



TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
RUBY ROAD WASTE DISPOSAL SITE CAPACITY EXPANSION
ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING PROCESS
PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT NO. 1



February 20, 2008 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Eagles Nest at the Eganville Arena

The Township of Bonnechere Valley appreciates your comments and input concerning the Ruby Road Waste Disposal Site Capacity Expansion Environmental Screening Process that is being conducted to determine the feasibility of a capacity expansion at the Ruby Road Waste Disposal Site.

The following is a summary of the results from the questionnaires submitted following Public Consultation Event No. 1

QUESTIONNAIRE

A total of 40 questionnaires were received and used in the following tabulations.

Please answer the following questions and provide any additional comments you feel are appropriate.

1. Do you reside in the Township of Bonnechere Valley:

[75%] Permanently [25%] Seasonally

2. How many people live in your household? **Average = 2.6 persons/household**

3. How did you hear about this event?

[7%] StarFM [2%] HeritageFM [2%] MyFM Pembroke [2%] MyFM Renfrew

[30%] Eganville Leader [0%] Barry's Bay This Week [75%] Word of Mouth [18%] Other: Neighbours Flyer

4. Do you agree that expansion of the waste disposal capacity at the Ruby Road site is the best solution to the Townships solid waste management needs?

[10%] Yes [73%] No [17%] Undecided

If no, why not?

- If all assessments are what is expected for everything to be at high levels of quality I then agree
- Pollution, property value decrease, tourism decrease, problem bear increase, noise pollution, light pollution, water aquifer damage, smell, road damage, road safety (increased traffic)
- Most of my concerns are environmental
- Need more info before making that decision
- I live close, it's too close to Golden Lake. The birds, racoons, bears that will carry garbage for miles. The smell that will carry for miles
- Not sure
- Public does not know about testing procedures
- Who am I to say? The job of the council is to look at the options as a business should, and decide long term and cost effectiveness as well the effects on the residents. There's always "NIMBY" syndrome and I'd hate to lose the cleanliness of our countryside



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- Site is far too close to Golden Lake which in recent years has shown obvious signs of environmental stress (i.e. fish population, algae blooms). If this area is to continue to be a tourist draw, an expansion to this site will have a severe negative impact!
- Depreciation of property, hazards to health, water etc. Noise, smell, heavy truck traffic, upkeep of roads (2)
- Undecided
- Too close to my farm plus too close to Golden Lake
- I live very close. I am very concerned with what it will do to the area.
- I live within a stones throw from this dump
- Pollution threat, loss of property value, increased traffic, environmental menace, total net cost. Also: Inadequate consideration of treatment alternatives (eg. Gasification has advanced to smaller scale economical operations – below 200 daily)
- Land is supposed to have clay at the base so that leachate is not a problem. Both ground water (Golden Lake plus at least 2 smaller lakes) and many private wells will be affected. Sand and swamp land surrounding it makes it unfeasible
- I don't think other options have been looked at – nor has there been input from other sources, including the tax payers
- There are better long term solutions available. Burying garbage is a short term solution, which will have long term repercussions. An incinerator may not seem as cost-effective initially, however if the township charges neighbouring townships/cities for incineration services, they could make money in the long-term. Non combustible materials can also be reduced to particulates and incorporated into paving materials.
- I am very disappointed to hear of the “possibility” that beautiful Ruby will be a dumping site for everyone else's garbage. It's a shame. There must be better solutions.
- This is an example of poor stewardship of township use of land that will impact negatively to future generations of residents and cottagers on beautiful lake headwaters to Eganville, surrounding communities and Ottawa River.
- The proposed waste site is just over 1.5 km from Golden Lake. This lake is probably the biggest tourist attraction in the Bonnechere Valley Township. A waste site this size, this close to the lake is detrimental to the survival of the lake.
- I own property adjacent to the proposed dump. My plan is to build a retirement home, over looking Golden Lake. My home would be overlooking a dump! If this goes through I am also very concerned in regards to the values of my property. As it has been in the O'Connor name for many generations. I have no choice but to see and find another property. Who would be responsible for my loss!
- Because it is the cheapest and quickest short term solution to the townships waste disposal it does nothing to encourage residents to compost, reuse and make purchasing decisions which involve the use of less packaging and less disposable products. Twenty-five years of the life of the expanded dump is not a long-term solution. We still expect to be living in the township at that time. Also – by offering the use of the dump to other townships we are also not encouraging them to use other means to divert their waste – we are offering them a place to dump everything. Landfill sites with no or limited waste diversion is a step backwards – not forwards.
- No is not entirely true. I believe it is part of the solution. Taking other townships garbage no! Why can we not have an organic collection as well perhaps with the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Program. What is Eganvilles Organic waste production. Mine's more than half of my garbage. I compost and am careful what I buy (i.e. can it be recycled). I produce about 1 bag a month of garbage – user pay – don't go for the cheapest way out – more composting or better recycling
- Too close to lake, too close to my area of lake (Skelly's Bay), too close to creek that runs into Skelly's Bay



