operations.

The only other option for handling the gas is passive venting, which is not allowed under Ontario regulation.

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NEWS

## Walker Environmental holding public workshop for proposed landfill

By Bruce Chessell, Woodstock Sentinel-Review  
Friday, November 11, 2016 1:01:51 EST PM



Walker Environmental will be holding another public workshop at the Colombo Club to discuss the environmental assessment for the proposed landfill in Zorra Township.

Last month, the company held a public roundtable to discuss five important components of the landfill, including its placement, design, haul routes, leachate treatment and management of gas that the dump will produce.

The company informed residents of options that were being considered and given approval in each of these five components. Two of the components, haul routes and design, were offering multiple options at the time, but now the company has chosen a single option in both of these areas.

Project director Darren Fry said the company decided to go with a deep design for the landfill, which would put the landfill below ground level because this design has the least amount of potential for impacts.

"The fundamental thinking there and the consideration is that the lower the landfill is below ground, the less potential there is for things like dust, odor, blowing litter, visual impacts and other impacts," Fry said. "The deep design that will be carried forward into the detailed and technical studies, which will take place starting next spring, will be over a year long."

Walker also decided that the truck haul route would go from Exit 222 on Highway 401, north on County Road 6, then west onto a private road on the Carmeuse property that would need to be constructed. One of the main reasons this route was chosen was because it had zero residents' on it.

"We compared the different routes against each other, and as you can see haul route three (the one that was chosen), which is by means the most direct route into the proposed landfill... is the preferred alternative," he said. "As opposed to going down Beachville Road and through Ingersoll or other developed areas."

The proposed landfill has been a controversial issue in Oxford for some time now, with groups like Oxford People Against the Landfill (OPAL) vocally opposing bringing the landfill to the county. OPAL even picketed the last two roundtable discussions Walker held at the Colombo Club in Ingersoll.

Fry said his company has received a lot of input from the community regarding their concerns, adding that as part of this process they are listening and considering these issues.

"In many cases (we're) incorporating those concerns into our environmental assessment," he said. "To make sure that we'll be studying and providing answers to some of the questions that we're receiving."

There will be two public workshops taking place on Nov. 16 at the Colombo Club in Ingersoll, one at 3:30 p.m. and another at 6:30 p.m.

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## NEWS

### Proposed landfill in Zorra Township soon to enter scientific assessment phase which will test the current plans for safety and legality, among other issues



By Megan Stacey, Woodstock Sentinel-Review  
Monday, November 21, 2016 2:13:12 EST PM



Darren Fry, director of strategic growth at Walker Environmental, shows the proposed site for the Zorra Township landfill - a former quarry on Carmeuse Lime and Stone property. (MEGAN STACEY, Sentinel-Review)

It's been a long journey already, but the process to possibly bring a dump to Oxford County is just getting started.

Walker Environmental held its third public meeting in as many months on Wednesday afternoon and evening, sharing with local residents the options the company has selected for further study in five key components of the landfill.

They're the same characteristics that were discussed at the first two public meetings – location, design, haul routes, leachate treatment and gas management – when residents had a chance to weigh in on concerns and other potential options.

Though the fight against the proposed landfill is already years old, the plans are just beginning.

"We're really still very near the beginning of this, even though it seems like we've been at this for quite a while," said environmental approvals specialist Steve Hollingshead.

These are the selections that will be under rigorous study over the next year:

**Landfill placement:** 80 hectares east of Line 35 and south of Road 64, just west of current Carmeuse quarrying operations.

**Landfill design:** “deep” style that would see almost all of the waste contained below ground, though closer to the quarry floor. A 4.5 metre liner separates the two, and additional soil would sit below the liner.

**Haul routes:** north on County Road 6 past Beachville Road and the railway lines, west on private road that would be constructed, and finally south a short job to landfill entrance.

**Leachate treatment:** an on-site leachate treatment plant.

**Gas management:** enclosed flaring will be used to burn off the gas for at least four to five years, with potential for the gas to then be collected and used as renewable energy until well after the landfill closes.

Beginning in the next few months, those five main components will undergo numerous studies to prove their safety, legality and effectiveness to do what the company hopes they will do – in all four seasons.

“All the various studies and approvals that have to happen before the shovels could hit the ground...start with general designs and work plan which is where we are right now,” Hollingshead said.

But soon the scientific assessment phase will begin.

“Experts on all manner of things – water and air and noise – that are hired by Walker will collect the actual information and do the field studies and all the analysis,” he said.

Dozens of guests at Wednesday’s roundtable, including local politicians and municipal staff, students, engineers, and real estate agents, asked and learned about the specifics of the current plans.

Chief concerns continue to focus on groundwater and any potential contamination, traffic issues as a result of the 100 or so vehicles expected to travel from Hwy. 401 to the landfill each day, as well as the future of the landfill lands once the facility closes.

There was some discussion around returning the landfill area to agricultural use – a possibility that’s made more likely by the deep design Walker has green-lighted at this stage.

Since most of the waste is below the ground level, it reduces the potential slope (or hill) that would be left behind.

Some companies have experimented with planting trees and even crops on top of landfill “caps,” which include at least a metre of soil.

“Walker, at their landfill site in Niagara, are actually running some experimental agriculture plots,” Hollingshead said. “It’s been working out pretty well, they’ve been quite successful at growing crops.”

But groundwater is protected equally when using deep or conventional landfill designs, thanks to the 4.5 metre liner that will separate the waste from the quarry, Hollingshead added.

After the scientific assessment wraps up, which is expected in spring of 2018, Walker will work towards a detailed landfill design. That would be followed by the preparation of the final environmental assessment report.

The EA has to be approved by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and a number of other approvals would follow (including land severance, zoning, and many others).

The landfill construction could begin in 2020, the company estimates, and be operational about two years after that.

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## READ THE REPORT

Walker Environmental posts the documents from each public session on their website dedicated to the Southwestern Landfill Proposal: <http://www.walkerea.com>

The November session’s document: <http://bit.ly/2fYwkn3>

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## Citizens vow to stop Ontario landfill

Posted Dec. 1st, 2016 by [Jeffrey Carter](#)

8



Walker Environmental's landfill is to be located just north of the Thames River and a deep kilometre-long lake that was once a quarry | Kim Osmond photo

**Plans call for the dumping of waste from across the province into a limestone quarry in Zorra Township**

ZORRA, Ont. — Despite massive opposition and an approval process that could last for years, plans for a 17 million tonne landfill in southwestern Ontario are moving forward.

Currently, a limestone quarry of almost 200 acres is the preferred site for Walker Environmental. It is located in Zorra Township, about two kilometers from the township of South-West Oxford, the Town of Ingersoll and the Thames River.

Plans call for the quarry hole to receive commercial, industrial and institutional waste over a 20-year period. While tipping fees have yet to be established, gross revenues could approach or exceed \$1 billion.

Bryan Smith and Suzanne Crellin, members of Oxford People Against the Landfill, are playing a lead role in opposing the project.

“Once the leachate gets into the groundwater, it would flow for kilometres per day because of the geology in this area,” Crellin said.

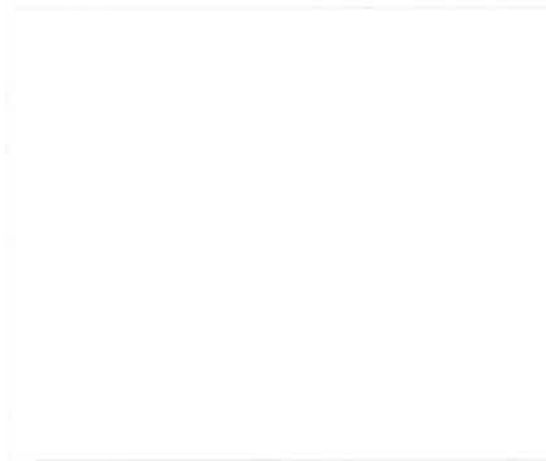
“I have to bring my kid up next to this and he has to drink the tap water. It has to be safe. There is no other option but to stop this.”

The pair said 73,000 letters opposing the landfill have been sent to either Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne or Environment Minister Glen Murray.

Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman, who opposes the project, said it’s a credible number, and the approval process could take years to complete.

Walker Environmental has already invested heavily in the project and operates a landfill in Niagara.

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Fred Freeman, the deputy mayor of Ingersoll, said he will not budge from his opposition. The town has been setting aside funds and has as much as \$100,000 a year available for the fight.

Oxford County Warden and South-West Oxford Mayor David Mayberry is also opposed to the site.

He said Oxford has a 60 percent landfill diversion rate with its residential waste, which is a good number, but waste from other sources is exported out of the county.

Mayberry said Oxford can do better and supports landfill diversion rates approaching 100 percent over time. He encourages other municipalities to follow suit. He said there may be merit in moving to a regional approach on the waste issue so less emphasis is placed on exporting the problem.

“We question the suitability of the site because it’s right on bedrock, fractured bedrock. The concern in the county, and I think for council, is whether it is possible make that site safe,” he said.

Zorra Mayor Margaret Lupton said she is open to working with Walker Environmental, but only if the company is successful with its application. Payments to affected municipalities may be possible.

Walker representative Steve Hollingshead said waste being put in the landfill at the site could come from anywhere in the province, including Oxford County, but most of it would likely come from Toronto.

Unlike the Green Lane landfill west of London, Hollingshead said Walker's Niagara landfill doesn't stink. Before trucks are fully unloaded, the waste is already being buried and that's the plan for the Zorra location.

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He also said steps are being taken to deal with leachate from the site, the top concern for area residents.

While Smith and Crellin describe the landfill containment liner as being the thickness of a coin, that's just one of its components, said Hollingshead. It would actually be close to 3 1/2 metres thick, with two compacted layers of clay and two tiled and gravelled layers, from which leachate is drained away and subsequently treated.

Hollingshead said the liner design is the safest design approved by the Ontario Ministry of Environment and is used at Walker's Niagara location.

He is the designer of the latest section of the landfill operated by Walker in Niagara where the same technology is used.

The safety of the liner design and overall design of the landfill have been challenged by experts hired by Oxford People Against the Landfill.

Asked why Walker is interested in the site, Hollingshead said there's already an existing hole and, according to Fry, the site is already designated as industrial.

Along with bringing science that speaks against the viability of the site, OPAL maintains that Walker Environmental has failed to follow proper procedures with its application and says the site owner, Carmeuse Lime and Stone, already has a site rehabilitation plan in place that doesn't include a quarry.

The group also has support from the Chippewas of the Thames First Nations, which maintains that it should have been consulted since the Thames River passes through their land and is sacred to their community.

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By Bob Reid

Ontario Farmer

Beachville – There is a perpetually large pile of garbage in Toronto. There is a huge hole in the ground in rural Oxford County.

From a purely physical perspective, it is not hard to see how the simple connection between the two was first made four years ago. However that is the only part of the connection that has remained simple in the interim.

The hole – represented by the Carmeuse Lime quarry near Beachville – is owned by a Baron living in Belgium. An Environmental Assessment Plan in the coming years under the watchful eye of the Ministry of Environment (MOE) will determine if ever the twain shall meet.

The garbage or waste – the terms are interchangeable, much like dump or landfill, depending on who is addressing the topic - is generated by citizens, businesses and industries in Toronto who believe that ownership and responsibility for its disposal is passed on to the city once it leaves their property or residence.

Attempting to make the connection between the transient garbage and the stationary hole in the ground is a private company – Walker Industries, based in the Niagara Region – projected to deliver 100 truck loads of garbage daily.

It's a connection that will never come to pass if a citizens' group formed to oppose the proposed dump is successful.

The Oxford People Against the Landfill (OPAL) formed shortly after it became known that Walker Industries had approached the municipality in 2012 about using Carmeuse Lime, an active quarry, to develop a landfill.

To date 61,000 letters opposing the development have been sent to Minister of Environment Glen Murray.

The disconnect between the citizenry of Toronto and rural Ontario is at least part of the problem, said Bryan Smith, chair of the OPAL board.

It is a lament somewhat familiar as of late in Ontario farm community related to agriculture policy.

A person living on the upper levels of a high rise apartment building in Toronto does not have the direct connection to the soil and water resources affected by the leaching of toxic waste, impacting rural residents, said Smith.

“When they throw garbage down the chute in the building they think it disappears to somewhere. That somewhere is here,” said Smith.

The process for establishing a landfill site is currently following guidelines established in a recently approved Terms of Reference (ToR) by the MOE. An earlier attempt to receive an approval for a ToR was returned to Walker Industries for further revisions.

“We would have liked a full-scale rejection of the ToR work plan,” said Smith in a recent press release from OPAL.

An approval of a ToR does not constitute an approval of a landfill site. It is simply part of the process required under the Environmental Assessment Act to establish a landfill.

Smith believes the proposal should be turned down based on potential damage to local water resources alone. The dump is in the water basin of the Thames River and close to the ground water well supplying the town of Ingersoll.

“The sides of the quarry spurt water,” said Smith adding that water eventually goes into an underground aquifer.

OPAL has hired an hydrogeologist, Wilf Ruland, to examine potential contamination to the ground water system created by the landfill. He did investigative work on the infamous Walkerton well water contamination.

Two lawyers are working on a pro bono basis for OPAL in preparation for the long legal battle its members fear is sure to come.

While it is the “grey hairs” who can contribute the tremendous amount of time necessary to mount a credible opposition, it was the “20 somethings” that initiated formation of OPAL, said Smith, 63, a retired teacher.

A small group of young people concerned about the landfill proposal approached the Oxford Coalition for Social Justice, of which Smith is a member.

“They didn’t know what to do to oppose the dump and were looking for help,” recalled Smith.

If there is no water there is no justice so it seemed the right thing for members of the justice coalition to form OPAL, which has grown to 200 members, said Smith.

A similar proposal to transport Toronto garbage to an abandoned open pit mine was made in the late 1990s. At that time the Adams Mine in Kirkland Lake in Northern Ontario was the proposed site with garbage to be transported north by rail.

Similar concerns about contamination of nearby lakes and groundwater were raised and the proposal for use of the abandoned iron ore open pit mine was eventually rejected by 2003.

One of the people opposing that landfill, John Vanthof, a former Temiskaming Federation of Agriculture president and now an MPP, spoke to a meeting in Embro organized by OPAL in 2013.

He is the nephew of Oxford riding MPP Ernie Hardeman, who has raised concerns at Queens Park about potential contamination of water supply should the proposed landfill at Beachville eventually be approved.

Twelve thousand letters have been received at Hardman’s office from those opposing the landfill.

Smith refers to the closed Richmond Landfill in eastern Ontario near Napanee which leaked contaminants from the site on to adjoining property, as identified by the MOE. The 50-plus-year-old landfill was located in a fractured limestone rock formation, similar to the one now being considered near Beachville.

While rural Ontario has taken great strides through recycling programs to reduce the amount of garbage going to landfill sites, Toronto had done little in that area, suggested Smith.

“We are not a NIMBY group,” said Smith referring to the common acronym of “not in my back yard” often associated with civilian protest groups. Possible contamination of local ground water is the basis for OPAL’s existence.

If the province’s goal is to have zero garbage as currently proposed under its Waste Free Ontario Act legislation before cabinet, why is there a need to be developing more dump sites, questioned Smith.

In the mean time his concerns revolve around the amount of garbage that may eventually be delivered to the Beachville site; the potential for contamination from toxic chemicals should they be included in the garbage and who would monitor that situation..

“It is just an inappropriate way of dealing with garbage,” he added.



## NEWS

### Walker appealing county official plan amendment to OMB

By John Tapley, Ingersoll Times

Friday, January 20, 2017 3:15:47 EST PM

Walker Environmental Group is appealing part of Oxford County Official Plan amendment 197 with the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and a pre-hearing date is set for March 2 at the county building in Woodstock.

Darren Fry, Walker's director of strategic growth, said the company participated in the county's consultation process on the amendment, submitting several comments.

"Many of (the comments) were addressed, but there were several concerns we feel weren't adequately addressed."

Fry said Walker supports "the majority" of amendment 197, but is appealing specific components of it.

The amendment includes provisions that discourages and restricts any landfill facility in the county that is not primarily to meet the needs of the county, Fry said, which runs counter to provincial policy.

"The concept of a municipality managing all of its waste within its own borders we feel isn't consistent with provincial policy."

He said the county currently exports "a significant amount of waste generated in Oxford County," including waste from businesses and recreation facilities along with recyclables and that makes the county's current waste practices inconsistent with amendment 197.

Fry said it's clear part of the amendment was "prepared solely in response to Walker's Southwest Landfill Proposal."

