



## *Westside Sanitary Landfill Newsletter*

August 8, 2008

As the Regional District moves toward closing the landfill, and we continue with the public consultation process to determine services that will be offered in the future from that site, we wish to provide our neighbours, with some ongoing information about these topics.

We hope to provide a newsletter update each month of what operations you can expect to take place at the site. This is in addition to the Regional District's past practice of hand delivering information to your doors and direct mailing to neighbouring residents in the general vicinity of the landfill. We anticipate these delivery options will continue as our public consultation process moves forward regarding the planned closure of the landfill in 2010 and as we develop plans for services to be offered at the site, when the landfill is no longer accepting material to be buried.

Should you have any questions or comments please forward them to Bruce Smith, RDCO Communication Coordinator (contact info below) and we'll do our best to provide answers for you.

A tour of the landfill operation was arranged in June involving representatives from the Regional District, landfill contractor, Ministry of Environment, Central Okanagan West Electoral Area Director Edgson, members of Westside District Municipality council and some neighbours. This was a general session to provide information about the daily operation of the site, how materials are handled and to share some information about longer term plans.

Since that opportunity in June, we've received bi-weekly updates and reports from a resident's representative regarding the impact of the landfill. We appreciate this positive step in sharing this information with us as we move ahead toward the eventual closure of the site. We hope that you, our neighbours, will appreciate receiving advance information regarding the landfill operation.

- Some of you may be aware that as we move toward closing the landfill, we recently constructed a road along the southeastern end of the landfill, to provide the most efficient access to the final areas of the site for disposal. We've done this because the previous access through the middle of the landfill is now too steep a grade to allow access to this final area for infilling of the site.
- Grading also began this summer along the northeastern face of the landfill, inside the fence, to bring the slope more into line with what the anticipated rise and grade will be along the entire eastern edge of the landfill at closure. It is anticipated hydro-seeding will be done and vegetation will be planted with natural plants once the final capping is in place and top soil is added as each area is finished.

The Regional District and its contractor are operating the landfill under the conditions set out in the Operating Permit as approved by the Province in the 1970's. A copy of that document is available on the RDCO website landfill closure webpage (link below) via the link to the landfill closure plan which was approved by the Ministry of Environment in the early 90's. As we are sensitive to the proximity of the nearby residential area, we are taking additional measures to those required in the operating permit.

- At the end of each working day, a soil cover is put onto the surface of the area that has been compacted. As a result, during the spring and summer months, and as you are aware especially during several days last month, afternoon winds have been creating many challenges for RDCO staff and the landfill contractor regarding dust and blowing vector materials, especially since the working area of the landfill is now along the eastern side adjacent to the Alexandria Way property line. This is the last area that is being worked on and will be until the landfill is closed and no longer accepts materials for burial. In an attempt to reduce the impact on adjacent neighbours during the gusty winds, additional water was deployed to try and keep the dust down. An additional water truck was added to the equipment, again, to try and reduce the dust impact from

roads. We have also added wood chips to the road beds in an attempt to reduce dust and provide a firm base during wet weather.

- As you may be aware, prior to those wind events a full time employee was dedicated to picking up litter and other materials from the eastern slope of the landfill, the buffer area and along adjacent private properties. In an attempt to deal with the resulting materials spread by those gusty winds, two additional employees were hired to pick up vector materials over a three day period while winds were in the forecast. Since that weather event, we have kept two full time employees in place to conduct this important daily clean up operation. We anticipate this additional person will remain in place through the end of the summer.
- Also during July, in an attempt to reduce bird issues, landfill staff began using a hand-held 'screech' noise device. Although this appears to have helped in the short-term, we are not sure though whether this device will continue to be effective over the long term or whether the birds will become 'accustomed' to it. This has been the case in other landfill operations around the province.
- On Thursday July 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:05pm, the Regional District issued a news release to indicate that the landfill was closed that afternoon because of the strong winds and safety concerns for staff and customers in light of the fact that several trees were blown down in the area of the recycling station. Operation of the site resumed as normal at 7:30 am Friday, July 11th.
- From time to time you may see Septic Disposal trucks in the landfill property. Please be assured that there is no toxic waste disposed of in the landfill. Some of these septic trucks may be delivering fats, oils and grease from restaurants. When the Lake Country Waste Water Treatment facility needs assistance, some of these septic trucks use the direct connection from the Westside landfill to the Westside Waste Water Treatment Plant for discharge of their collected material. We do not and have not accepted septic wastes at the landfill. There are also trucks (about one a day) that deliver the dewatered sludge (dried solid material with a cake-like consistency) from the Waste Water Treatment Plant. When this is delivered for disposal, the material is bound with wood waste and buried immediately in the landfill. The Ogogrow facility in Vernon is expanding with the Central Okanagan-Kelowna and Vernon as partners and when this facility is completed, this sludge material will be sent there. Again, septic material is not disposed in the landfill.

The Regional District has set up a page on our website for information regarding the closure of the landfill and plans for future transfer station facility services. Here is the link:

[http://www.regionaldistrict.com/departments/engineering/engineering\\_wslandfill\\_yardwastecom.aspx](http://www.regionaldistrict.com/departments/engineering/engineering_wslandfill_yardwastecom.aspx)

The public consultation process got underway in May, involving a questionnaire that was directly mailed to each adjacent residence and was handed out to customers using the landfill during a two week period in June. It was also available at local government offices and via a link on the RDCO website Westside Landfill Closure webpage. In addition, a statistically valid random telephone survey was done involving residents in the District of Peachland, Westside District Municipality, Central Okanagan West Electoral Area and Westbank First Nation reserves, as they all are impacted by the landfill closure and future establishment of transfer station facility services and the associated costs, once the landfill is closed. We sent out news releases to indicate the process began in May with the most recent release advising that results have been received and are being compiled this summer, with the goal of moving toward a public information meeting in the fall to outline proposed transfer station facility plans for the site after the closure of the landfill.

We thank you again for your positive efforts and understanding and please know that the Regional District and its contractor appreciate your input and information.

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