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- In Canada we have been burying garbage because we have the land. This is harmful to the health of our people. Pollution free incineration has been used in Europe for years. Some Canadian communities (Ottawa) have experimental incinerators. Tap into some of the “green” funds being made available by governments. The Ruby Road area is pristine and not a dump area.
- I do not see any positive aspects to moving the waste disposal site to Ruby Road. It will have a negative impact on our property, the environment, the lake. It will increase traffic, noise levels, odour.
- This is no way a productive solution for our waste management needs. The Ruby Road site is small and cannot handle other communities waste. It will affect our property value, the environment surrounding it (Golden Lake), traffic noise levels, etc.
- I feel that this waste site is the worst solution. Too close to Golden Lake, not isolated enough, not good enough roads.
- I am concerned about the proximity of the site to Golden Lake and my cottage. We need to work to find a better solution.
- We are no different than other residents of the province, in that, dumping other garbage in our neighbourhood is not acceptable. We have a landfill site that was closed and converted to a transfer site and now we are talking of a new land fill site. Does not make sense to me. We should be progressing on this issue, not digressing. Explore other options.
- We in the township of South Algona do not want to leave an environmental mess as our carbon imprint! We live in a green environment over here in our center of the world. We have no industry! Wonderful wild life, birds, insects. We consider ourselves to be caretakers of the land and there is no place in it for a regressive solution such as this. We are supposed to be moving forward to save our planet and this would be a totally toxic mistake.
- Because I live right at the corner of Ruby, O'Connor and Wolfe Road and have no doubt I will be affected by the impact of a large waste site near me. Plus I have not seen the research regarding the other options and I do not wish to take the word of the council that it is the best. It might be the most convenient option but I do not think it is the best. In the future, we will have to deal with even more waste and digging holes in the earth will stop being an answer. Why not think outside the box, outside the township and see if there are some better options out there!
- Too many residents too close to dump. Too high a potential for pollution of water table. Council has not explored all other options. The people of S. Algona are against this solution. We don't trust Cambium to act in our best interest. Council is not listening.
- Devalue our property value. Seepage into wells and lake. Damage to Ruby Road from trucks. Noise. Odour.



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5. What level of concern do you have regarding potential impacts to the natural environment from landfilling operations at the Ruby Road Waste Disposal Site? **(number of people who responded = 38)**

[**84%**] Very Concerned [**13%**] Concerned [**3%**] Not Very Concerned [**0%**] No Concerns

If you are concerned, which aspects concern you the most?