The company is seeking approval to construct and operate a landfill in a mined limestone quarry owned by Carmeuse Lime near Ingersoll.

Fry said the company is aware the amendment was created using the county's recently developed sustainability plan.

Gord Hough, corporate director of planning for the County of Oxford, said Walker's OMB appeal came as no surprise.

"You fully expect it when you're making amendments like this," he said. "The nature of the appeal is that Walker is probably looking at it as being targeted."

The updates to waste management policies in the amendment could potentially undermine Walker's ability to obtain approvals for the landfill, Hough said, or interfere with the province's ability to make a decision regarding the landfill.

He said the county is confident it can defend the amendment with the OMB.

"From a planning staff perspective, we wouldn't recommend (the amendment) to (county council) if we didn't think it was a defensible position."

The pre-hearing on March 2 will determine the parties involved in the appeal where the county will be the primary defendant, identify specific issues and schedule a full hearing.

The session is open to the public.

"Anyone can sit in and watch, it's a public session, unless the board decides otherwise," said Hough. "But I can't see why they would."

Oxford People Against the Landfill (OPAL) released a statement that the Canadian Environmental Law Association has announced that it will assist OPAL in participating in the OMB hearing "where OPAL will again work to stop the dump."



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# Oxford MPP sends letter to new environment minister sharing concerns over proposed Beachville dump

By Bruce Chessell, Woodstock Sentinel-Review  
 Wednesday, August 2, 2017 12:42:18 EDT PM



The former site of Carmeuse Lime's quarry in Beachville where Walker's Environmental Group has proposed a new landfill site. RON THOMSON/WOODSTOCK SENTINEL-REVIEW/QMI AGENCY/ JUNE 19 2012

Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman wants the new Minister of the Environment and Climate Change to know that there are local concerns surrounding the proposed Beachville landfill.

The local politician sent a letter to minister Chris Ballard on Monday, the same day he took the environment minister position from Glen Murray.

Hardeman's letter summarizes the concerns of risk that the landfill poses to local water and mentions that the community has sent "thousands and thousands" of letters to the MOE about these fears.

"We've been working with the people of OPAL (Oxford People Against the Landfill) and we've sent a great number of letters to the now former Minister of the Environment and Climate Change," the MPP said. "We want to make sure that during the changing of the guard that the minister is aware of the severity of these concerns and to make sure that it doesn't get swept under the carpet."

The proposal for the landfill was first brought forward five years ago in 2012 and since then there has been passionate opposition within Oxford County against the dump, leading to the creation of OPAL.

Progress has been made though, as Walker environmental has started work with planning aspects such as the landfill's placement, design, haul routes, leachate treatment and gas management, holding a number of public meetings late last year and as of right now Walker believes construction of the landfill could begin in 2020, becoming operational two years after that.

"The ministry is committed to supporting sustainable, environmentally responsible options for managing waste and will ensure that both the benefits and potential environmental effects of this project are carefully studied and comprehensively assessed before any final decisions are made," read a statement from the MOE to the sentinel-Review.

The statement continued by saying that in March of last year the ministry approved an amended terms of Reference (TOR) for the landfill following a comprehensive analysis, adding that the approval of the TOR does not mean the full project has been approved. according to the MOE, the amended TOR provides Walker with a work plan that must be followed in preparation of an environmental assessment (EA).

"In preparing the EA, Walker will be required to consult with the public, stakeholders, indigenous communities, municipalities and government reviewers," the MOE statement said. "They will all be provided with an opportunity to review and comment on the draft and final EA documentation."

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Please RSVP by September 14 to Lisa Teeple at [lteeple@zorra.on.ca](mailto:lteeple@zorra.on.ca) or 519-485-2490 ext. 221

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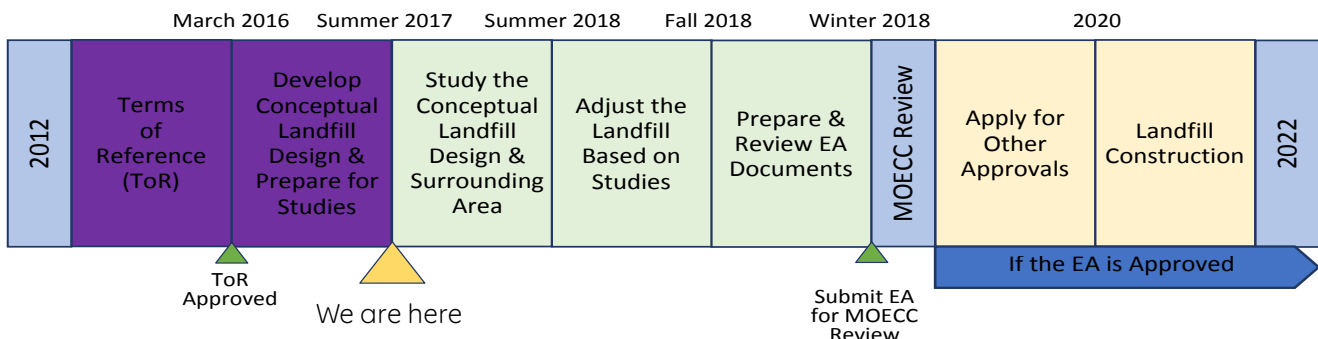
## SOUTHWESTERN LANDFILL PROPOSAL UPDATE

The Technical Work Plans are an essential part of the Environmental Assessment process. They provide a guide for the technical studies carried out by experts in the field. These Work Plans have not been finalized and were reviewed at a public meeting on April 19, 2017. Copies of the work plans may be viewed at [www.walkerea.com](http://www.walkerea.com). With completion of the Work Plans, Technical Studies in the following disciplines have now commenced.

- Agriculture
- Archaeology
- Ecology
- Groundwater and Surface Water
- Noise and Vibration
- Traffic
- Cumulative Effects
- Cultural Heritage
- Economic
- Human Health Risk Assessment
- Social
- Visual Impact

With the process entering the study phase, there will not be a great deal of public activity over the next year. The Community Liaison Committee will still be meeting with Walker Environmental Group, but meetings will not be held at the same frequency as in the past. The Joint Municipal Coordinating Committee will still be monitoring the process and will be report back to the Councils of Zorra, Ingersoll, South-West Oxford and Oxford County as required.

### PROJECT TIMELINE





## NEWS WOODSTOCK & REGION

# Landfill environmental assessment studies commencing

By John Tapley, Ingersoll Times  
 Tuesday, September 19, 2017 9:24:20 EDT AM

Walker Environmental Group's Southwest Landfill proposal has entered the study phase of the environmental assessment process.

Thirteen studies will be conducted, including studies on surface and ground water, air and noise, archeological, agricultural, ecological, traffic, social and economic, cultural and visual impacts and others.

"Some (of the studies) are (for) four seasons, so this study phase will take 12 months or more," said Darren Fry, Walker's project director for the Southwest Landfill.

"We have to capture (data from) all four seasons."

Fry said information from some of the studies will be used to complete others.

"Some (studies) won't commence until some preliminary results have been obtained from prior studies," Fry said. "The outcome of those (first) studies will feed into the back end of our process (on others)."

He said the study phase is expected to wrap up in the fall of 2018.

"There won't be a lot of new developments over the next year or so, but we'll be providing regular updates," said Fry.

Once the studies are complete, the environmental assessment report will allow for the design of the landfill to be finalized.

From there Walker will consult with the community on its draft environmental assessment.

"There will be a period where the public can review the documents and of course we'll be having public events," Fry said.

He said Walker is looking to submit its final environmental assessment report to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change in early 2019.

Fry said Walker posts regular updates on the status of the proposal on the internet at [www.walkerea.com](http://www.walkerea.com) and there is a subscription function to be notified whenever an update is posted to the site.

"Any time there's an update or a notification, they can receive an e-mail to ensure they're kept informed," Fry said.

He said anyone with questions can also visit Walker's office on Carnegie Street in Ingersoll, which is open five days a week.

"They're welcome to stop by," Fry said.

In a report to Ingersoll council in August, Ingersoll CAO William Tigert wrote: "Landfill staff and the landfill steering committee continue to meet and discuss strategies with the town's lawyers and consultants on methods to challenge the process and ultimately quash the application for the Walker Environmental Group mega project. In closed session following the meeting, council will hear from its lawyer on the matter and receive legal advice on different avenues that council may wish to pursue in its fight against the landfill."

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## NEWS

# Firm hired to run anti-landfill public relations campaign

By John Tapley, Ingersoll Times  
Tuesday, September 19, 2017 9:24:01 EDT AM



Town of Ingersoll logo

"Our simple goal is we want to help this community stop this dump," said Ted Griffith in explaining Campbell Strategies' plan to oppose Walker Environmental Group's Southwest Landfill proposal.

The Toronto-based firm has been hired by the Town of Ingersoll to organize a public relations campaign to help bury the landfill proposal and Griffith and

Christopher Holz outlined the preliminary plan at council's September meeting.

"Our first goal is to listen," said Griffith in the council chamber where the public gallery was filled to overflowing with people, many of them wearing Stop the Dump T-shirts. "Listen to each individual and organization involved in stopping the dump. We really need to understand what everybody is doing on this issue."

From there, Griffith said, he and his firm can come up with "a more fullsome plan to compliment what everybody is already doing."

"We need to get everyone working together so we can convince the provincial government to put a knife in it and stop it," he said.

In giving some background on the firm, Holz said Campbell Strategies operates as a lobbyist at all three levels of government – municipal, provincial and federal.

He outlined two of the major campaigns the firm has successfully handled, including a pro bono case two years ago that helped trigger a unanimous vote in the

House of Commons to provide a \$180 million settlement to Canadian victims of the drug thalidomide.

The firm was also involved in getting the government to cancel the Oakville gas plant.

Holz said the anti-landfill campaign will be multi-faceted, involving meetings, rallies – including events at Queen's Park – and material development.

Like Griffith, he underscored the importance of the community's role in the campaign.

"At the end of the day, without you (the public) it won't work," Holz said.

The presentation was met with applause from people in the gallery.

"This council and this staff are working very hard to do what we can to stop the dump," said Deputy Mayor Fred Freeman.

### This Week's Flyers





Ernie Hardeman (Submitted) Nov 1, 2017

**Oxford's MPP, Ernie Hardeman is fighting to know if the air we're breathing is safe.**

BEACHVILLE - The MPP for Oxford County has asked the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to release the air quality testing from the Beachville area.

Ernie Hardeman says air quality has been a issue in Beachville around the quarry for a long time.

"As long as I have been around as a politician in the Beachville area, representing the good people of Beachville, we have had concerns about the air quality in that area and that is why there have been testing stations set up around the quarry areas."

On Tuesday he asked the Minister to release the data form the latest round of testing.

"The people in my riding are tired of waiting to find out whether their air is safe. Will the Minister please provide us with an update on the air quality in Beachville right now"

Hardeman says the Minister refused to answer to answer his question.

"In 2003 the Ministry of Environment committed to monitor air quality in the Beachville area after a report found higher than acceptable particulate levels, but over and over we have had trouble getting the data. People just want to know that the air they are breathing is safe."

In the question Hardeman pointed out that his office had requested an update on Beachville air quality monitoring in August, then followed up on September 9. Hardeman wrote to the Minister directly on September 27 and to date has only received a form acknowledgement.

"Your predecessor apologized and promised to monitor the air and share the data with the community. So I would like to know from the Minister why he has failed to do that and will he commit to releasing the air quality data this week?"

Hardeman says he will continue to push the minister to release the data.

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## NEWS WOODSTOCK & REGION

# The Stomp the Dump rally in Ingersoll saw about 170 people attend to discuss the proposed Walker Environmental Group landfill

By Greg Colgan, Sentinel-Review  
Sunday, November 12, 2017 10:08:43 EST PM



Image: 1 of 9



landfill in Ingersoll, Ont. on Sunday November 12, 2017 at St. James Anglican Church. The rally had about 170 attend. Greg Colgan/Woodstock Sentinel-Review/Postmedia Network

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INGERSOLL - If there was any doubt where Oxford County stood on the proposed landfill, there was none by the end of their Sunday afternoon rally.

Roughly 170 people attended the Stomp the Dump rally at St. James Anglican Church in Ingersoll against the proposed landfill.

The nearly two-hour long meeting saw local, provincial and federal politicians as well as speakers from Oxford People Against the Landfill (OPAL) and audience members voice their opinions on the possibility of a landfill being added to Oxford County.

"Imagine someone wanting to put garbage in their backyard. And if they don't want it there, they better damn well understand we don't want it," Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey said.

The rally saw eight speakers talk to the crowd with the audience fully supporting stopping the dump, but also aiming to have municipalities have ultimate say over landfill decisions opposed to Ontario's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

Following the end, the audience was asked to sign a one-page petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Two five-page documents directed to Minister of Environment and Climate Change head Chris Ballard were also available to sign.

Among the speakers were NDP London-Fanshawe MP Irene Mathyssen, Oxford County MPP Ernie Hardeman, OPAL board of director Stephen McSwiggan and OPAL president Bryan Smith. Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey, South West Oxford Mayor David Mayberry had remarks read by Master of Ceremonies Brian Donlevy and Zorra Township Mayor Margaret Lupton also spoke. A group called Stomp the Dump drummers also led three chants with the audience.

Throughout the rally, speakers spoke of the passion of locals in helping to delay the landfill with McSwiggan saying the proposal in 2012 showed it being opened in 2017, but are now pushed back to 2022 at the earliest due to locals passionate opposition.

Both Mathyssen and Hardeman emphasized the importance of concerned citizens reaching out to their elected officials to bring their concerns to both Toronto's Queen's Park and the House of Commons in Ottawa.

"I've had the opportunity a number of times to present petitions, I think we're in the hundreds of times I've stood in the legislature sometimes twice in the same time, on how we shouldn't be foolish enough as a province to bury garbage on fractured bedrock," Hardeman said.

"When I get these petitions, I don't give them all to the clerk's office. I give them one or two copies and put the rest in my desk, so I always have a supply to present a petition to get the word out," Hardeman adding to applause.

Ingersoll Mayor Comiskey, who has travelled multiple times to bring locals concerns about the landfill, asked the audience to large applause why risk having a possible environmental issue with the addition of a landfill.

Multiple speakers like Zorra Township Mayor Margaret Lupton, South West Oxford Mayor David Mayberry, who had his remarks read by Master of Ceremonies Brian Donlevy, and Hardeman on the need for local municipalities to have the authority on whether a community

Throughout the County, but especially in Ingersoll, it's hard to miss the mass of opposition to the proposed landfill by Walker's Environmental Group. From several rallies, open houses and front lawns supporting "Stop the Dump" signs, locals have made their feelings well known.

As Master of Ceremonies Brian Donlevy randomly asked people why they oppose the landfill, with questions of air and water quality, control of municipalities to make the ultimate decision, the impact on future generations were shouted out.

"In no uncertain terms, we say no," OPAL president Bryan Smith said as the final speaker to cheers on the largely anti-landfill opinion throughout Oxford.

"We ain't going away and we get the future we desire and that means no to the dump," he added.

gcolgan@postmedia.com

twitter.com/GregatWSR

## Featured



Swastika Trail:  
Council votes to keep name



Millennials may be to blame for vet shortage



Promoting peace, understanding between religions



Church helps teens learn about giving back



#9 story of 2017: Red-hot real estate



Firefighters, police help out at food bank

## "We should have a choice": Ingersoll residents rally against proposed dump

CTV Kitchener

Published Sunday, November 12, 2017 7:09PM EST

Hundreds gathered at a rally Sunday to protest a proposed landfill site near Ingersoll.

Residents have been fighting the plan for years.

"We should have a choice," says Neil Dennison. "If we don't want a landfill we should be able to say no landfill. This is our area, we live here, and we have to suffer."

### PHOTOS



The proposed dump would be near the town's quarry, next the Thames River.

"We're very concerned about the quality of the Thames River," says Roberta Cory. "We're downstream from Ingersoll."

Residents worry about the dump's impact on groundwater which is the source of the town's drinking water.

The site is also near the largest cemetery in Oxford County.

"It's got to be treated with respect," says Cathy Mott, who works at the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery. "It's a religious place. It's got to be looked after. It's very spiritual."

Another concern is the potential increase in dump trucks. As many as 170 could come every day, leading to concerns of congestion and pollution.

Walker Industries, the group behind the proposed dump, were not available for comment. In the past they told CTV: "There is a substantial need for a new landfill site in Ontario. The province ships out 3 million tons of waste each year."

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B.C. veteran takes aim at air squat record for charity



## NEWS

# Ingersoll dumping more cash into landfill fight

By John Tapley, Ingersoll Times  
Friday, November 24, 2017 11:16:34 EST AM

Ingersoll is putting another \$243,279 into fighting the South West Landfill proposal.

