



The Napanee Beaver Local News

INDEPENDENT AND LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1870

Screen Time

*'Dump The Dump'
campaigners demand
Richmond site be shut
down immediately*

Landfill opponents push for closure

By Dominik Wisniewski
BEAVER STAFF WRITER



Dominik Wisniewski - Staff

Mike Bossio (left), chair of the Concerned Citizens of Tyendinaga and Environs, speaks at a meeting at Empey Hill United Church on Monday while Jeff Whan captures it all on his videocamera.

With expectations of another possible Richmond landfill expansion proposal in the works, members of the Concerned Citizens of Tyendinaga and Environs have launched a campaign calling for the immediate closure of the site.

Approximately 35 group members gathered at Empey Hill Church on Monday, where speculation about a possible expansion and other concerns were expressed.

Although he said he believes a lot of people in the area think it's 'a dead issue' after 2006, when the Ministry of the Environment rejected Waste Management's six-fold expansion proposal, Community Outreach Co-ordinator Craig Frayne pointed out that group members believe their work to close the landfill will be starting up again.

"On Nov. 3, 2006 the Minister of the Environment rejected a dump expansion proposal at this site. In spite of this Waste Management has decided to keep the dump open and has told us that they intend on making another application for an expansion this fall," he said. "We do not yet know exactly what that will entail but we expect it will contain things like waste-to-energy, composting and recycling. It may also be a smaller (expansion) proposal than was previously applied for."

With a number of key opposition players at the table, including Chief R. Donald Maracle of Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, Reeve Margaret Walsh of Tyendinaga Township, and Richard Lindgren, the Canadian Environment Law Association lawyer representing concerned citizens, Frayne said that this is an issue that will have an impact on all facets of the community. "This is something that affects the economic well-being and health of this community, and the environment" he told those gathered. "People have to know how it will affect them directly, so members of the concerned citizens will be available and willing to discuss that with people."

Calling for the immediate closure of the site and a proper monitoring plan, Maracle said the group's concerns remain the same. "It's about the protection of the ground water, the surface water and the air quality. We believe the testing that has been done to date has been lacking in many areas and needs to be corrected," he said. "The MOE needs to provide stronger supervision of the Richmond landfill site."

Looking back on the 10 years that her community has been involved with the group, Walsh said that members have had enough. "This landfill should be closed immediately because there are people living near this landfill, depending on their wells for water, and many are even buying their own drinking water," she said. "They need good water for their animals as well, so the sooner it's closed properly the better we'll be."

Also representing local citizens for a decade in what he called 'the landfill fight,' Lindgren said that he would again lend his support for the community's call to have the site permanently closed. "In 2006 the Minister of the Environment did the right thing by turning down