Aspect	Number of People Who Responded	Very Concerned	Concerned	Not Very Concerned	No Concerns
Groundwater Impacts	38	[97%]	[3%]	[0%]	[0%]
Surface Water Impacts	37	[86%]	[11%]	[3%]	[0%]
Biological Impacts	38	[87%]	[8%]	[3%]	[3%]
Traffic Impacts	35	[74%]	[11%]	[9%]	[6%]
Noise	33	[55%]	[18%]	[18%]	[9%]
Litter, Debris, etc.	36	[69%]	[25%]	[6%]	[0%]
Odour	36	[78%]	[11%]	[8%]	[3%]
Public Safety	34	[56%]	[29%]	[12%]	[3%]
Aesthetics	32	[63%]	[15%]	[13%]	[3%]
Property Value	35	[80%]	[13%]	[3%]	[3%]
Other: Cost, Wildlife	6	[100%]	[0%]	[0%]	[0%]

Comments:

- There are alternatives that haven't been considered
- All these items should prove that it is not a good area for a dump
- Really my biggest worry is that the quiet countryside we live in will become loud with traffic and garbage littering the sides of the road, more so than is already occurring
- Close proximity to Golden Lake and several streams and ponds. Affecting neighbours property values and the quality of life
- On the topic of odour alone, I will say this: in the early 80's the current waste-site was operating as a landfill and although it was only one acre (or less) the smell during the summer months was overwhelming. If a 1 acre landfill smelled back then, a one acre landfill will smell just as bad today (and you can imagine what it will be like as it expands towards that 80 acre capacity)
- With Golden Lake so close, I am concerned of the impact the dump could have on the water. Also, I certainly don't like the idea of my little ones smelling garbage at every visit to Grandpa's farm.
- The decision to expand this site, excluding all others seems to have been rushed by arbitrary time restraints that appear to be self imposed
- We have been planning for retirement on Golden Lake within the next two years only to discover you want to put a dump so close to our lot in prime cottage country?
- The effects of the proposed waste site will not only affect the environment immediately, but long-term effects will be devastating to Golden Lake



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- I strongly believe there was no communication with property owners to fully give them an opportunity to back this
- There is an abundance of crown property in this area. A dump can be found where there is no impact on the payers.
- I do not think because this is the cheapest option this is what we should do. I'm concerned that we are looking for a cheap way out. "Hey lets dig a hole and throw it in". I'm proud to say that at least we don't just burn it in a big pile anymore. Les for a little further and be more responsible.
- Creek that runs into Skelly's Bay
- My farm and cottage but the proposed land. Creeks that come from the buffer zone, flow through our farm, into Golden Lake! This can't be environmentally safe!
- Infrastructure, effect on roadways that are already below standards, proper operation of site, control of garbage dumped at site.
- This 80 acre parcel is an original pioneer farm. It makes me cringe to think what those immigrants went through to clear that land and try to make a living and a wholesome way of life. "Leave it be!"
- Roads are terrible now. Most are like roller coasters from the bumps.

6. What level of confidence do you have that the Environmental Screening Process will serve to adequately protect the natural environment from potential impacts resulting from the expansion of capacity at the Ruby Road Waste Disposal Site? **(number of people who responded = 38)**

[3%] Very Confident [18%] Confident [50%] Not Very Confident [29%] No Confidence

Comments:

- Similar processes have been pushed through with obvious environmental impacts
- Council members are talking about it as a "done deal" and dismissing objections as "NIMBY whiners". It seems as if consultations are pro-forma, just to tick it off "to do" lists (having listened to the presentation, I am more convinced than ever that council considers this a done deal and consultations are window dressing)
- The fact that so many areas will be studied puts worries to rest but all results must be listened to by members of the council and made available to the public
- I live less than a mile from the dump and its uphill for me
- Golden Lake is in close proximity. Ruby Road is in poor condition and cannot handle any more traffic
- PLASMA GASIFICATION!
- Politics and Environmental Screening Process are too closely affiliated to make adequate judgements
- To my understanding, the screening process will be evaluating the environmental impact of only the first stage of the landfill expansion (i.e. a small fraction of the proposed 80 acres). If they were evaluating the project based on a worst-case scenario for the entire 80-acre property I would have a bit more faith
- Beautiful Ruby should be left the way it is "a little piece of heaven for all of us here on earth"
- Given the documented pollution levels experienced at Lake Clear from the waste disposal site there, I am reluctant to place much trust in elected officials and their representatives in being environmentally concerned custodians of those valuable assets.
- Run off from surface water and ground water zone of influence empties into the very creek that runs right past the lot I plan to build on and drill my well
- I have about as much confidence in the Environmental Screening Process as the people in Walkerton now have!