Council has given pre-budget approval to ongoing expenses related to opposing the landfill, including technical work by peer experts to ensure the proponent, Walker Environmental Group, adheres to work plans and amendments.

"As council is aware, the opposition to the proposed landfill is the number one strategic priority identified by the town and the community," wrote Ingersoll CAO William Tigert in a report to council. "Since 2012 the town has significantly funded opposition to the landfill through legal, technical experts and some assistance to other landfill opponents."

Between 2012 and 2017, Ingersoll has spent a total of \$529,384 opposing the landfill.

The bulk of the money - \$314,950 – was spent this year.

"The significant costs in 2017 have been attributed to the costs of retaining the services of peer experts to review and critic Walker's proposed work plans to fulfill the requirements of the terms of reference," Tigert wrote.

The work plans that have received pre-budget approval came from three firms, including Arcadis, Tetra Tech and Campbell Strategies.

Services provided by Arcadis and Tetra Tech will include participating in technical review meetings, conducting field observations of Walker's fieldwork program and participating in meetings related to the proposal.

Arcadis' budget estimate for its tasks is \$63,875.

Tetra Tech requested \$89,404.

Lobbying firm Campbell Strategies will receive \$15,000 per month to June 2019 – a total of \$90,000 - to work on the town's behalf in opposing the landfill.

"The town has established significant reserves to fund the opposition to the proposed landfill," Tigert wrote. "With the reserves already established and the proposed budget for 2018, the town will have sufficient funds to see this process through to the submission by Walker to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change."



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## NEWS

# Keeping up-to-date

By John Tapley, Ingersoll Times

Sunday, December 3, 2017 3:01:44 EST PM



Darren Fry, director of strategic growth with Walker Environmental Group, holds one of the bore samples drilled in the area of the company's South West landfill proposal site in the Township of Zorra. The company hosted an open house at its Ingersoll office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday last week to keep the public up-to-date on where the proposal is at in the process. JOHN TAPLEY/INGERSOLL TIMES

Commencing the technical studies for the environmental assessment of its South West Landfill proposal, Walker Environmental Group held an open house at its Ingersoll office to keep the public abreast of where things are at.

Held Tuesday through Thursday, the open house was aimed at keeping people informed on the status of the environmental assessment for the proposed landfill in the Township of Zorra on the border of Ingersoll and listen to input, said Darren Fry, director of strategic growth with Walker.

"We wanted to make sure people were informed of the field work that will be conducted in the community over the next 12 months or so," he said. "We're really in the information gathering stage right now."

The purpose of the technical studies is to collect data on the existing environmental conditions.

In all, 13 studies will be conducted, including agricultural, air quality, archaeology, cultural heritage, ecology, economic, ground water and surface water, human health risk, noise and vibration, social, traffic and visual.

Some of the field work that will begin the area of the proposed landfill in the coming weeks include borehole drilling to monitor and study groundwater flow and quality, geology and soil conditions. There will be an inventory of surface water uses and local surface water flow and quality will be monitored.

When it comes to traffic, there will be site visits along the preferred haul route to catalogue its characteristics and conditions, including road characteristics and residential/commercial driveways.

Ecology will include an initial survey to identify terrestrial species and habitat. Field data will be collected throughout all four seasons, including a floral survey, species at risk/rare species, breeding bird surveys, amphibian visual and auditory surveys and landscape surveys using aerial photography.

The visual study will photograph viewpoints where the site is visible once leaves have fallen from the trees and there is a potential for change as a result of the landfill.

Some of the documentation will be multi-source, combining traffic, noise and visual data to assess the combined impact the landfill could have.

There will also be multi-stressor tests studying potential cumulative effects of existing environmental conditions with things like increased traffic and future or other industrial traffic.

"We develop an understanding of the existing environmental conditions and we'll look at the landfill and overlay that to get the environmental impacts," Fry said.

From there, the company can work on mitigating any impacts, leading up to a target date of submitted the environmental assessment report in early 2019, he said.

While ground water protection was the number one issue raised during the open house, Fry said there were also questions about potential nuisances stemming from the project, including attracting seagulls and litter and the open house provided information about how those issues are addressed.

People who attended the open house also raised concerns about what would happen if the liner under the landfill designed to prevent contaminated water from leaving the site failed.

"I think that's a fair question to ask," Fry said.

He had a sample of liner at the open house for visitors to handle and he explained that the government requires the company must have contingencies in place to protect ground water – physical as well as financial.

"We have to demonstrate viable contingencies," he said. "Ontario has some of the most stringent water protection and landfill liner requirements in North America."

Fry said on a personal level if he lived near a proposed landfill site he would want to be informed.

"I would want to be engaged," he said. "I would be sitting down with the proponent and understanding the facts of the proposal and I would want my concerns heard and I would want to know what's being done to mitigate those concerns."

Fry said that while there weren't that many people at the open house there were "some really constructive conversations."

"It's provided a valuable venue for one-on-one conversations."

Fry said Walker plans to continue hosting open house events to keep the public up-to-date and he noted that the company's Ingersoll office is open five days a week.

"We would like to see more folks come out and share their views and learn more about the project," he said.

The full details of the environmental assessment field studies and other information about the proposal can be found on the internet at: [www.walkerea.com](http://www.walkerea.com)

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# walker industries

## Walker Environmental addressed the public at a three day open house this week.

INGERSOLL - About 11 people attended a recent open house at the Walker Environmental office in Ingersoll.

The three day event invited members of the public to stop by, ask questions, voice concerns and learn more about the environmental assessment and proposed landfill.

Project Director Darren Fry stresses the importance of open communication.

"It's important to have conversations to understand folks specific concerns, respond to them and demonstrate the requirements that modern landfills must meet in modern Ontario."

Fry says they want to help keep the public in the loop, now that the field work is about to begin in their assessment.

"There will be experts out in the community doing things like observing wildlife, counting traffic and monitoring water. We just wanted to let folks know that these activities were occurring and if they had any specific questions they would have the opportunity to speak to us."

If you missed the open house Fry says you are welcome to stop by there office on Carnegie Street during their week. You can also visit their [website](#).

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## Bill would help communities stop unwanted dumps



MPP Ernie Hardeman, centre announces private member's bill to prevent landfills from being forced on unwilling communities. Hardeman announced his intention on Friday, Feb. 16, 2018 in Ingersoll, Ont. (Source: Ernie Hardeman)

CTV London

Published Friday, February 16, 2018 5:19PM EST

A private member's bill will be introduced to try to stop landfills from being forced onto municipalities.

It comes following years of local opposition to a proposed mega dump in Zorra Township near Ingersoll.

Walker Environmental plans to use part of a mined out limestone quarry as the location for a landfill site.

Oxford PC MPP Ernie Hardeman announced Friday that he will introduce a bill that would provide municipalities with the right to approve new landfills within their jurisdictions.

"I believe that municipalities should not be forced to take someone else's garbage against their will," Hardeman said in a release.

"It makes no sense that municipalities get a say in where the local Tim Hortons is located, but aren't allowed to make a decision on an issue as important to their constituents as a landfill. This bill would give them that authority."



About 20 municipalities from across Ontario have supported resolutions pushing for the right to say no to a dump being forced on their municipality, the release said.

Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey has been a vocal opponent of the proposed landfill.

"The current environmental assessment process allows private landfill operators to ignore the concerns of local residents and municipal councils. This must be changed, immediately," he said.

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## NEWS WOODSTOCK & REGION

# Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman is introducing a private members bill to stop landfills in municipalities that are “unwilling hosts”

By Heather Rivers, Woodstock Sentinel-Review  
Friday, February 16, 2018 12:16:28 EST PM



MPP Ernie Hardeman, with Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey and Zorra Mayor Margaret Lupton, announced Friday he will introduce a bill to prevent landfills from being forced on unwilling municipalities. (HEATHER RIVERS/SENTINEL-REVIEW)

Unwilling communities should not have to put up with landfills being imposed on them, says Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman.

Worried about one of the largest dumps in Canada ending up in his constituency, one of the first things Hardeman wants to do when the provincial legislature returns Tuesday is introduce a private members bill to stop landfills in communities that are unwilling to host them.

“Why should we be forced as a community to take someone else’s garbage?” asked Hardeman. “It makes no sense that municipalities get a say in where the local Tim Hortons is located, but aren’t allowed to make a decision on an issue as important to their constituents as landfill. This bill would give them that authority.”

Hardeman joined Zorra Mayor Margaret Lupton and Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey at press conference Friday morning in council chambers at the Ingersoll Town Hall.

The massive landfill proposed for a Carmeuse site in Beachville has prompted a wave of opposition across the county.

Walker Environmental is still only about halfway through their environmental assessment, which is expected to be completed by 2021 or 2022.

Last fall Comiskey requested a legislative change to prevent landfills from being forced on municipalities during committee hearings on Bill 139, the Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act. While the amendment was voted down, the private members bill will be modelled on that amendment.

Over the last few months about 20 municipalities have been lobbying for a law that would give them the right to turn down applications for landfills.

“The current environmental assessment process allows private landfill operators to ignore the concerns of local residents and municipal councils. That must be changed, immediately,” Comiskey said.

Lupton said decision about landfills should only be made by those most affected.

“It is totally unacceptable that a decision regarding the establishment of a landfill within our community is to be made by anyone other than the people most affected,” she said. “We’re hoping common sense will prevail at the provincial level.”

Hardeman said he hopes to get a second reading of the bill prior to the spring provincial election.

HRivers@postmedia.com



### This Week's Flyers



## New bill aims to give cities a voice in deciding location of landfills

MPP Ernie Hardeman's bill follows an 18 million tonne landfill site proposed in Zorra Township

By Chris dela Torre, [CBC News](#) Posted: Mar 01, 2018 7:15 PM ET Last Updated: Mar 01, 2018 7:15 PM ET

If a new landfill site was proposed for your neighbourhood, your community would have no say in whether the project goes ahead.

A new private members bill aims to change that.

Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman introduced a private members bill at Queen's Park on Thursday to give cities and towns a voice in deciding the locations of future landfill sites.

"Municipalities get to decide which street will be their main street and where they're going to put their commercial shops, and where they're going to put their industrial park," Hardeman told CBC Radio's *Afternoon Drive*.

"But they don't have any input into where they're going to put a landfill site. That, to me, doesn't make any sense," he said.

## Developers don't have to listen

Hardeman said developers looking to build a landfill site are obligated to consult with a municipality and its local government, but the developer doesn't have to listen to the city's recommendations.

"With this bill, it means that [with] every application going to the minister, the proponent must have a resolution from a local council or First Nations band, or the minister is not allowed to approve it."

The bill comes after an 18 million tonne waste landfill site was proposed in the community of Zorra Township.

"Any community outside the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area is a potential site for future mega dumps like Zorra is facing," said Zorra Township councillor Marcus Ryan in a release.

"Currently, there's nothing we can do about it. We have to change that."

Hardeman's bill must go through a second and third reading before it can be enacted into law.

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## NEWS WOODSTOCK & REGION

# Majority of Ontarians oppose current legislation for siting future garbage dumps, poll says



By Chris Funston, Woodstock Sentinel-Review  
Thursday, March 1, 2018 1:26:46 EST PM



The City of Niagara Falls and Niagara Region are reminding people it is illegal to dump garbage along roadsides and vacant lots.  
Mike DiBattista / Niagara Falls Review / Postmedia Network

The fight against the siting of future garbage dumps just got stronger.

A poll of 800 people across Ontario found that 77 per cent feel municipalities should have the right to approve or reject new landfill and waste facilities.

"It is interesting that this poll is this high across Ontario. It is also interesting that multiple municipalities have joined in on the action," said Bryan Smith, President of Oxford People Against the Landfill (OPAL). "It tells us that Ontario-wide rejects the idea of dumps."

As the law stands today, private contractors can propose, develop, and operate new landfill sites in the province without the approval of impacted towns and cities.

Previously OPAL, which consists of a board of 12 members, 40 regular members and 260 volunteers, has requested that municipalities take a stance on whether communities have the right to approve projects on this scale.

As Ontario landfills are filling up quickly, several new mega dumps will be needed to take on unwanted garbage and soon.

“Right now, Highway 401 is the Greater Toronto Area’s garbage chute,” said Ted Comiskey, Chair of the Demand the Right coalition of municipalities and the Mayor of Ingersoll, in a release. “Any community outside the 905 to the provincial border is a potential site for future mega dumps and under current legislation, there’s nothing we can do about it. We want to change that.”

The poll, conducted by Public Square Research on Feb. 21 and 22, also found that only 23 per cent of Ontarians would accept waste from other towns or cities. It was commissioned by a coalition of Ontario municipalities concerned about the potential for their communities to become unwilling hosts to new landfill sites.

MPP for Oxford and PC Critic for Municipal Affairs Ernie Hardeman also spoke out in the release urging the need to recognize future landfill developments, while the need has to be matched with a community’s right to say yes or no to the projects.

“It makes no sense that municipalities have the right to approve where the Tim Horton’s is located and yet be denied that same right when it comes to landfills,” said Hardeman.

The original dump site proposal was put forward in 2012 which showed it being opened in 2017. Thanks to the passionate opposition, plans have now been pushed back to 2022 at the earliest. An environmental assessment of the proposed dump to be located at a Carmeuse site in Beachville is expected to be completed by 2021 or 2022.

### Quick facts

- Ontario produces nearly one tonne of waste per person, with three-quarters of it being dumped in landfills annually;
- Downtown office buildings, industrial complexes, and commercial buildings (ICI), produce 6.7 million tonnes of garbage per year – of which only 15 per cent is recycled or reused; and,
- From the ICI sector alone, the volume of waste requires over a quarter million truck loads a year and would fill Toronto’s Rogers Centre to the roof 74 times over.

## This Week's Flyers





## **New bill aims to give cities a voice in deciding location of landfills**

MPP Ernie Hardeman's bill follows an 18 million tonne landfill site proposed in Zorra Township

Chris dela Torre · CBC News ·

Posted: Mar 01, 2018 7:15 PM ET | Last Updated: March 1



A landfill site near Windsor. (The Associated Press)

If a new landfill site was proposed for your neighbourhood, your community would have no say in whether the project goes ahead.

A new private members bill aims to change that.

Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman introduced a private members bill at Queen's Park on Thursday to give cities and towns a voice in deciding the locations of future landfill sites.

"Municipalities get to decide which street will be their main street and where they're going to put their commercial shops, and where they're going to put their industrial park," Hardeman told CBC Radio's *Afternoon Drive*.

"But they don't have any input into where they're going to put a landfill site. That, to me, doesn't make any sense," he said.

## Developers don't have to listen

Hardeman said developers looking to build a landfill site are obligated to consult with a municipality and its local government, but the developer doesn't have to listen to the city's recommendations.

"With this bill, it means that [with] every application going to the minister, the proponent must have a resolution from a local council or First Nations band, or the minister is not allowed to approve it."

The bill comes after an 18 million tonne waste landfill site was proposed in the community of Zorra Township.

"Any community outside the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area is a potential site for future mega dumps like Zorra is facing," said Zorra Township councillor Marcus Ryan in a release.

"Currently, there's nothing we can do about it. We have to change that."

Hardeman's bill must go through a second and third reading before it can be enacted into law.

Afternoon Drive host Chris dela Torre speaks to Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman. His private members bill would give municipalities the right to approve the location of new landfill sites in their communities. 8:43

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## Progressive Conservative bill would give towns the right to say no to landfills

Your city council can object to anything from a coffee shop to a skyscraper, but it has no say on whether or where a landfill goes within its borders. MPP Ernie Hardeman wants to change that

Published on Mar 02, 2018 by [John Michael McGrath](#)

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*The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario estimates that the province produces 6.7 million tonnes of waste annually. (iStock.com/kanvag)*

Ingersoll mayor Ted Comiskey has twice travelled to Toronto City Hall to implore councillors there to get Toronto's trash problem under control. The city-owned Green Lane Landfill, in Elgin County, south of London, will eventually run out of space, and a private company has already filed an application with the provincial Ministry of the Environment to open what he calls a “mega-dump” in his town. And Ingersoll

is not the only target — firms are making 13 environmental-assessment applications to open or expand landfills all over the province. These applications all have one thing in common: neither mayors nor city councils have any say in whether they're approved.

Progressive Conservative MPP Ernie Hardeman wants that to change, and he's presenting a private member's bill at Queen's Park to give municipal councils a meaningful say in landfill decisions.

"This goes beyond the situation in my riding," says Hardeman, municipal affairs critic for the PCs. "Any community outside the 905 to the provincial border is a potential site for future mega-dumps. Under the current legislation, they get no say."

