

## **Region releases Brock landfill plan**

Mon Oct 29, 2007

by erin hatfield

DURHAM -- The Province has ordered Durham to fix leachate from the Brock Township Landfill, but the details of the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) have been kept under wraps - until now.

"People have been looking for information and now that we have finalized it we are putting that information out there," said Cliff Curtis, the Region's commissioner of works. "We have been keeping the whole thing fairly quiet while we were talking to the Ministry (of the Environment). Now that we are proceeding we are trying to get the information out."

In 1974, the Region took over the ownership and operation of the 40.5-hectare site. The Province, in October 2006, ordered the Region to address on-and-off-site impacts related to its operation, which required the Region to develop and submit an RAP and Site Operations Report (SOR).

"Basically we got an order to do something about the leachate migration," Mr. Curtis said.

Mirka Januszkiewicz, Durham's director of waste management services, explained the leachate, polluted liquid that drains from a landfill, has moved beyond the Region's property line.

"You can see it on an adjacent property, visible stains from the leachate migration," she said. "It's in the surface water."

There are no drinking water wells in the vicinity, but Ms. Januszkiewicz said, without the execution of the RAP the leachate would move more and more.

"That is why we need to stop this," she said. "If it was not addressed this could impact ground water and eventually could impact everyone around."

Durham Region submitted the RAP to the ministry for review and consideration in January, as required by the order. After meeting with the ministry on several occasions, Mr. Curtis said the Region is proceeding with the implementation of all the elements of the RAP and SOR.

The plan included optimizing the remaining capacity, 850,000 tonnes of garbage, but according to Ms. Januszkiewicz, Regional Council only approved bringing in 80,000 tonnes of garbage and 40,000 tonnes of daily cover, which will be used to

shape the landfill. It will then be covered before a leachate collection system is put in.

"Every layer of waste has to be covered with a clean material that in the end there will be a dome that will steer the leachate and prevent it from going through the waste," Ms. Januszkiewicz explained. "It will be collected and tested and if it meets requirements then it will be discharged to the water course."

Mr. Curtis said the plan was sent to the ministry and seems acceptable so the Region is proceeding. According to Mr. Curtis, a community liaison group will be set up with regard to the work being done.

"If we want to check the pulse of the community we will go through them," he said. "We are hoping to get the group rolled out by the beginning of next year."

As well, a public information centre is being planned for sometime in November. More information is available at [www.region.durham.on.ca/brocktownshiplandfill](http://www.region.durham.on.ca/brocktownshiplandfill).