

OTTER LAKE NEWS

Bill 176 - The Otter Lake Act | Waste/Resource Society AGM

Halifax Waste/Resource Society AGM

The Halifax Waste/Resource Society will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on June 27, 2016 at 6 PM at the Lakeside Community Centre.

The Society is integral to effective oversight of the Otter Lake landfill. Each year, members of the Society, which is open to anyone living in HRM, elects a Board of 9 Directors, who also sit on the Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee.

People are encouraged to join the Society and elect, or stand for election to, the Board of Directors. Membership is only \$5 per year, and the membership form can be found at <http://www.otterlakecmc.ca> under the Waste/Resource Society tab. Simply download the form, fill it in and send it according to the directions on the form.



No Expansion of Otter Lake Landfill

The Nova Scotia Legislature has passed legislation that prevents Halifax Regional Municipality from increasing the size of the Otter Lake Landfill from the original dimensions approved by Nova Scotia Environment (NSE).

Bill 176 - The Otter Lake Landfill Act was introduced by MLA Iain Rankin and was unanimously supported by the members of the Legislature. It received Royal Assent on May 20, 2016 and is now law.

The effect of the legislation is to ensure that the landfill is not increased in size, either by building it higher, or by building more cells, than originally approved when the landfill was approved in 1997. That means that there will be no more than 9 cells built, and the height will not be any higher than 113 metres above sea level.

Halifax Regional Municipality applied to Nova Scotia



What is Your Recycling Personality?

The Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee has a fun quiz on its website that will allow you to determine your recycling personality.

In the quiz you are presented with several different materials, and asked to identify if they are supposed to go into the recycling bin, the compost bin or the garbage. After answering the questions, your responses are analyzed to determine what your recycling personality is, according to your success rate.

Check it out, it's free and it's fun:
<http://otterlakecmc.ca/?p=267>.

Halifax Recycles App

We are big fans of the Halifax Recycles App. It tells you what goes where in the recycling, green bin and garbage containers, and even reminds you of your collection day and what is being collected. All on your smartphone.

Download it for iPhone and Android.

Environment to increase the height of the landfill in December of 2015. The application for a height increase was withdrawn after Nova Scotia Environment returned the application for being incomplete. Although Council directed staff not to resubmit the application, HRM had not precluded applying for an increase at a later date.

Bill 176 brings clarity to the situation by setting the size of the landfill in law.

Council Concerned with Passage of Bill 176

HRM Council took offence to Bill 176, and the speed in which it passed through the Legislature.

Many Councillors expressed frustration that HRM was not adequately consulted on the Bill.

Councillors also objected to what they saw as interference by the Province in the municipality's affairs, and passed a motion for the Mayor to write to the Province to express Council's disappointment with the matter.

The discussion at Council revealed that many Councillors expected that the landfill would be built higher at some time in the future. It also revealed a desire to attract the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) waste back to Otter Lake at a later date with a competitive tipping fee. In 2015 Council changed its waste management by-law to allowed ICI waste to be exported to other landfills in the Province.

Landfill Expected to Last 40 Years

Export of Industrial, Commercial and Institutional waste and the success of the Clear Bag program in reducing residential waste has resulted in a large reduction of waste buried at the Otter Lake landfill.

Currently, the landfill is receiving about 50,000 tonnes annually, down from approximately 140,000 tonnes in previous years. That represents a 65% decrease.

With less waste going in to the landfill, it will take many more years to fill the landfill than expected. With about 2,500,000 tonnes capacity left at Otter Lake, it will likely operate for at least another 40 years.



About Us

The Halifax Waste-Resource Society is a registered Society comprising residents of HRM.

In 1999, HRM and Halifax Waste-Resource Society entered into an agreement which established the Community Monitoring Committee, which is tasked with overseeing the landfill operations.

HWRS Directors

The Halifax Waste-Resource Society has 9 volunteer Directors, elected by members of the Society. They also sit on the Community Monitoring Committee.

Currently, the Directors are:

Jack Mitchell, Chair
 Scott Guthrie, Vice-Chair
 Bob Angus
 Mike Becigneul
 John Cascadden
 Lindsay Gates
 Andrew Giles
 Murray Power
 Tom Robertson

Cell 7 Expected to be Open By October

Mirror Nova Scotia expects to have the next cell of the landfill, Cell 7 of 9, open by October 2016, before the current cell is full.

Cell 7 will be constructed in two parts, 7A and 7B. 7B will be constructed at a later date when 7A begins to fill up. This approach is not unusual, the first cell at the landfill was also built in two sections. Doing so enables the cell to be open sooner.

There had been previous concerns that Cell 7 would not be ready when Cell 6 was full. Last Fall, HRM approved a contingency plan which allowed for waste from the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Sector to be banned from the landfill in order to extend the life of cell 6. However, the establishment of a transfer station at Otter Lake has diverted all non-residential waste to other landfills, which has extended the life of Cell 6.

New Community Monitoring Website Launched

The Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee has launched a new website to keep the members of the community more informed, faster. The user-friendly site features:

- A News section
- A slideshow illustrating Otter Lake landfill operations
- Information on Community Monitoring and who is on the Community Monitoring Committee
- Links to information on curbside collection in HRM
- Integration with Facebook and Twitter
- Links to other community organizations

Visit www.otterlakecmc.ca.

Recycling News

Textile, Polystyrene Recycling Collection Added in Colchester

Residents of Colchester County now have more opportunities to recycle than ever before. And with the addition of textiles to the curbside recycling program on May 1st, residents are able to, as the CBC said, recycle the sock the dryer didn't eat.

Old clothes, shoes, linen and even stuffed toy animals were added to the recycling stream after the success of a pilot collection project the County ran recently. This was after they added styrofoam recycling on April 1st.

County officials estimate that about 4,000 tonnes of textiles have been going into the landfill every year.

The addition of textiles to the collection stream followed the introduction of polystyrene (Styrofoam™) on April 1st.

While these materials are not part of the curbside recycling collection program in HRM, residents can donate their textiles at community donation bins. There are over 500 in Nova Scotia, with many of them in HRM, often conveniently located in high traffic areas like shopping centres and Enviro-Depots. Information on accepted donations and where bins can be found is available at afterwear.ca.

Sign Up For Future Newsletters

Make sure you don't miss any news. Subscribe to have future newsletters sent to your email inbox at www.otterlakecmc.ca.

Contact us:

Facebook: "Halifax Waste-Resource Society"

Phone: (902) 482-4575

Email: info@otterlakecmc.ca

Food Waste - The Next Frontier?

There currently is an increased focus on reducing food waste in waste management circles. In the past, efforts have been focused on diverting food waste from the landfill to green bins and backyard composters. But now, solid waste managers and even food retailers are focusing on reducing wasted food.

Efforts are being made to educate consumers on food storage, using up leftovers, and teaching some lost skills, such as making stock from vegetables and leftover meat. Some UK grocery stores even have online apps that help you to find a recipe by typing in what you have in your fridge that you would like to use up.

You can check out the online app at Sainsbury's at www.sainsburysfoodrescue.co.uk.