Comiskey and Zorra Township councillor Marcus Ryan were at Queen's Park to show their support for Hardeman's bill.

"Ontario has a garbage problem, and it's getting bigger," he said, noting that the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario estimates that the province produces 6.7 million tonnes of waste annually.

"To put it into context, that's enough to fill the Rogers Centre 74 times," Comiskey added.

Given the sheer volume of waste, the limited lifespans of existing landfills, and the lack of welcoming jurisdictions outside of Ontario, Comiskey says the next unwelcome landfill could be anywhere.

Darren Fry, project director for Walker Environmental's proposed southwest landfill — the project that Comiskey and Ryan are most concerned about — agrees with at least one part of that diagnosis: Ontario's landfill industry is undersized (we export roughly a quarter of our waste; exports to Michigan rose 19 per cent last year alone), and existing sites are running out of room. There are currently 670 landfills across Ontario.

"The mayor's accurate," he says, "There's a deficit in Ontario's current capacity; the existing landfills are reaching the end of their lives."

Fry cites figures from the Ontario Waste Management Association that show that the province's current facilities will run out of room in 11 to 16 years if no new capacity is found.

However, Fry disagrees with Comiskey's warning that new sites could be coming to Anywhere, Ontario, some day soon: most operators, he says, are looking to expand existing sites, not open new ones.

Needless to say, Fry thinks Hardeman's proposed bill would not be good for the industry.

"It would introduce a whole series of challenges, as far as local politics are concerned. Which municipality gets to decide? What happens if a lower-tier municipality says no but an upper-tier municipality [like a county or region] says yes? How does that work with the province's overall regulation of these facilities?" Fry asks.

Hardeman's bill would require that MOECC not approve a landfill site unless a municipal council or First Nation band council had first passed a resolution of support. However, Hardeman may not get a chance to actually debate the bill at Queen's Park in the nine weeks left before the June 7 election.

**Related:**

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  - [The Agenda: The cost of food waste](#)
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There are numerous industrial activities in Ontario that municipalities don't have the power to regulate — some because they're regulated by the federal government ([TVO has covered Halton Region's battle with CN Rail previously](#)), and the province can't give municipalities powers that fall within federal jurisdiction. And even in cases when the province does have power, some industries have traditionally not been subject to municipal approval: power plants (including, more recently and infamously, wind turbines), mines, and landfills are all regulated directly by the province.

And the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, which approves landfill sites, doesn't require municipal consent before giving the final okay. Minister Chris Ballard didn't give any indication that that was going to change anytime soon when he spoke to reporters on Thursday.

"Our focus is on reducing landfill in Ontario, quite frankly," Ballard said. "Before any landfill site is approved, there needs to be substantial study and real deep consultation with the community." Ballard also noted that the province provides some financial assistance to municipalities for solid-waste management.

But Comiskey and Ryan weren't at Queen's Park asking for money or consultation — they were asking for a real say in siting these facilities in their communities.

Hardeman and his municipal colleagues came to the provincial capital armed with polling revealing insights that border on the obvious: landfills aren't a terribly popular industry — nearly three-quarters of those surveyed opposed accepting landfill waste from other communities — and a large majority of respondents believe that municipalities should have a say in new landfill approvals.

Given public opinion, Fry says he's not confident that a new landfill could ever get local political support if Hardeman's bill were passed.

"Waste isn't generated just in one's own municipality; it's a shared provincial responsibility," he says. It follows, he argues, that the province's "overarching, coordinated, and integrated" regulation should be maintained.

But Ryan said the intent isn't to shut down all new landfills everywhere in the province. Hardeman, Comiskey, and Ryan cited examples from other industries, such as casinos or even [Ontario Power Generation's intermediate-level radioactive waste repository](#), that have relied on municipal and First Nations support, but are not private companies (OPG is owned by the province, as is Ontario Lottery and Gaming, which chooses casino sites in the province).

“We’re not philosophically opposed to there ever being another landfill again,” said Ryan. “But right now, the kind of conversation a community can have around nuclear waste, we’re not even allowed to have around a plastic bag.”

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# Opinion: Municipalities deserve a say in dump sites



*SPECIAL TO THE LONDON FREE PRESS*

Published on: March 11, 2018 | Last Updated: March 13, 2018 1:57 AM EDT



Postmedia Network file photo

If your neighbour dumps their trash over your fence, that would be against the law. If

someone from a hundred miles away did the same thing, that too would be against the law.

But as the law stands today, if a private waste contractor wants to develop and operate a new landfill site in any municipality, anywhere in Ontario, pretty much all the company needs is the approval of the provincial government and its environmental assessment approval process.

Because of this, communities such as Ingersoll and our neighbours in Zorra Township and Oxford County may soon be on the receiving end of 18-million tonnes of garbage from the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

There is nothing within the environmental assessment process that requires the owner/operator of this proposed dump to do anything other than demonstrate stakeholder consultation.

While a municipality can decide if we want a casino operating in our community, or even a nuclear waste dump, for whatever reason new garbage dumps appear at the discretion of the private sector and the provincial government.

That is not right. Municipal authority must be re-established.

Ontarians support this. In a recent poll by Public Square Research, nearly eight out of 10 agreed municipalities should have the right to approve new landfill sites.

Of particular concern is what the government and private waste operators call industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) waste.

Most municipalities aren't responsible for its collection and management. We're primarily responsible for residential waste. Ontario municipalities divert about 50 per cent of residential waste away from landfill and into recycling and reuse programs. For the ICI waste sector run by private operators, the diversion rate is less than 15 per cent.

Why is that?

It means the private sector has little incentive to divert. For a business, it costs much less to dump all waste into one large metal bin than to sort the garbage from the recyclables from the organics, like we do in our homes.

Plus, for a private waste management company, picking up more garbage means more revenue per customer. Better to take more garbage, not less.

How much ICI waste are we talking about? Ontario's environmental commissioner tells us it's 6.7-million tonnes a year (filling Toronto Rogers Centre 24 times over).

That means private waste companies manage about 70 per cent of waste in Ontario and only 15 per cent of that waste is diverted from landfill.

The ability of these companies to build new landfill sites and expand current ones is unimpeded by any need to get the approval of the municipalities in which they operate.

The only way for the province to get a handle on this issue is to provide impacted municipalities with the right to approve new landfills. This will have several positive effects.

First, the price of landfilling is likely to rise as communities that choose to have new landfills can negotiate a better revenue-sharing program with private waste operators. This will increase the cost of landfill and therefore provide a financial incentive for the customers of these companies to develop more aggressive reduce, recycle, and reusing strategies. It may even provide enough funding to create more critically required recycling infrastructure for ICI waste — infrastructure that the private sector long regarded as a barrier to better diversion practices.

Second, municipalities that choose to have landfill sites in their communities will have more power to protect the environment in which landfills are sited and operated. The outcome will be increased

environmental protection. The new revenues could also help a local community fund its own infrastructure as well.

And third, while one might think there would be no new landfills in Ontario with this change, that would be incorrect. Our recent poll showed that one out of four Ontarians would accept waste from outside their municipality. We are only asking that private waste companies treat municipalities and their communities like equals, not some stakeholder that only needs to be heard and not listened to.

The right to approve new landfill sites will be not only recognition of municipal authority, but also an important cog in Ontario's long-term vision of a waste-free province.

It will also, my colleagues and I hope, influence the ICI waste generators in the GTA and the private waste management companies that serve them to focus more of their resources on reducing, recycling, and reusing rather than casting their gaze on rural Ontario for new places to dump their garbage.

Yes, Ontario must stop shipping its garbage to Michigan and New York. But the answer is not to dump that problem onto rural communities; at least not without our approval.

*Ted Comiskey is the mayor of Ingersoll and chair of the Demand the Right Coalition of Municipalities in Ontario.*



LANDFILL SITES ([HTTP://LFPRESS.COM/TAG/LANDFILL-SITES](http://lfpres.com/tag/landfill-sites))

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## OPINION COLUMN

# Comiskey: Municipalities deserve a say in dump sites

Ted Comiskey, Special to Postmedia News  
Friday, March 16, 2018 11:56:29 EDT AM



(File photo)

If your neighbour dumps their trash over your fence, that would be against the law. If someone from a hundred miles away did the same thing, that too would be against the law.

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*Ted Comiskey is the mayor of Ingersoll and chair of the Demand the Right Coalition of Municipalities in Ontario.*



**The move to zero waste will be challenged at a hearing with the Ontario Municipal Board.**

WOODSTOCK - Walker Environmental Group is challenging Oxford County's official plan.

They are challenging the move to zero waste at the Ontario Municipal Board. A 10 day OMB hearing will get started at 10:30 a.m on Thursday and the meetings will be open to the public. President of the Oxford People Against Landfills Bryan Smith says he doesn't think Walker's argument carries much weight.

"To my mind this is Walker grasping at straws because they know the legislation that is already in place under the Waste Free Ontario act and all the regulations being rolled out are going to reduce the quantity of waste in the province dramatically. So in fact the kind of business they want to do with the Beachville Dump that they are proposing is the kind of business that is supposed to disappear fairly quickly. So this is sort of the last gasp of an old model. I've been known to say this is a 4000 year old way of dealing with

garbage, their are records in the bible of garbage dumps around Jerusalem."

OPAL will be presenting during one of the days at the hearing. Smith says he wants to see the public at these meetings.

"It is a public hearing so the public is invited to attend these sessions starting on Thursday, returning again Friday and then the following week. I am told on a fairly good authority that when the public shows up and has a respectful but determined presence in front of the hearing that the adjudicator, takes note of that, so it is important that our community members come out for some portion of the hearings and listen to what's happening and make sure their presence expresses their will to have zero garbage."

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## NEWS WOODSTOCK & REGION

# Tribunal challenging Oxford Net Zero plan postponed until Friday morning at 10 a.m.

By Heather Rivers, Woodstock Sentinel-Review  
Thursday, April 12, 2018 1:42:39 EDT PM



The Oxford County Administration building in Woodstock.

A last-minute request for a one-day postponement of an OMB hearing, now called the local planning appeal tribunal, challenging Oxford's official plan was granted Wednesday.

"I was surprised because it was so last minute," said Bryan Smith, president of Oxford People Against Landfill (OPAL). "There was less than 24-hours notice."

Smith said due to the change in timing, he will be unable to attend the opening of the tribunal.

The tribunal is designed so Walker Environmental, who requested the postponement due to an illness, can challenge three

The amendment discourages and restricts any landfill facility in the county that is not primarily to meet the needs of the county.

The company says the amendment was prepared solely in response to Walker's Southwest Landfill Proposal and runs counter to provincial policy.

"That is a key element of our appeal," said Darren Fry, project director of Southwestern Landfill Environmental Assessment. "We believe good policy in land use planning is key to efficiency and forward thinking for a county. We participated in consultations on the community sustainability plan and provided comments. We support the community sustainability plan."

The company is seeking approval to construct and operate a landfill in a mined limestone quarry owned by Carmeuse Lime near Ingersoll, which is currently undergoing the environmental assessment process.

"The reason we appealed the three policies is to seek greater clarity on how the policies co-ordinate with provincial policies and processes we have to follow," Fry said. "As an example there are elements in the amendment or other duplications that are inconsistent with provincial policy."

Oxford County's lawyer Peter Pickfield said he will be defending the amendment.

"We have an official amendment 197, which we think strengthens the solid waste management policies of the county in a manner consistent with the principals of the existing official plan," he said. "The county will be at the hearing with evidence and submissions to support council's decision."

The hearing is expected to last 10 days and will include presentations by Walker, the County of Oxford, as well as OPAL who is represented by the Canadian Environmental Law Association.

The tribunal, which takes place at the County of Oxford building in Woodstock, is open to the public.

HRivers@postmedia.com

## Newsroom

April 18, 2018

### Official Plan amendment appeal settled today

The settlement preserves OPA 197's ground-breaking new policies to control landfill development in the County

Following three days of testimony by County witnesses, the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal approved a settlement reached today on the Walker Environmental Group (WEG) appeal of OPA 197.

The settlement preserves the groundbreaking elements of OPA 197, including maintaining (1) policies which discourage the establishment of new landfills within the County that are not primarily intended to meet the waste disposal needs of County residents and businesses, and (2) a rigorous new set of planning criteria for evaluating proposals for new landfills seeking to locate in the County.

The settlement also involved a clarification that the already approved EA Terms of Reference govern the siting requirements for the WEG landfill proposal, avoiding a likely Tribunal concern about conflict between the provincial environmental assessment approval process and County policies. The tougher siting policies remain in the Plan, and the revised policies provide more clarity on how future applications must integrate these tougher County siting criteria within the provincial EA approval process.

Walker Environmental Group had challenged all of the key new policies of OPA 197 related to landfill approvals through an appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (formerly the Ontario Municipal Board). The appealed sections of OPA 197 as modified and approved by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal can be viewed at this link ([/Portals/15/Documents/CAO/OPA%20197\\_20180418.pdf](/Portals/15/Documents/CAO/OPA%20197_20180418.pdf)), or downloaded by clicking on the attached PDF file below.

OPA 197 confirms Oxford County's place as a provincial leader with respect to solid waste reduction and minimization and waste disposal avoidance. In particular, the new policies to discourage large landfills which do not primarily serve County needs, and the rigorous criteria for review of landfill proposals, are unique among Ontario municipalities and are among the most robust in the province in providing the municipality with greater control over waste management issues moving forward.

The County extends its appreciation to the community for its support and presentations as part of the Tribunal process.

## About Oxford County

Located in the heart of southwestern Ontario at the crossroads of Highways 401 and 403, Oxford County has a population of approximately 114,000 people across eight area municipalities (<http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/Your-Government/Municipal-Governments>) that are "growing stronger together." As a partnership-oriented, two-tier municipal government, Oxford County is emerging as a leader in sustainable growth through the Future Oxford Community Sustainability Plan (<http://www.futureoxford.ca/plan>) and County Council's commitment to achieving 100% renewable energy (<http://www.smartenergyoxford.ca/>), becoming a zero waste (<http://www.zerowasteoxford.ca/>) community, and working towards zero poverty. Situated in one of Ontario's richest areas for farmland, agriculture is a key industry that serves as a springboard for some of the sustainable industries that are steadily diversifying the local economy. Oxford County offers a thriving local arts, culture and culinary community, as well as conservation parks, natural areas and more than 100 kilometres of scenic trails. The Oxford County Administration Building is located in Woodstock, Ontario. Visit [www.oxfordcounty.ca](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca) (<http://www.oxfordcounty.ca>) or follow our social media sites at [www.oxfordcounty.ca/social](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/social) (<http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/social>). Oxford County's Strategic Plan is at [oxfordcounty.ca/strategicplan](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/strategicplan) (<http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/strategicplan>).

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Attached Files:



**Oxford County is not going to have to make any major changes to their Official Plan as it relates to zero waste.**

WOODSTOCK - A settlement has been reached in the The Walker Environmental Group appeal of the Oxford County Official Plan amendment.

The Local Planning Appeal Tribunal approved a settlement after three days of witnesses from the County. The settlement preserves the ground breaking elements of OPA 197 including maintaining policies which discourage the establishment of new landfills in Oxford County that are not primarily intended to meet the waste disposal needs of County residents and businesses, and a rigorous new set of planning criteria for evaluating proposals for new landfills seeking to locate in the County.

The settlement also involves clarification that the already approved Environment Assessment Terms of Reference govern the siting requirements for the Walker Environmental Landfill Proposal. This will avoid a Tribunal concern about



conflict between the provincial environmental assessment approval process and County policies. The tougher siting policies remain in the Plan, and the revised policies provide more clarity on how future applications must integrate these tougher County siting criteria within the provincial EA approval process.

Once the final Tribunal order is issued, Oxford County will post a modified version of OPA 197 online at [www.oxfordcounty.ca](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca).

In a press release the County states that OPA 197 confirms Oxford County's place as a provincial leader with respect to solid waste reduction and minimization and waste disposal avoidance. In particular, the new policies to discourage large landfills which do not primarily serve County needs, and the rigorous criteria for review of landfill proposals, are unique amongst Ontario municipalities and among the most robust in the province in providing the municipality with greater control over waste management issues moving forward.

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## NEWS WOODSTOCK & REGION

# Walker Environmental Group and Oxford County reach deal that extends county's right to zero waste



By Chris Funston, Woodstock Sentinel-Review  
Thursday, April 19, 2018 3:57:20 EDT PM



The Oxford County Administration building in Woodstock.