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- Visit any existing dump!
- I understand wanting to save money on procedures, however the environment! Our home. I don't care what environmental study is done, there is no guarantee that anyone can give to predict the unpredictables. Can you guarantee me, my children, my grandchildren. If you can I'd like to see it in writing.
- This seems to be a rushed process where mistakes will be made. It has not been properly addressed to the public to date, how can we trust it now?
- People tend to cheat to disposal sites, throwing garbage over fence, when close etc. This can't be taken into account when doing studies.
- I do not understand the process. In the February 20/08 presentation there was one slide that showed the alternatives (slide 11). There was not enough detail provided to show why Ruby Road site was optimum.
- Ground water is a major concern. Can it be guaranteed that this water will not be contaminated. Surface water run off to where. Strict dumping regulations. Pest control. Aesthetics a must.
- No confidence at all. The first "plastic" bag to go in the ground will be the beginning of a toxic legacy that will find its way into our water systems and end up in Golden Lake itself. A dump by any other name is still a dump!

7. How can we best provide additional information to keep you informed about the Ruby Road Waste Disposal Site Capacity Expansion Environmental Screening Process?

- | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|-----------------|---------|---------|
| [33%] | Open Houses | [60%] | Newsletters | [48%] | Email |
| [45%] | Media Releases | [70%] | Public Meetings | [58%] | Website |
| [20%] | Other: Mass mailing, waste site bulletin boards, in our tax bill, local paper, flyers in the mail | | | | |

8. Please provide any additional comments you may have, in the space below *(please feel free to use the back of this sheet if necessary)*.

- If this site is chosen it should only be for the waste generated by residents of Bonnechere Valley
- This whole process is far too much advanced. There should have been news letters with our tax bills. Look at how many seasonal res that know nothing about this
- Does the public get a chance to approve proposed expansion of the dump other than the 10 acres they propose at this time – and not say you approved it as a dump regardless of size
- When advertising in the Leader don't make it look like every severance ad that's in there. Add an article that makes it stand out and people can see it
- In the future it would be a bit more polite not to chuckle and shake your head as people speak. Everyone has the right to their opinions and pride in their heritage
- The dump in Pikwakanagan has a very finite life due to our expanding population and no available land to expand our present dump site. This size is not suitable due to proximity to water feeding the bonnechere and should be closed ASAP
- They don't seem to matter
- Consultation requires study groups with public participation from all concerned groups – eg. Summer residents, non excluded (first meeting in February, next one in November???) on a regular on going basis until objections are met



