

Trash initiatives mean less burning needed

Letters to the Editor
Jul 11, 2007 11:50 PM

Re: York needs to take action, ownership in trash dilemma, editorial, June 28.

As a part of the Durham/York Residual Waste Environmental Assessment Study, a number of changes, aimed to better suit Durham and York, have been made in recent months to the memorandum of understanding between the two regions.

York Region is investing in the proposed facility for the waste capacity it will need and has committed 20,000 tonnes of residual waste to the facility per year.

The 20,000 tonnes is not restricted to a put-or-pay clause and represents capacity needed to manage waste until 2022.

York will send less garbage than Durham to the proposed facility because York has alternative methods included in its long-term solid waste management plans to handle residual waste, including diversion programs, the Green Lane Landfill and the Dongara Pelletization project.

The amount of residual waste needed at the incinerator after all these programs are taken into consideration is 20,000 tonnes per year.

York Region has committed to divert a minimum of 65 per cent of York's waste by 2010. We have and continue to invest in our waste diversion programs by:

- Investing more than \$12.8 million in the blue box, green bin and yard waste programs for 2007;
- Introducing the green bin program to all nine local municipalities by September 2007;
- Providing four household hazardous waste depots across York Region for residents to drop off harmful household products and electronic waste;
- Banning plastic bags for yard waste;
- Developing a network of community environmental centres for residents to drop off items such as clothing, appliances, electronics and scrap metal (first centre to open in Vaughan in 2008) and;
- Expanding frequency of reuse events in partnership with Goodwill Industries and Habitat for Humanity.

For more information, visit www.york.ca

Bill Fisch
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