What was supposed to be a lengthy hearing about Oxford County's efforts to take more control of landfill developments within its borders ended after only three days.

The local planning appeal tribunal – formerly known as the Ontario Municipal Board – approved a settlement Wednesday on Walker Environmental Group's appeal of new county rules intended to "discourage and restrict" unwanted landfills.

The settlement essentially tweaks one condition of the county amendment that required developers to show they had previously looked elsewhere for a landfill location, essentially proving that Oxford was the best site. Instead, the settlement confirmed that approved environmental assessment terms of reference – the provincial rules that look at the broad environmental impacts of any proposed project – would continue to govern the siting requirements, including Walker’s hoped-for landfill. This change avoided a likely tribunal concern about a conflict between the provincial and county policies.

The other landfill-related provisions in the official plan amendment remain largely untouched, including tougher policies regarding site selection and language that “discourages” new landfills that don’t support county needs.

The hearing – originally slated for 10 days – wrapped up after three days of testimony by county witnesses. While Walker did have witnesses ready, the settlement was reached before they needed to testify.

Bryan Smith, president of Oxford People Against Landfill, had hoped the hearing adjudicator would find on behalf of the county but didn’t expect the process to be cut short before Walker made their case.

“It was astonishing,” Smith said. “I wasn’t expected Walker to fold their cards.”

Smith said the decision to preserve most of the provisions of the amendment bolstered the community’s ability to make decisions.

“It really fits in with that campaign we’ve been doing on the political level with the right to decide our own future rather than having it imposed upon us by either the province or Walker,” he said.

The revised policies also provide more clarity on how future applications must integrate these tougher county siting criteria within the environmental assessment approval process.

Darren Fry, project director of Southwestern Landfill Environmental Assessment, explained Walker would continue to conduct the environmental assessment process as laid out in the approved terms of reference, along with consulting with the county and community members.

“The modified version now provides greater clarity on how a new landfill proposal must integrate the county’s criteria within the provincial (environmental assessment) process,” said Fry.

The amendments confirm Oxford County’s place as a provincial leader when it comes to solid waste reduction and minimization and waste disposal avoidance, the county said in a written statement. The new policies to discourage large landfills – and the rigorous criteria for review of landfill proposals – are unique among Ontario municipalities and among the most robust in the province, providing the county with greater control over waste-management issues.

Walker had originally challenged all of the new key policies of the official plan amendment related to landfill approvals through this appeal to the local planning appeal tribunal. Once the final order is formally issued, the county will post the tribunal-modified version of amendment online at

[www.oxfordcounty.ca](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca).

### This Week's Flyers





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## City Should Have Right To Refuse Landfills: Southern Ontario Mayor

Posted on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 01:35 AM

A Southern Ontario mayor wants Thunder Bay to demand the right to choose whether to host a landfill.

Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey stopped at City Council last night, on a road trip across the province speaking about the issue.

He told Councillors that Ingersoll residents are opposed to a proposed project to dump 18 million tonnes of Toronto's waste less than a mile from his community.



"I'm not coming here saying I want you to say no to landfills," Comiskey points out, "That's your

However, he emphasizes that with a proposed landfill in the works in Shuniah, Thunder Bay should take an interest in this issue.

Ingersoll and around 49 other municipalities have joined together to ask for the right to have more of a say in landfill projects.

Comiskey admitted that his community has spent \$500,000 on their Demand the Right campaign, including paying to send him to speak with municipalities.

Mayor Keith Hobbs indicates he sides with the Demand the Right coalition, adding Ingersoll "shouldn't have to" spend that money.

"We should have the right to say no, as a municipality. I think this is a no-brainer," Hobbs argues.

While several councillors say they support Comiskey's presentation, they can't vote on the issue until next week. (Staff Photo)

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## Hamilton throws support behind Ingersoll's fight not to take Toronto's trash

Samantha Craggs · CBC News ·

Posted: May 15, 2018 1:55 PM ET | Last Updated: May 16



Ingersoll is trying to keep a private company from building a landfill near its borders for Toronto trash, and Hamilton is backing that effort. This trash pile is from the 200-person village of Mayo, Yukon, where more than half of the waste comes from outside of the area. (Alexandra Byers/CBC)

One year after winning its own battle against a waste disposal plant, Hamilton is throwing its support behind a small Ontario town in a similar situation — Ingersoll.

City councillors voted Tuesday to back the town of 12,000 located east of London in its quest to keep a landfill for Toronto garbage out of its watershed.

Ingersoll's fight has [shades of Hamilton's battle](#) with Port Fuels and Materials Services Inc., said Chad Collins, Ward 5 councillor. That company wanted to burn industrial waste on the Lake Ontario shore.

So when Mayor Ted Comiskey of Ingersoll made the pitch Tuesday, city council's planning committee empathized.

- **Proposed gasification plant on Hamilton Harbour is dead**

"Every municipality should have choice in local decision making," said Matthew Green, Ward 3 councillor, who moved that Hamilton support Ingersoll.

Currently, gasification plants and landfills come with similar problems — the actual municipalities don't have much of a say where they are located.





Coun. Matthew Green, one of the most vocal opponents of the Port Fuels project, moved the motion to stand with Ingersoll too. (Kelly Bennett/CBC)

In the Port Fuels case, the private company planned to use Hamilton Port Authority waterfront land. And it was up to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to approve the project or not.

The city did what it could to fight the project, hiring its own consultant and asking the province to demand a full environmental assessment. In the end, the province did that, and the project died.

The case in Ingersoll hasn't gotten that far — yet.

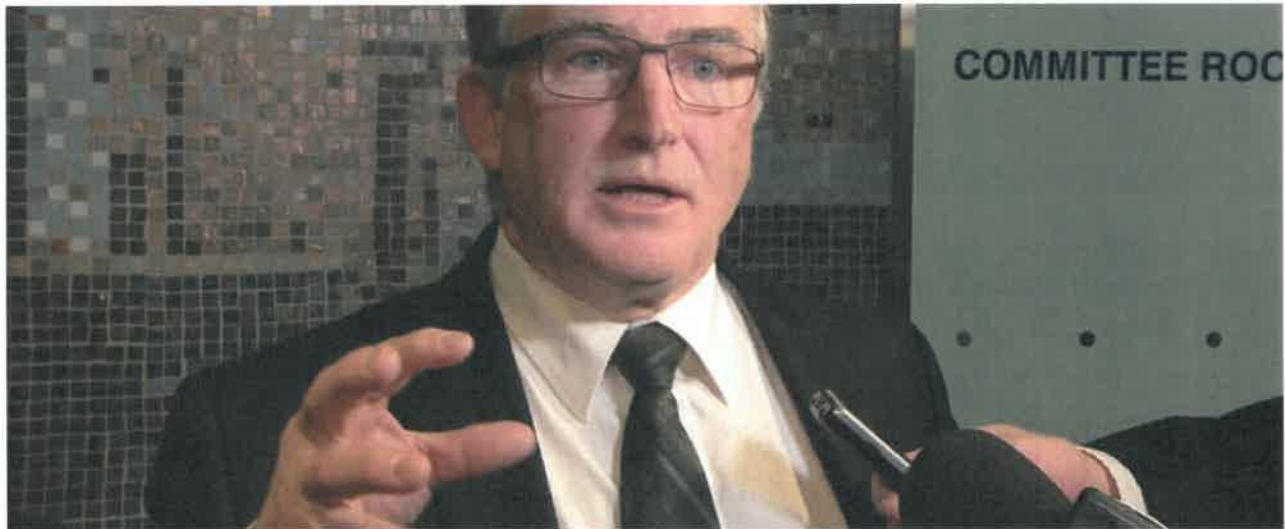
A private disposal company is still planning a landfill that would see residential, commercial and industrial waste hauled to Oxford County. The site is near the Thames River, Comiskey said, and about 800 metres from Ingersoll's border.

"I do not want your garbage," Comiskey said [told a Toronto council committee](#) in 2016.

"You are barking up the wrong tree," a Toronto councillor told him then. "It's a provincial responsibility."







Ingersoll fears the landfill proposal will harm the town's drinking water and cause other environmental hazards. And besides, Comiskey said, the town should have a say where it goes.


"At this time," he said, "we do not have that right."

- **Too much trash: Yukon village fighting for government help to run its landfill**

Oxford PC MPP Ernie Hardeman [tabled legislation at Queen's Park](#) that would give municipalities the right to approve or refuse landfills. But it's died in light of the June 7 election.

Hamilton is the 54th municipality to support Ingersoll, Comiskey said. He believes Hamilton's support in particular will make a difference because it's so close to the GTA.

"We are not burying tin cans and bottles like we used to on the farm, in the back 40 in a crevice we can't cultivate," he told councillors.



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## NEWS WOODSTOCK & REGION

# Green Party candidate pushes ‘forward-looking’ government



By Chris Funston, Woodstock Sentinel-Review  
Friday, May 25, 2018 11:29:43 EDT AM



Al de Jong

While he doesn't expect to be elected MPP of Oxford, Al de Jong says he's running in the riding to give the people who support the green way of doing things the opportunity to vote for the Green Party.

He said that Oxford has a substantial amount of Green Party voters, but no local group to provide a local candidate. In order for those voters to have someone to vote for, the party placed de Jong, a Guelph resident, in the riding to serve as their candidate.

"We don't have proportional representation. If that were in place, there would be much more opportunity for people to vote for both the best candidate and the best set of ideas," de Jong explained.

He praised Oxford County officials for their progressive ideas on environmental issues, in particular their zero-waste strategy, along with the community rallying against the proposed Walker Environmental landfill near Beachville.

When looking at the Green Party platform, de Jong explained the party too has many progressive ideas that are applicable to rural residents as well as urban centres.

"Existing parties are stuck in a traditional way of doing things. ... To move forward, we need to have urgent action on things like climate change," he said.

With the continuing commitment to nuclear power, de Jong said it's holding the province back from moving forwards towards <http://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/2018/05/25/green-party-candidate-pushes-forward-looki...> 5/28/2018

mental-health services, and job creation serving as other planks.

“The Green Party has a fully costed platform. We have progressive ideas, forward-looking ideas for urbanization, for power, for incomes, for health care. People should look at all we have and appreciate that it would be a way to have a more forward-looking government and leadership than the status quo,” said de Jong.

Recently retired after serving the public for 30 years with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food Rural Affairs, de Jong has been a member of the Green Party for more than 15 years. He has served on the provincial and local executives, helping in many provincial and national campaigns.

In the 2014 provincial election, Green Party candidate Mike Farlow came in fourth out of six with 1,984 votes, good for 4.84 per cent of the vote. For more information, or to view their full platform, visit [gpo.ca](http://gpo.ca).

The provincial election will be held on June 7.

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## Ontario's towns and cities demand a say on landfills

Municipalities have virtually no control over where industrial, commercial and institutional waste ends up

Laura Osman · CBC News ·

Posted: Jun 05, 2018 4:00 AM ET | Last Updated: 4 hours ago



The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change projects Ontario will need 16 new or expanded landfills in the next 30 years if greater efforts aren't made to recycle. (The Associated Press)

The people of Zorra Township have spent years worrying their picturesque country landscape will soon become a literal dumping ground for the Greater Toronto Area.

Just 165 kilometres southwest of Toronto, the small town has been pegged as a potential future home of a new landfill that could see 850,000 tonnes of trash trucked in annually.

The landfill will mostly take waste from businesses and institutions in the GTA, not from the local community.

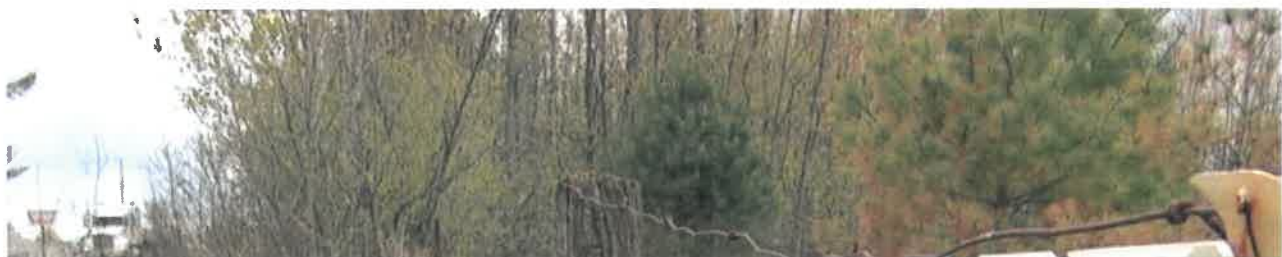
"It becomes really hard to swallow that on top of [our] efforts, we are now potentially an unwilling host for someone else's waste — a dump that could be much larger than our own," said Zorra Coun. Marcus Ryan.

## No control over commercial waste

While cities across the province have set strict rules to encourage household recycling and minimize the amount of residential garbage going to landfill, most waste in Ontario comes from the industrial, commercial and institutional (IC&I) sector — and cities have virtually no say in where all that garbage ends up.

That means Zorra isn't alone. Without further recycling efforts, the Ministry of the Environment projects Ontario will need 16 new or expanded landfills in the next 30 years, and local residents will have little to no control over whether the next one ends up in their neighbourhood.

In April, Ottawa city councillors were forced to approve the zoning for a new landfill in the city's rural east end.





Residents in Russell Township and Ottawa's Cumberland ward have been fighting a proposal to build a waste facility in the area since 2010. Taggart Miller originally proposed a site on Russell Road, but in 2012 switched to one at Boundary and Divine roads. (CBC)

The province gave the facility a nod last year over the protests of neighbours, councillors and the mayor. The city had no power to overturn that decision.

- **Residents demand city study health impacts of Boundary Road dump**
- **Cumberland residents trash Boundary Road landfill approval**
- **Boundary Road landfill wins provincial approval**

The episode in Zorra spurred Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman to draft a [private member's bill](#) to give municipalities a say in where new landfills are dumped.

It would be a huge boon for towns and cities that want the power to keep landfills out, but with seven million tonnes of business and

industrial waste generated every year, those landfills will have to go somewhere.

That's why Ottawa wants to take things a step further.

Coun. Stephen Blais, who represents the area where Ottawa's new landfill will go, said if cities have to deal with the fallout of new landfills they should also have the power to force companies to be less wasteful.

"We should have some of the control and some of the responsibility and funding to put in the regulations around that activity," Blais said.

Many of his fellow councillors agree.

- [New bill aims to give cities a voice in deciding location of landfills](#)

## **New rules proposed last year**

Last year the Ontario government passed the Waste Free Ontario Act, the first step in imposing rules that would prevent businesses from shipping garbage to landfills.

The government is scheduled to start consulting on those new rules this year.

But with Liberal Leader [Kathleen Wynne conceding election defeat](#) last weekend, people in areas like Zorra and southeast Ottawa will be keeping a keen eye on what the other parties have planned.

Here's what the three major parties are promising:

## Liberals



- Make producers more accountable for reducing and reusing waste to preserve resources and recover valuable materials from waste currently lost to landfill.
- Create a food and organic waste framework outlining steps the province, municipalities, and the IC&I and waste management sectors are taking to reduce compostable material.
- Continue to invest in a program that makes it easier for grocery stores and restaurants to donate surplus food to local community organizations instead of letting it go to waste.

## New Democrats







- Municipalities should not have landfills imposed on them against the wishes of the local community.
- Will work in partnership with producers, consumers, municipalities and other stakeholders to implement evidence-based policies in the public interest.

## Progressive Conservatives





- Support for private member's bill to allow municipalities more control over potential landfill locations.

PC Leader Doug Ford's campaign did not say how he would reduce the amount of waste headed to landfills, only that he would support Hardeman's private member's bill to give cities more autonomy.

"As a former city councillor, I respect the right for local municipalities to make the decisions best for their communities," Ford wrote in a statement.

But handing too much power over Ontario's garbage over to towns and cities could create a confusing patchwork of rules across the province, according to Jo-Anne St. Godard, executive director of the Recycling Council of Ontario.

## **75% of IC&I waste goes to landfill**

It could also leave towns with weaker rules vulnerable.

Right now, Ontario is so far behind, it's not even clear how much garbage is heading to landfills, she said. Any data is based on best guesses and estimates from the companies themselves.

According to the estimates available, about 75 per cent of waste generated by businesses and institutions ends up in landfills, St. Godard said.

"I think fundamentally it comes down to political will," she said.

Ottawa city council already has that will, Blais said. He said the city wouldn't shy away from penalties and incentives to encourage business owners, restaurant owners, schools and hospitals to recycle their waste.

"Maybe then we won't need 16 more [landfills] across the province," he said.