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- There are several tourist areas less than 2 kilometres from this site. Also, Ruby Road was built on top of swamp land and has a history of destroying the road surface during winter conditions. Heavy trucks running more often along this road will exacerbate this problem. Obviously more tests are needed, more numbers need to be crunched. Please check ALL figures and ALL possibilities
- Exploring the option appears to have ended without even starting. This consultation needs to be open to explore alternate solutions and re-exploring closed doors if information is presented. The process of delivering this questionnaire and the awareness of the consultation to South Algona and Bonnechere Valley citizens is unacceptable. Very few individuals receive the Eganville Leader within the South Algona area which is immediately affected (notice of Nov '07 meeting). The consultation meeting was held in Nov. '07 (hunting season), cottage season has ended. No mail out of notice of meeting to taxpayers and local property owners. It appears very strategic.
- The lack of proper communication on this very important decision is very disturbing and unacceptable. Not every person reads the Eganville Leader!
- Regarding truck traffic, the township can barely afford to maintain Ruby Road as it is. How do you suppose the road will hold up under the increased traffic and heavy vehicles?
- More information and public meeting should occur before any more money is spent or decisions are made
- As seasonal residents we were not informed about the planned waste disposal at all. We would have attended the meeting had we known about it
- The checklist downloaded off the site – it is all the x's that appear in the YES column that cause me concern
- Why don't you see how many people want to join the recovery programs \$660 a tonne. I'll pay my share. It's time we all get with it and go down a better path. So what if that path costs more. You make (garbage) you pay for it. No more free ride.
- It is very "short sighted" to continue the practices of the past by burying garbage.
- Golden Lake is probably the biggest tourist attraction, next to the village of Eganville in the township. You are going to let this become a pollution area, for the sake of a few tax dollars!
- The city of Ottawa has worked with PlascoEnergy (www.plascoenergygroup.com) to implement and incinerator at Trail Road Facility. Why not work with other towns in the area and centrally locate an incinerator (Pembroke, Eganville, Petawawa, etc.)
- We are also concerned about the negative impact this dump could have on tourism. This is a dollar value that has implications for the whole township, not just South Algona
- In this particular case, why are we digressing and not progressing? What do the residents of this area in close proximity to the proposed site gain? Are you absolutely positive this is the way to go?
- As you may have guessed, I am totally opposed to an environmental mistake such as this one. I realize we all have garbage problems but we must work together to find another solution.
- I wish the phone call that came a week ago would have come in 2006. I think that making sure the population close to dump site was aware of what was happening would have been a good move. The presentation told me clearly that you were there first to tell us what was happening and that the second consultation will tell us how you will be dealing with problems and done deal. As was said, dealing with us as angry people or dealing with another bunch of angry people is the same. The dump has to go somewhere. We in case you did not hear us at the meeting – it is not coming here – there are other options! 1. Plasma Burning – let's research that as a solution involving other townships so that it would possibly solve their own problems regarding waste sites. 2. Gasification – we might be able to find a system which will work for us. Let's look into it. There are many others but I would like to focus on options which do not keep digging hole and bury waste in our "mother-earth" which sustains us all, whether we look at it this way or not. I would like a solution which is best for S.Algoona, Bonnechere Valley and maybe, why not, other townships or the country. It's time



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to be progressive. The technology is there. We could be an example. Cheaper is not always better. People seem to be willing to pay more to maintain quality of environment. To finish, I would like to say that if for a moment you put yourself in our shoes and imagine the dump next street to you – you might be more able to relate and more willing to look at a solution that is in the best interest of all – not only the majority. I realize we are a small voice, although one with less garbage, in the township and it would solve the majority of the people's problem but there are other ways to do business and the world is moving towards win-win solutions. We just have to go outside the box.

- Other options must be explored. Working with the people. Council should listen to S. Algona residents and start to move away from this waste option. Move on to something else. There are other options that need to be seriously looked at. Options: 1. Plasma burning – get L.V. involved in this clean solution. It can be win win for all of us. 2. Greenfield – although council could seem to find their research on Greenfields and no one knew where the researched Greenfield was, the difference in cost compared to the Ruby site may be acceptable weighted against the impact of social, environmental, transportation and other issues such as property values, polluted well water and the will of the people. 3. Gasification – despite what your Cambium rep says, there are smaller systems now available. There is a huge working farm in Westmeath with one in place and working. Sound like it's just about the perfect size for Bonnechere Valley's waste. Find out! We'll help to make corrections and get informed. 4. Reopen the old Ruby waste site – this would take care of all S. Algona waste up to 5 years and buy us time to do the research to put the best option to work. 5. Work with our Algonquin neighbours – Merv Sarazin's proposal was viable. Get on it! Talk to their people! Council seems to be stuck on the Ruby option. It's archaic putting trash in the ground and covering it up is a poor and temporary solution. Move on! Set an example! Be tenders! The proposed Ruby site will not work as long term solution!

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.