



# The Napanee Beaver Letters

INDEPENDENT AND LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1870

## Landfill concerns haven't been addressed

**C**oncerned citizens recently launched a campaign to 'Close the Richmond Landfill.' In response, Waste Management made statements to the press that I feel require a response.

Contrary to Waste Management claims, Ministry of the Environment scientists do have concerns with this site. Earlier this year, a Ministry report stated that "significant contaminant migration could occur" and that the hydrogeological model proposed by Waste Management is "unacceptable." MOE memos from 2007 express concerns with the groundwater monitoring program and cite a risk of surface water contamination. Ministry reports and recent statements from MOE staff reveal that they do not understand the groundwater flow beneath the Richmond Landfill. In 2006, a Ministry Review concluded that "the landfill is a potential source of groundwater contamination in a susceptible sub-surface environment." This does not sound like a ministry with no concerns.

Waste Management also stated that there is no evidence that offsite contamination is occurring. Once again, experts would disagree. This year, the residents' hydrogeologist cited "strong evidence that surface water contamination is occurring" and he estimates that "50 per cent of the landfill's waste footprint is leaking into the groundwater flow system." Ministry staff themselves have noted strong odors near the site. In 2006, Queen's Toxicologist Dr. Forkert stated that "odors may act as markers for toxicologically significant exposures" of harmful chemicals in landfill gas. Also in 2006, a MOE hydrogeologist expressed concern about the "quantity and environmental fate of leachate entering the subsurface through the site's operational history." Most recently, scientific consultants found elevated levels of leachate indicators in offsite groundwater samples.

Given that the Ministry of the Environment itself has identified the clear risks posed by this landfill, their inaction is of serious concern. It's time for the ministry to fulfill its responsibility to the people of this province by closing the dump now.

Mike Bossio,  
Chairman of The Concerned Citizens of Tyendinaga and Environs

## Hunters missed mark at Varty Lake

On opening day of duck hunting, my husband and I were enjoying our day watching a lone swan on the west end of Varty Lake. After getting my camera, I decided I would take some pictures. We don't very often get the chance to view swans on the lake so seeing one is a privilege for us.

It wasn't long until we heard what we thought were hunters returning after an early morning hunt. We watched the camouflaged boat come around a point of land and to our horror head right for the swan. Thinking they were just going to scare it up we kept watching the swan. When they got close enough they started shooting at it from their moving boat.

After scaring it away (hopefully it wasn't hurt) the hunters turned around and went back where they had originally come from.

I find this very disturbing. I don't have a problem with hunters hunting geese or ducks. Heaven knows we have a problem with geese and a few less of them to make a mess on our lawns would be great. But shooting at a swan really shows what some hunters have between their ears. I guess they could use the excuse that they thought it was a snow goose but I've never seen a snow goose as large as this swan was or with such a long neck.

I know there are a lot of very responsible duck hunters out there and this is not aimed at them. I come from a family with a large number of hunters but they know what is legal and what isn't when they are hunting. But I can't believe they give licences to people who can't tell the difference between a swan and a goose.

I guess some people think that living in the country gives them the right to go out and kill anything they want. It would be a shame to let just a few of God's creatures survive in what must be a very difficult world for them.

I have to wonder if this swan's mate has met a hunter in its travels.

Lillie Strain,  
Stone Mills