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# Provincial ministers pushed on Oxford County landfill

Oxford County officials meet with provincial ministers regarding proposed Zorra Township landfill



Chris Funston

[More from Chris Funston \(https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/author/cfunston\)](https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/author/cfunston)

Published on: August 23, 2018 | Last Updated: August 23, 2018 8:28 PM EDT



Walker Environmental document that illustrates the site for the proposed landfill in Zorra Township. Area marked in red. Handout/Postmedia

Ingersoll's battle against the proposed Walker Environmental landfill near Beachville is showing no signs of slowing.

"We have to push forward right now to make sure this thing is stopped. I think it will be. I really honestly think this landfill will be stopped," said

Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey following his meeting with the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks Rod Phillips and Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Ernie Hardeman, who also serves as Oxford's MPP.

The meetings took place at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario annual conference in Ottawa on Aug. 20, where Comiskey brought the new minister up to speed on the ongoing battle against the proposed dump in Beachville.

Comiskey explained to Phillips the amount of support Ingersoll has been given in the past from both the Conservative and NDP parties, reminding the new minister that both supported the municipal right to say yes or no to a landfill within their borders. Comiskey also presented a letter from Premier Doug Ford showing the Conservative leader's support for Hardeman's private member's bill that would give municipal councils a voice in determining the location of future landfill sites.

The premier's letter showed that Ford "doesn't like the idea of provincial politics shoving things down the throats of municipal leaders," Comiskey said.

"It was phenomenally positive to see the support was there," Comiskey said of the meeting. "We're working with them to hopefully move this forward as soon as possible."

At the conference, Comiskey and town staff were also able to liaise with other municipalities in hopes of gaining their support. Currently, there are 73 municipalities across Ontario supporting the cause, and Comiskey said he has meetings with several other councils to bring them on board as well.

"No matter how much support the acting government can give you, it's very nice to have municipalities behind you, supporting you, backing you with motions that say this has to be brought forward – that municipalities have the right to say yes or no."

While a long process, Comiskey emphasized the need to push forward despite the costs incurred by both the town and Walker Environmental, which is currently going through the provincial environmental assessment process for the proposed landfill site.

“The earliest we can put this to bed – to have the ministry say it’s not a good site for it; Zorra is not a willing hosts – as soon as that can be done and established the better for everyone,” Comiskey said.

Hardeman introduced his “Willing Host” bill in March, which passed a second reading in May before parliament went on recess for the provincial election.

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## Municipalities to be provided with greater say in where landfills can be located

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NEWS PROVIDED BY  
**The Town of Ingersoll**  
Nov 30, 2018, 06:00 ET

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Ingersoll-led initiative gains traction as 70-municipality coalition convinces  
Province to act

INGERSOLL, ON, Nov. 30, 2018 /CNW/ - Contained in the many details of the Province of Ontario's November 29 release of its Made-In-Ontario Environment Plan was a statement of support for the Ingersoll-driven, province-wide initiative of municipalities to provide local governments with the right to approve new landfill sites. Members of the Demand the Right Coalition, led by Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey, are celebrating the Province's announcement in the Plan which states "*Municipalities will be given greater say over where landfills can be located*".

# **LANDFILL APPROVAL** **We Demand the Right**

[demandtheright.ca](http://demandtheright.ca)



70 Ontario municipalities are members of the Demand the Right Coalition (CNW Group/The Town of Ingersoll)

The Council of the Town of Ingersoll launched the initiative in the fall of 2017. Mayor Comiskey and council members made presentations to city councils and municipal organizations across the province. They encouraged their follow councils to pass motions in support of approval rights for municipalities. To date, 70 municipalities have joined to coalition and passed motions demanding that the Government of Ontario act to pass legislation.

"This is an important milestone in the process of giving local approval rights for the proposed Southwest Ontario Landfill," said Mayor Ted Comiskey. "Just as important, however, is that once legislation is introduced and passed, all municipalities in Ontario will finally be able to deal with private sector waste operators as equals."

As Ontario law stands today, if a private waste contractor wants to develop and operate a new landfill site in any municipality, anywhere in Ontario, almost all they need is the approval of the Province and its environmental assessment approval process. The influence of municipal governments and their affected communities is very limited.



The Town of Ingersoll and its fellow members of Demand the Right Coalition expect the Province to begin a consultation process to determine the details of the landfill approval legislation. The Coalition will be urging its members to participate. It is also encouraging other municipalities to join and add their voices to the plan. Member municipalities include all Oxford County communities, the cities of Hamilton, Kingston, and Ottawa, and the regions of Peel and Waterloo.

Comiskey said, "We look forward to working with the Minister of the Environment and our fellow municipalities to ensure that municipal approval rights for landfill sites are fully realized in provincial legislation. This must happen quickly."

Further details about the coalition and a full list of its members are available at [www.demandtheright.ca](http://www.demandtheright.ca)

SOURCE The Town of Ingersoll

For further information: Ted Griffith, Campbell Strategies,  
[tedg@campbellstrategies.com](mailto:tedg@campbellstrategies.com), 416.518.8308

## **Organization Profile**



**The Town of Ingersoll**

<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/2019/03/14/ontario-must-face-up-to-its-looming-waste-crisis.html>



CONTRIBUTORS  
OPINION

# Ontario must face up to its looming waste crisis

By Rocco Rossi Opinion

Thu., March 14, 2019 timer 3 min. read

Ontario is quickly approaching a garbage crisis. With municipal elections well behind us, now is the time to talk about solutions for managing our province's waste.

Ontario's waste problem is something many people assume we solved years ago by using Blue Boxes, green bins and stopping GTA garbage from going to the United States.

Except we did not.

Ontario still sends millions of tonnes of waste to the United States each year, yet, given the current amount we generate, our province will run out of landfill space toward the end of the next decade.

According to the latest research, using government and industry data, Ontario landfills took in nearly 8 million tonnes of waste in 2017.

Another 3.5 million tonnes gets exported to the U.S. each year — that's more than 100,000 tractor trailers rolling down the 401 every year.

But it takes 10 years or more to successfully develop a new landfill. The math is inescapable: Ontario needs to move faster on its waste problem to keep it from becoming a crisis.

Part of the problem is that Ontarians appear to be labouring under some popular misconceptions. One is that our ability to manage waste is under control thanks to the Blue Box.

It's not. Ontarians should be proud that Blue Boxes, now used around the world, were invented in this province. But as the former Environmental Commissioner noted, the Blue Box program diverts less than 8 per cent of Ontario's total waste.

The recycling and reuse of materials are not as significant a factor as we think they are: in Ontario, the volume of waste we generate is increasing while the amount we divert away from landfill is staying the same.

Ontarians should also recognize where we generate this waste. Only a third of it comes from home — another third is generated at work and the final third is generated when we're out and about, at sports events, in restaurants, and other public places.

Waste we generate at home is collected by municipalities, either by their own employees or under contract with private firms. The rest of the garbage we produce, over 60 per cent, is industrial and commercial waste generated by Ontarians while at work and at play. This waste is currently managed efficiently and economically by the private sector.

So while we find new ways to improve recycling and waste diversion, we are also going to need more safe, well-managed landfill sites. Landfills are not glamorous, to put it mildly, but safe, reliable and affordable waste disposal is critical infrastructure that's

needed to keep communities healthy, the environment clean, and Ontario's businesses competitive.

The landfills that now exist in Ontario will run out of capacity within 14 years or less. As existing landfills fill up, there are fewer and fewer landfills to manage Ontario's waste and keep its businesses running.

Both Michigan and New York State still receive regular shipments of Ontario trash every day. But can we really rely on this? State governments could easily decide they don't want our waste anymore. That would move Ontario from waste challenge into waste crisis.

This uncertainty means we need to build new landfills, which require years of planning and regulatory approval. Instead of asking governments already making necessary investments in health care, education and infrastructure to shoulder this burden, waste management is something the private sector can handle.

The province's large firms have a good track record and are ready to invest in Ontario with innovative and environmentally friendly approaches to landfills and waste diversion.

The key to avoiding a garbage crisis in Ontario is to recognize that a problem is looming and figure out where the pressure points in the system are and how to ease them. It's a problem that has solutions, but only if we start talking about it and taking the right steps today.

Government and industry must work together to improve our current system, as safe and effective waste management is critical in building a stronger Ontario.

Now, not when it's too late, is when we should start planning for a crisis we can easily avoid.

# Environmental assessment of proposed landfill soon to be released

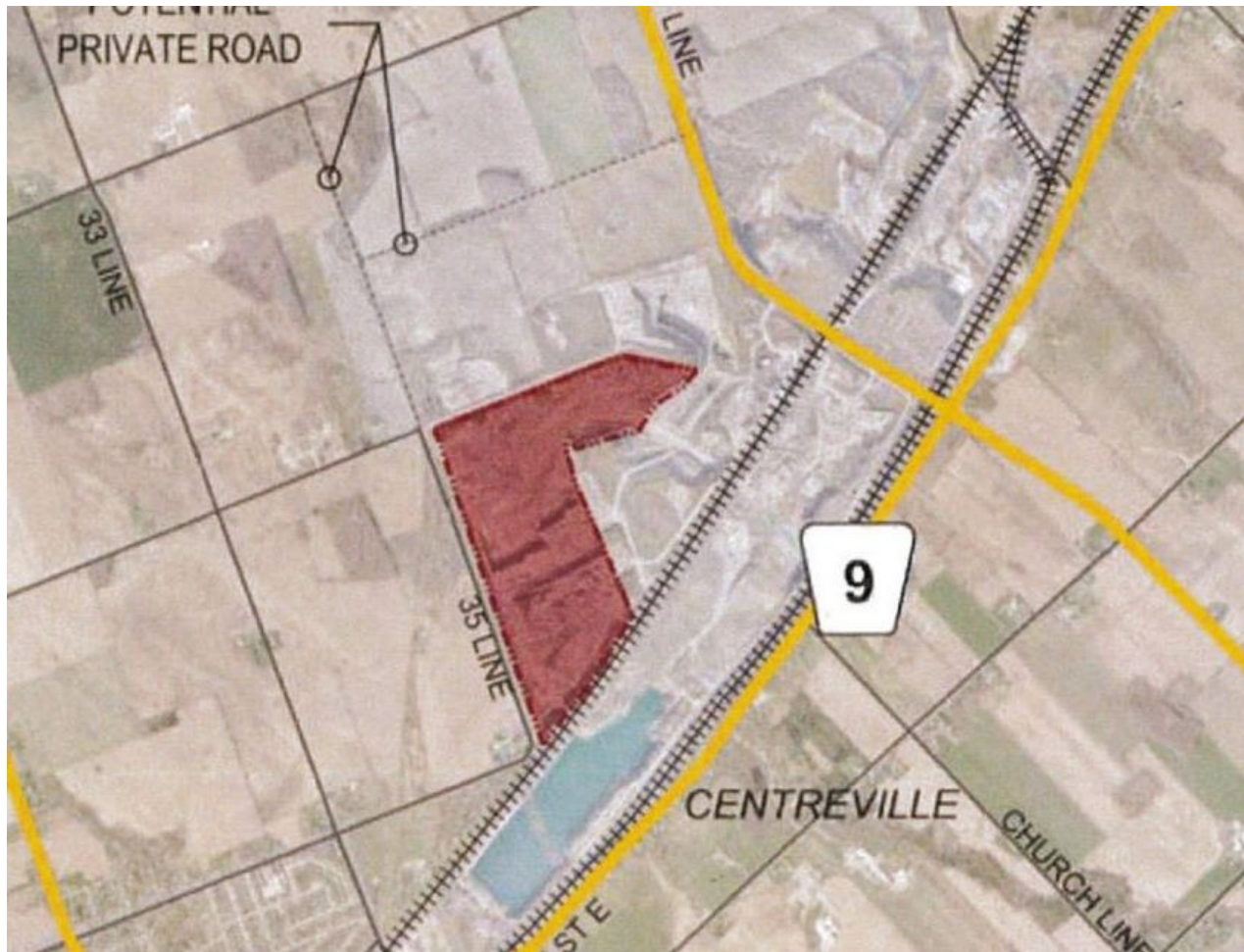
The draft of the environmental assessment for the proposed landfill in Zorra Township is inching closer towards being released.



Greg Colgan

[More from Greg Colgan](https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/author/gcolgan) (https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/author/gcolgan)

Published on: May 6, 2019 | Last Updated: May 6, 2019 8:21 PM EDT



Walker Environmental document that illustrates the site for the proposed landfill in Zorra Township. Area marked in red. (Handout)

The first draft of the environmental assessment for the mega-dump proposed for Zorra Township is nearly ready, the project lead says.

Darren Fry said the draft assessment – needed before owner Walker Environmental can move to the next step – should be released in June.

“Municipalities are a key stakeholder in the (environmental assessment) process,” Fry said. “Their voice is key, and we’re committed to addressing concerns. ... It’s important to look at it through that lens.”

With Zorra council having three new members, township Mayor Marcus Ryan said he welcomed the update from Walker. While the township has no legal role in the environmental assessment process, Ryan said it’s critical to know the timeline.

“The role for the council at this point is to keep abreast of the work being done, so we’re as informed as we can be,” he said.

When the assessment is finally released, Ryan said council hopes the community provides its feedback before the assessment is submitted to the province, likely in the fall.

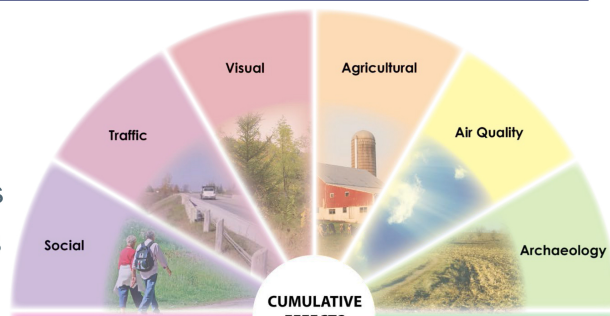
“You hope for as much knowledge to be absorbed by the public and then give knowledgeable input in the process. ... You hope as many people get engaged and give as much feedback as possible,” he said.

The draft assessment looks at 13 different aspects, including agriculture, air quality and ecology, while also focusing on the cumulative effects as a whole.

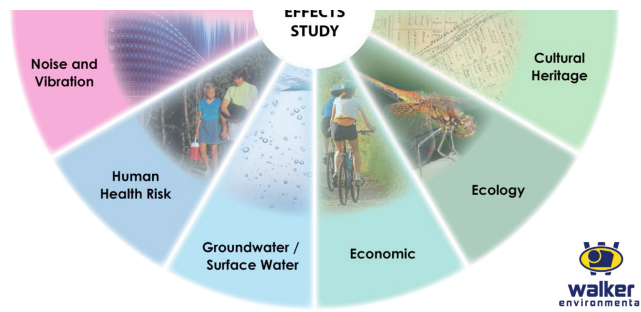
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## EA Technical Studies

- 12 Technical Studies
- + Cumulative Effects
- + GHG Assessment



- 12+ months of field work/data collection



The draft of the environmental assessment for the proposed landfill in Zorra Township is inching closer towards being released. The draft assessment will look at 13 different aspects such as agriculture, air quality ecology and others while also focusing on the cumulative effects as a whole. HANDOUT

After the draft assessment is released, the public has an opportunity to give feedback before Walker can make its final submission to the Environment Ministry.

Since the initial announcement in 2012, Fry said Walker has looked for ways to communicate with local residents by having an office in Ingersoll, holding 35 community liaison committee meetings, publishing newsletters and being active on social media.

He added Walker also funded the independent peer-review commission by the Joint Municipal Co-ordinating committee composed of Zorra, South-West Oxford, Ingersoll and Oxford County representatives and a third-party review manager.

“I think what’s most important is listening to what those concerns are, be available to talk about the concerns and provide clarity what a modern landfill looks like. We’re committed to the community and committed to addressing legitimate concerns where they arise.”

The proposed landfill has been a hot topic in Oxford, with most county residents being decidedly opposed.

Front yards in the region have “stop the dump” signs showing their disdain at the idea of the proposed landfill while protests and meetings have regularly been held in Ingersoll and Queen’s Park.





A sign on a property gives the stance of locals for the proposed dump in Ingersoll, Ont. on Wednesday March 27, 2019. The community liaison committee met for the 35th time Wednesday with about 100 people protesting outside Walker Environmental's building. Greg Colgan/Woodstock Sentinel-Review/Postmedia Network

Ernie Hardeman, Oxford's MPP and the Ontario's current agriculture minister, twice introduced a private member's bill, Respecting Municipal Authority Over Landfills Act, before the provincial election with the aim of providing local municipalities with more authority over landfill sites within their borders. The Progressive Conservative government also released its environmental plan, Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations, that includes that provision.

"This is a plan that moves forward with giving municipalities a say in how landfill sites are chosen across the province," Hardeman said in an email, "and I strongly support this plan."

Hardeman added municipalities should have a say in the decision-making process.



“Landfills should not be forced on communities who have legitimate environmental concerns. It should be those on the ground – who understand the ins and outs of the community – who should be making these location decisions,” he said.

If the landfill is eventually approved by the province, the underlying issue of waste in Ontario remains a concern.

Several landfills in the region are nearing capacity, and Michigan has become a popular site to truck Ontario waste, with tens of thousands of trucks making the trek annually.

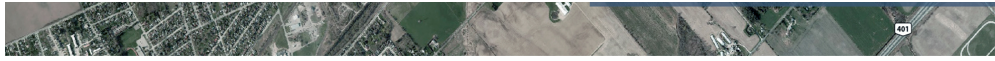
Fry said reports have shown landfills in Ontario will reach capacity in the next 10 to 14 years, so the proposed landfill provides an option that alleviates some of these concerns.

“Landfills are only the solution after we do the three Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle),” he said. “We should focus on that, but there are residual materials that require disposal.”

Fry noted about 25 to 30 per cent of waste in Oxford goes to nearby landfills such as the Ridge Landfill in Blenheim.

He added a landfill in the region would alleviate the number of trucks on the road. Walker also estimates about 110 new jobs would be created by the landfill while predicting an economic impact of \$900 million over the length of the landfill’s life.





The draft of the environmental assessment for the proposed landfill in Zorra Township is inching closer towards being released.HANDOUT

The proposed landfill would see up to 850,000 tonnes of waste a year brought into the site – primarily from businesses – and could store about 17-million tonnes of non-hazardous commercial and industrial waste over the course of 20 years.

When Ontario Premier Doug Ford visited Woodstock on March 21, he offered support for municipalities having a voice when asked directly about the landfill.

Ford said he agreed municipalities should be able to choose whether they wish to have a landfill within their borders.

“We’re strong believers in our government empowering municipalities. Who are a bunch of politicians from Queen’s Park to tell municipalities how to run their municipalities?” Ford said. “It’s up to them. They have an option to opt-in or opt-out. ... It’s not necessarily up to us to overrule a municipality. That’s the last thing I’d do.”

If approved by the province, construction could begin by 2021, with a possible opening time of 2022.

“The (Environment) Minister (Rod Phillips) will consider all views when making a decision,” Fry said. “It’s the process we have to follow, so we’re following that and we take very seriously the concerns that are raised and we take them into consideration in the environmental assessment process.”

### **Environmental assessment timeline**

- Environmental assessment begins in 2012
- Submit terms of reference to province in 2014
- Terms of reference approved by province in March 2016
- Draft environmental assessment expected to be released by June 2019

- Final environmental assessment expected to be submitted to province by the fall

### **Southwestern Landfill Proposal**

- In Zorra Township, located in Oxford County
- Land's owned by Carmeuse Lime and former industrial land
- Total capacity would be 17 million cubic metres
- Annual capacity of up to 1.1 million tonnes per year
- Would accept up to 850,000 tonnes of waste per year
- Estimated operational period would be 20 years

## **TRENDING IN CANADA**

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## **Comments**

# Survey shows strong support for giving municipalities say over new landfills

A newly released survey is showing some municipal leaders wouldn't object to landfills in their communities if given the right to allow them.

**GREG COLGAN** Updated: June 3, 2019



The proposed Southwestern landfill near Ingersoll is undergoing the final steps of the environmental assessment and is likely to be released in the coming months. HANDOUT

A survey of Ontario civic leaders finds six in 10 would reject landfills in their communities if the province allows municipalities to say no.

The survey was commissioned by Demand the Right Coalition of Ontario Municipalities that represents more than 75 municipalities that have passed motions demanding the Ontario government give municipalities the right to approve new landfills.

The results of the survey show that four in 10 municipal leaders would agree to have landfills in their communities, if they had the final say and certain conditions were met, the coalition says.

“We can now confirm that municipal approval will improve landfill operations, not eliminate them,” said Ted Comiskey, mayor of Ingersoll and chair of the coalition.

The coalition commissioned the survey conducted by Public Square Research and Campbell Strategies. The survey was sent to more than 1,700 Ontario mayors, councillors and chief administrators, of whom 325 responded.

Nine out of 10 said the Ontario government should give municipalities the right to approve new landfills.

Under the current rules, the province has the final say on new landfills following a lengthy environmental assessment.

Landfills are a flashpoint in Southwestern Ontario, home to some of the largest dumps in the province – including Toronto’s landfill on London’s doorstep – with a proposal on the go to turn a mined-out quarry near Ingersoll into a landfill for commercial trash from the mega-city.

The survey found the main concerns for approving landfills are environmental, location and financial considerations.

Comiskey said talks with the Ministry of the Environment indicate it’s concerned if municipalities were given a say on landfills, none would agree to opening one within its borders.

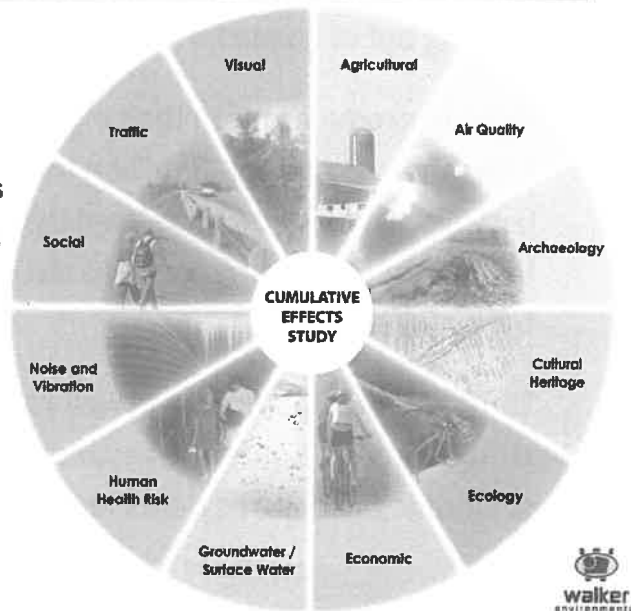
“If it was in an area away from population, away from source of water for the community, away that wouldn’t allow the smell to be

noticeable, a municipality might be interested in those negotiations," he said. "This would allow the ministry to give municipalities the right to decide, so the proponent would have to sit down with a willing host and then proceed with the environmental assessment."

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## EA Technical Studies

- 12 Technical Studies
- + Cumulative Effects
- + GHG Assessment
- 12+ months of field work/data collection



The draft of the environmental assessment for the proposed landfill in Zorra Township is inching closer towards being released. The draft assessment will look at 13 different aspects such as agriculture, air quality ecology and others while also focusing on the cumulative effects as a whole. (HANDOUT) *KMARTIN / JPG, WD*

Darren Fry, the project lead for Walker Environmental's proposed 17 million cubic metre landfill near Ingersoll, said the company has followed provincial guidelines as it seeks approval from the province.

"We always have and always will follow the current provincial landfill site legislation and regulation. ... We are following the laws that are currently in place," he said. "We're demonstrating that with our landfill site in Niagara, but also in Oxford County by following the environmental process."

Fry said a draft environmental assessment should be released this summer.

After it's released, the public will have an opportunity to give feedback before Walker makes its final submission to the Environment Ministry, he said.

Mike Chopowick, director of policy and communications for the Ontario Waste Management Association, said the province is running out of space for waste.

Ontario produces more than eight million tonnes of waste a year, he said, and has about 123 million tonnes of capacity left in existing landfills. The space will be used by 2032, Chopowick said, and if the option of shipping waste to the U.S. is removed, landfills will be full by 2028.

"Ensuring well-planned and well-managed disposal capacity for Ontario's solid waste is an economic and environmental necessity for municipalities, residents and businesses."



Oxford MPP and Agricultural Minister Ernie Hardeman twice introduced a private member's bill, Respecting Municipal Authority Over Landfills Act, before the provincial election with the aim of giving communities a say on landfills.

The PC government also released its environmental plan, Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations.

Hardeman said the environment plan continues to move forward in giving municipalities the opportunity to choose landfill sites.

"I have often spoken about how local communities must have a voice on how landfills are approved in their neighbourhoods and that is why I am proud that our plan will make sure that municipalities have that say," he said in an email. "This is a very important step to empower municipalities and give them a say on how landfills impact their communities."

### Survey highlights

- Nine out of 10 municipal leaders who responded support municipalities having right to approve or reject landfills
- Four out of 10 would support hosting a new landfill if conditions were met.
- Top conditions for approval are environmental (27 per cent), location (19 per cent), financial considerations (15 per cent) and residents' opinions (nine per cent)
- The margin of error for a response rate in the survey's +/- 4.89

### Southwestern Landfill Proposal

- In Zorra Township, located in Oxford County
- Former quarry is owned by Carmeuse Lime
- Total capacity would be 17 million cubic metres
- Annual capacity of up to 1.1 million tonnes per year





# 'We are not Toronto's kitty litter'

The fight over a proposed landfill near Ingersoll, Ont., highlights two opposing pressures: Small towns don't want big-city trash, but Ontario dumps are filling up fast

Andrew Lupton, CBC News

It doesn't take long for residents of Ingersoll, Ont., to explain why they're against a plan to turn a limestone quarry just outside their town of 12,000 into Ontario's fifth largest landfill.

There's the odour.

The 150 daily visits by trash-hauling trucks.

And the principle of allowing 17 million tonnes of trash — most of it from outside their community, much of it from Toronto — to be dumped into a 30-metre hole not two kilometres from downtown.

But to Bryan Smith, who heads OPAL (Oxford People Against the Landfill), a citizens' coalition that boasts 400 members, it comes down to something else.

"It's all about the water," he said. "When you put trash into your water, you end up drinking it. And this is a community that drinks groundwater. We're very close to the banks of the Thames River. Any natural leakage would end up in the river. You don't live without water and that's why we're committed to this."

Bryan Smith is the president of Oxford People Against the Landfill (OPAL). He says the community's top concern is the potential for leachate from the landfill to pollute the groundwater. 'When you put trash into water, you end up drinking it,' he said. (Andrew Lupton/CBC)

## Fierce opposition

Located in the heart of southwestern Ontario, Ingersoll is 150 kilometres down Highway 401 from Toronto.

Though the proposed landfill will take trash from across southern Ontario, most of the anti-landfill lawn signs in the area radiate their anger back up the highway, toward Ontario's largest city.

"OPAL says 'no' to Toronto Trash," reads one sign. "We are Not a Willing Host," another says.

Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey puts it another way.

"We are not Toronto's kitty litter," he said.

The fight over the proposed landfill highlights a looming problem: As Ontario dumps fill up, smaller towns are pushing back at the idea of taking in trash from the larger cities. And while these pressures grow, the waste industry says dump approvals are a long, exhaustive process, with the province already taking up to 10 years to approve each new application.

Signs like these are found at roadsides and intersections across Zorra Township, where the proposed landfill will be located, and in Ingersoll, the nearby town of 12,000. (Andrew Lupton/CBC)

## The proposal

Though the opposition is centred in Ingersoll, the proposed landfill lies in the adjacent municipality of Zorra Township. The site is an operating limestone quarry owned by Carmeuse, an international lime conglomerate based in Belgium. Walker Environmental is proposing that the site be turned into a landfill that will take 17 million tonnes of non-hazardous household waste over a 20-year period.

Walker doesn't own the land, but the company plans to buy the site from Carmeuse if the dump gets green-lighted by the province.

In response to questions about groundwater, Walker points to the company's [South Landfill](#), located in Niagara Falls, Ont. Opened in 2009, that dump has a 25-year life cycle while taking the same amount of trash annually as what's proposed for Zorra (850,000 tonnes).

Walker officials say the South Landfill site hasn't created a groundwater problem. But dump opponents say that's because the groundwater near the South Landfill isn't drinkable anyway.

The proposed landfill in Zorra occupies a 60-hectare footprint with an average depth below grade of 32 meters. It's less than two kilometres from downtown Ingersoll and close to the shores of the Thames River, which opponents argue makes the site a risky choice.

Their main fear is that leachate, the chemical stew of potentially toxic liquid formed when waste breaks down, will seep into their groundwater. Unlike nearby London, Ont., which draws its drinking water from two Great Lakes, the area relies on groundwater for drinking and irrigation.

## The last line of defence

A landfill's containment liner is its main line of defence when it comes to keeping leachate out of the groundwater. Such liners are often described as working like a bathtub, with sides and a bottom both impermeable to liquid.

Darren Fry, a project director with Walker who's managing the landfill proposal, says the company plans to use the same heavy plastic containment liner as one that has been in use at South Landfill for years without incident.

The liner is part of a larger leachate containment system: a five-metre-thick series of barriers that include two plastic liners and pipes that can pump leachate to the surface, where it will be monitored and treated at an on-site wastewater facility.

But dump opponents remain concerned, saying it's likely the liner will break down and fail. They worry this failure could happen years after the dump is full and the containment liner is buried beneath tonnes of waste.

"We know that the liner is a sheet of plastic, and plastics break down when you put things through them," said Smith.

Fry, however, points to the double layer of leachate liners, combined with a monitoring system and series of drains that he says can be cleared, even after the dump has stopped taking new trash.

## Diminishing dump space

The landfill is being proposed for a pit currently operating as a limestone quarry. (Andrew Lupton/CBC)

If approved, the landfill in Zorra township will be Ontario's fifth largest, based on capacity. But as large as it is, Fry points to industry research that suggests Ontario is running out of places to put its trash.

According to the Ontario Waste Management Association (OWMA), Ontario's available landfill capacity is expected to be exhausted in 10 to 14 years. Of the 8.1 million tonnes of waste the province landfilled in 2017, about 3.5 million tonnes was exported to the United States, mostly to Michigan.

"Ontario needs approximately 10 new large landfills in the next 10 years," said Fry. "Approvals take approximately 10 years to conduct. Ontario needs to expand existing sites and build new landfill sites."

It's easy to dismiss these as numbers produced by an industry that benefits by building more landfills, but the province is also sounding the alarm about landfill capacity in its environmental plan.

"Without reducing the amount of waste generated, it is forecasted that Ontario will need to site 16 new or expanded landfills by 2050," reads a line from the Ford government's environmental plan.

As the anti-dump signs indicate, landfill opponents are particularly irate at the idea of having big-city trash buried in their backyard. They see it as an unsettling trend: Big cities, unable or unwilling to deal with their own garbage, looking down Highway 401 for a convenient place to stash it.

In 2007, the City of Toronto bought the Green Lane Landfill, located a 30-minute drive south of London, near Highway 401. That landfill currently accepts about 500,000 tonnes of Toronto trash each year and is estimated to have capacity for another 20 years.

Walker says the proposed landfill in Zorra Township would accept non-hazardous household waste from across southern Ontario, including from areas in Oxford County, the regional municipality that includes Ingersoll and Zorra Township.

Fry pointed to a report that suggests even waste generated in Oxford County is being hauled away.

"The proposed landfill in Zorra would offer a local solution," he said in an email to CBC News.



The landfill proposal has created a challenge for the Ford government.

Ontario landfill applications undergo an exhaustive environmental assessment (EA) process with the environment minister eventually having the final say.

Fry said Walker is in the "final stages" of an EA process that started back in 2012. The company is expected to release a draft report before the fall that will include results from 12 different government-mandated studies about the project, looking at everything from traffic to water quality. A consultation period will follow, before a final EA is submitted to the minister, who can accept, refuse, or refer the application to a mediator or a tribunal.

But for Mayor Comiskey, the EA process has a glaring shortfall: It leaves municipalities with no say in the final decision.

Comiskey has led a push to give municipalities the right to approve or turn down any landfill application in their jurisdiction. So far, more than 100 Ontario municipalities have pledged support, with the complete list found on the [Demand The Right website](#).

"It's common sense to say that if you have a municipality that is producing a phenomenal amount of garbage, they shouldn't be able to walk into another municipality and say, 'This is where we're going to bury it,'" said Comiskey. "They

have to be responsible for what they produce and what they make. So we demand the right to say yes or no."

Comiskey, who describes himself as a small-c conservative, was encouraged by comments made by Premier Doug Ford during a visit to Oxford Country last March.

Ford was quoted on Heart FM's website as saying: "Who are a bunch of politicians in Queen's Park to tell municipalities how to run their municipality? It is up to them, they have an option, to opt in or opt out. That is up to them, it is not necessarily up to us to overrule a municipality. That is the last thing I would want to do. I don't care if someone says they have 300 or 400 jobs, we are not going to stick something in an area that people don't want."

While in Opposition, Progressive Conservative MPP for Oxford Ernie Hardeman twice launched a private member's bill that would give municipalities the right to turn down a landfill application within their borders.

"Municipalities have a right to decide where the Tim Hortons is built in their community; surely they should have the right to have a say in where a landfill would go," he said in an interview with CBC News this week.

But during that interview, Hardeman fell short of backing an outright veto for municipalities over landfill applications.

Communities could voice their opposition as part of the tribunal process if an EA reached that stage, he said, and any legislative changes that go further than that are up to the environment minister.

In November, the Ford government released its [Made-In-Ontario Environment Plan](#). On page 44, it promises to give municipalities "a say in landfill citing approvals" and to "enhance municipal say" in the process.

Comiskey says this isn't enough.

"We need the ability to say yes or no. Period," he said.

According to a statement from the office of newly appointed Environment Minister Jeff Yurek, the Ontario government plans to develop a proposal "to give municipalities more say" but it also doesn't mention a full veto.

"The proposal will balance the desire to give the people of Ontario a greater voice in the siting of landfills, while ensuring Ontario has sufficient landfill capacity for the management of our waste," the statement says.

As for Walker's Fry, he says granting municipalities a full veto could pose a problem amid diminishing dump capacities, as the EA process already takes up to 10 years.

A town of 12,000 directly downstream from the proposed landfill, Ingersoll relies on wells for potable water. (Andrew Lupton/CBC)

## Town braces for the decision

Back in Ingersoll, Donna Sexmith, a 70-year resident of the town, says she hopes the province dumps the entire proposal.

"There's gotta be better places to put it than the quarry," she said. "There's nobody that would want that dump here."

Bryan Smith says OPAL will continue to organize weekly flag-waving protests at various intersections throughout the area.

"We want a full-out rejection by the province on this dump," he said. "And then we want them to rethink what they're doing with waste all across the province."

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'There's gotta be better places to put it than the quarry,' said Donna Sexmith, who has lived in Ingersoll for 70 years. 'There's nobody that would want that dump here.' (Andrew Lupton/CBC)

# Right to accept landfills grows in support

A Toronto based consulting firm hired to help Ingersoll's opposition to the proposed landfill informed council municipalities continue to join in demanding the right in having a say in where landfills can go.



Greg Colgan

[More from Greg Colgan](https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/author/gcolgan) (https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/author/gcolgan)

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The proposed Southwestern landfill near Ingersoll is undergoing the final steps of the environmental assessment and is likely to be released in the coming months. HANDOUT

A Toronto-based consulting firm hired to help Ingersoll fight a proposed mega-dump in a former quarry is pushing Oxford

County's municipalities to continue demanding the right to have their say where landfills can be sited.

Ted Griffith, a communications specialist with Campbell Strategies, outlined to Ingersoll council the growing support the Ingersoll-led Demand the Right Coalition of Ontario Municipalities has continued to enjoy in recent months.

He told council the poll sent out by the coalition to more than 1,700 municipal leaders in April received 325 responses. Griffith also said 112 communities – 25 per cent of Ontario's municipalities – are in favour of the local right to accept or reject landfills.

"Our goal is to stop the landfill," Griffith said. "There's two things to do. One's to work with provincial staff and politicians to simply cancel the site or, secondly, get law and regulation changed to demand any company wishing to put a landfill site has to have municipal approval."

The poll, which cost Ingersoll \$11,000, showed four out of 10 respondents would, under certain conditions, be willing to host a landfill within their municipal borders while nine out of 10 voiced support for the right to vote on landfill sites.

A report from staff noted the town's opposition to the proposed landfill has cost more than \$1 million.

The current system provides the province with final approval after the proponent company goes through a lengthy environmental assessment process that takes about seven years to complete.

Ingersoll Mayor Ted Comiskey said he was told by Ministry of the Environment officials that landfill companies are concerned they would struggle to find locations if municipalities had the right to reject a landfill site.





Locals protest the proposed landfill outside Walker Environmental's building in Ingersoll, Ont. on Wednesday March 27, 2019. The community liaison committee met for the 35th time Wednesday with about 100 people protesting outside Walker Environmental's building. (Greg Colgan/Woodstock Sentinel-Review)

"If it was in an area away from population, away from a source of water for the community ... that wouldn't allow the smell to be noticeable, a municipality might be interested in those negotiations," he said.

When they attended the Rural Ontario Municipal Association annual conference, Griffith said they heard from municipal leaders who spoke about the financial benefits of hosting a landfill.

"Why would you deny them the chance to get their new arena funded? This will have a positive financial impact on the cost of landfill," he said.

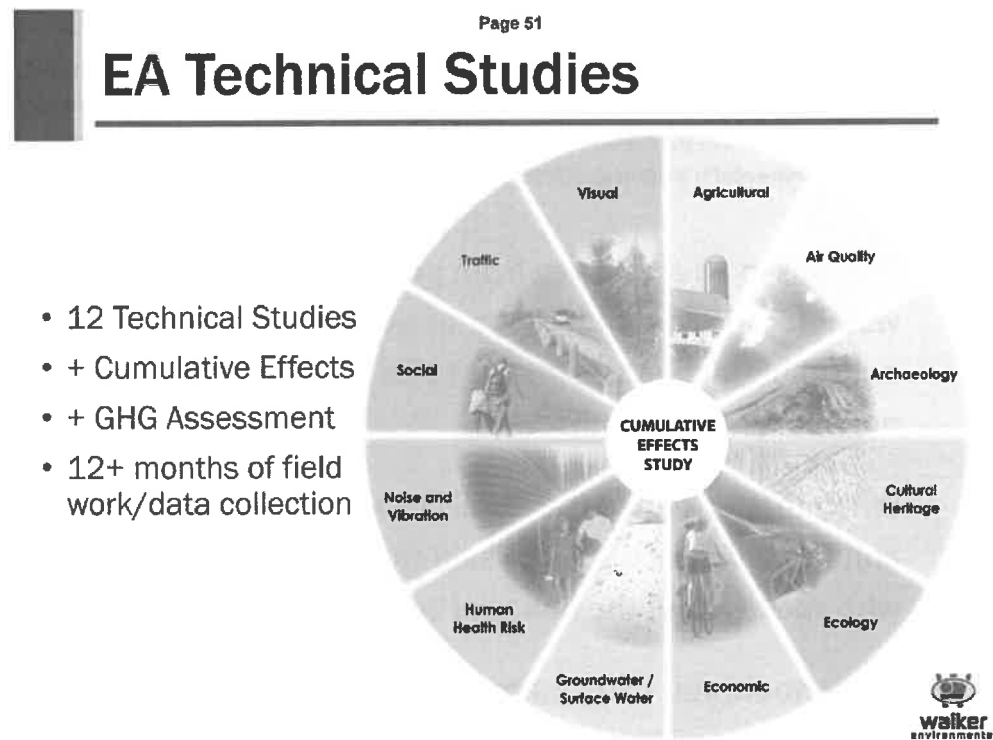
Coun. Brian Petrie noted the town's motivation has always been environmental.

"The financials surprised me because that's not one of our motivations for disapproving the landfill. It's more about the environment and quality of life," Petrie said.

Throughout the process, Walker Environmental has followed the provincial guidelines in establishing a landfill.

“We always have and always will follow the current provincial landfill site legislation and regulation. ... We are following the laws that are currently in place,” Darren Fry, the project lead for Walker, told the Sentinel-Review in May. “We’re demonstrating that with our landfill site in Niagara, but also in Oxford County, by following the environmental process.”

The environmental draft assessment looks at 13 different environmental aspects, including agriculture, ecology and air quality while also focusing on the cumulative effects as a whole.



The draft of the environmental assessment for the proposed landfill in Zorra Township is inching closer towards being released. The draft assessment will look at 13 different aspects such as agriculture, air quality ecology and others while also focusing on the cumulative effects as a whole. *HANDOUT KMARTIN / JPG, WD*

The public will have an opportunity to provide feedback after the draft assessment is released before Walker makes its final submission to the Environment Ministry..



Griffith said local officials will be attending the Association of Municipalities Ontario conference in August to gain further support.

He said mainly smaller municipalities have provided support, but larger centres such as Hamilton, Ottawa, York Region and Mississauga have signed on.

He also said the rising cost to remove garbage will give people further incentive to recycle.

"As long as it's cheaper for someone to show up at your door and haul it away, the three Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) aren't going to come into play," Griffith said.

#### Environment assessment timeline

- Environmental assessment begins in 2012
- Submit terms of reference to province in 2014
- Terms of reference approved by province in March 2016
- Draft environmental assessment expected to be released in the summer or fall of 2019
- Final environmental assessment expected to be submitted to province before the end of 2019 or early 2020

#### Southwestern Landfill Proposal

- In Zorra Township, located in Oxford County
- Land's owned by Carmeuse Lime and former industrial land
- Total capacity would be 17 million cubic metres
- Annual capacity of up to 1.1 million tonnes per year
- Would accept up to 850,000 tonnes of waste per year
- Estimated operational period would be 20 years

## TRENDING IN CANADA

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# Westcar: Beachville dump could spoil London's Back to the River dreams

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Updated: November 1, 2019



An aerial view of Carmeuse Lime's Beachville quarry, looking north, near Ingersoll. (File photo)

Disposing of garbage and hazardous materials until the 1970s, when Ontario belatedly set standards, was a question of finding a convenient hole in the ground or a riverbank,

preferably away from prying eyes, and dumping waste. Usually a private company profited but what happened afterward became someone else's very expensive problem.

So, we ended up with lots of bad stuff where it shouldn't be and where it has serious lingering potential to harm humans, flora and fauna. While many people may wrinkle their noses at the smell of a local active dump, fret over the garbage truck traffic, worry about the dust and flocks of defecating birds, these are the tip of a potential lethal, terrestrial iceberg where more than 95 per cent of the threat remains largely invisible until too late. Witness Grassy Narrows' leaking rusty drums filled with mercury buried in two sites which have produced a chronic health crisis.

It's only when toxic compounds escape from the dump and pollute freshwater or the air, make people sick or damage the local environment that an alarm is raised. Then, who pays for the cleanup often becomes a titanic struggle between the dump operator and the taxpayer. You can guess who loses. It matters not that profits from the dump have disappeared into history. In many cases, the contamination is so catastrophic that remediation is not possible when ecosystems are destroyed. Innocent people suffer. Adjacent properties can become worthless.

Provincial legislation for a new dump now requires an environmental assessment before being permitted. Ontario also mandates a community liaison committee to represent the interests of the public and seek answers from the developer on their collective concerns. But the community's search for the truth often is frustrated. It takes expertise to search out the real risks in dump development and years of dedication. Those who feel passionately that profit should not be at the expense of current and future generations and the environment battle on.

The Richmond landfill near Napanee, Ont., originated as a small, privately operated local dump in the 1950s. The absence of provincial regulation allowed continued expansion of the dump under various owners until being purchased by a multi-national waste management company in 2004. During its life, it received hundreds of thousands of tonnes of garbage. Odours and increased truck traffic annoyed local people but it wasn't until leachate, the mixture of water and chemicals leaking from the dump, were found in local wells and watercourses, that the disaster became apparent.

Dumps built properly on a deep clay base with a polymer liner can remain benign for years. But those built directly above fractured bedrock, with or without a liner, pose extreme risk. This was the case at the Richmond landfill. Rain, snow and run-off combined with toxic compounds buried in the dump to form the leachate that flowed easily through fissures in the limestone under the dump and into the area's ground water. A local river remains poisoned, bereft of aquatic and bankside life. Potable water for residents living above the still-spreading leachate plume is trucked in at great expense. Toxicologist and dump fighter Poh-Gek Forkert succinctly lays out the issues in her book *Fighting Dirty*.

Fractured bedrock was one of the reasons the Adams mine, south of Kirkland Lake, Ont., was rejected as a disposal site for Toronto's garbage. The risk to groundwater and consequently local people and the environment was considered too great. Much of Toronto's garbage is instead trucked along Highway 401 to the Green Lane landfill in Southwold Township, southwest of London.

Rather than prevent or reduce waste, Toronto seeks more garbage disposal outside of its own boundaries. Therefore, a new dump is under consideration at a local limestone quarry, close to the banks of the Thames River, near Beachville, Ont. A planned capacity of 16 million tonnes during a 20-year period could add about 340 heavy

truck trips along Highway 401 every day. By any measure, this is a monster.

The fact that this proposed dump would sit on fractured bedrock should have stopped the permit application in its tracks, but the developers insist that lining the huge pit with a polymer membrane and installing a leachate treatment plant will make it safe and very profitable. Federal government research has revealed that all dump liners eventually leak and, in this case, the escaping untreated leachate would migrate into the adjacent Thames River.

For downtown London, plans to beautify the banks of the Thames River and increase its amenity value will be futile if it eventually becomes a lifeless open sewer with leachate from the Beachville dump. As Napanee has revealed, there's just too much risk. Londoners need to say "No" to the Beachville dump and to ask MPP Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to say the same, soon.

*Ken Westcar is director of Oxford People Against the Landfill.  
(OPAL)*

## TRENDING IN CANADA

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OPINION: Ford government puts spotlight on high-tech and skilled trades

# OPINION: Ontario needs new landfills



A tractor moves garbage at the City of London W12A Landfill Site on Feb 3, 2017. (Postmedia Network)

MIKE CHOPOWICK

Aside from taking out the trash and recyclables on garbage day, many of us put very little thought into what happens to the waste we create.

We carefully sort our recyclables from the trash and haul everything to the curb once a week, then go on with our lives, content that someone else is looking after the stuff we don't want.

The minor headache of getting organized for garbage day pales in comparison to a serious threat that could leave residents and business owners grappling with garbage piling up in their communities daily.

Despite all our best efforts to recycle and reduce waste, about 70% of materials we put into the waste stream end up in landfills. Ontario relies on modern, engineered landfills to safely manage waste that isn't or can't be recycled.

These landfills are quickly running out of space. At current rates, major landfills in southern Ontario — the region with the province's highest population and greatest waste management demand — will effectively be full within a decade. To safely manage our trash Ontario needs at least 10 new landfill sites within that same time period.

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Unfortunately, we don't have that much time.

It currently takes at least 10 years to go through the approvals process required to develop a new landfill, and there are fewer than five new, large landfill sites in development.

But without new solutions on how to manage our waste, running out of existing landfill space will threaten our environment, economy and the health and safety of millions of Ontarians.

Ontario's current landfills are working at capacity. If any of the big three facilities operating in southern Ontario today were forced to close for as little as a week, garbage would start to back up in communities across the province. There is no place else for it to go.

Despite private sector operators doing a great job at safely caring for Ontarian's waste, our waste management system has become increasingly fragile.

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Our recycling system is failing and needs a much-needed reboot. Consumer participation in recycling programs has plateaued at 30% diversion rate, and only one-third of what we carefully sort and place in the blue bin actually gets recycled.

The rest, which consumers believe they are recycling, ends up in a landfill.

Compounding the problem, we are running out of partners at home and internationally who are willing to take our waste and recycling.

China has shut its doors to Canada's plastic and paper waste for recycling. Several other Asian countries, including the Philippines, have followed suit.

Malaysia is the latest country to reject trash generated in Canada, announcing in July it will send back shipments of plastic to Canada which it says cannot be recycled and are landfill quality.

Even closer to home, where Ontario sends approximately 30% of its waste to Michigan, decision-makers in Michigan have indicated the state would like to reduce the amount of Ontario waste it receives, with the prospect of making it prohibitively expensive to ship our garbage there.



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If that were to happen, Ontario would have to find landfills to accept more than one-third of our waste – approximately 100,000 semi-truck trailer loads that currently travel along Hwy. 401 each year to Michigan.

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We need to move quickly to find new solutions and change the way we manage waste in Ontario, or we will all pay a steep price.

Unmanaged waste piling up on our streets poses a significant health threat. It would also harm our environment and hurt our economy, compromising our province's competitiveness on the global stage.

The solution to effectively managing our waste depends on creating innovative ways to recycle and recover resources, like food waste and other valuable materials, in the first place, while expanding Ontario's landfill capacity to safely manage residual materials that can't be recycled.

To do that, we need to develop new landfills with the least impact on surrounding communities — while maximizing positive impacts like new jobs, renewable energy sources and municipal revenues.

We know what Ontario's waste problem is. Recycling rates are stalled, and waste disposal sites are running out of space. New, environmentally sound landfills are part of the solution, a solution we need now.

— Chopowick is the director of policy and communications for the Ontario Waste Management Association

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