

Community Monitoring Committee Report Card

REPORT CARD

From: Community Monitoring Committee
To: The Communities We Serve

- A** The state of the environment around the landfill
- A** Our relationship with our partner on the ground—the operator of the landfill
- B** Our relationship with those we serve—the local communities
- A** Our relationship with the department of environment—our provincial partner
- C** Our relationship with the owner of the landfill—the Halifax Regional Municipality

More details inside



Aerial view of Cell 7 construction.

Our Responsibility

The Community Monitoring Committee (CMC) oversees the operation of the Otter Lake Landfill on behalf of the local affected communities of Lakeside, Beechville, Timberlea and Prospect Road. As part of this responsibility, we are dedicated to engaging with these communities, keeping them informed on landfill developments and addressing their concerns. As an independent committee, we have the ability to raise these concerns with both the municipal and provincial governments, and all other stakeholders, to ensure the health and safety of the communities we serve.

Making Progress On Our Plan

Last year, the CMC developed a new strategic plan to guide us through 2017. Our goal was to increase and enhance communications with Mirror, the Otter Lake Landfill operator, with Nova Scotia Environment and, most important of all, with the local affected communities. We are pleased to say we have made considerable progress since then, including:

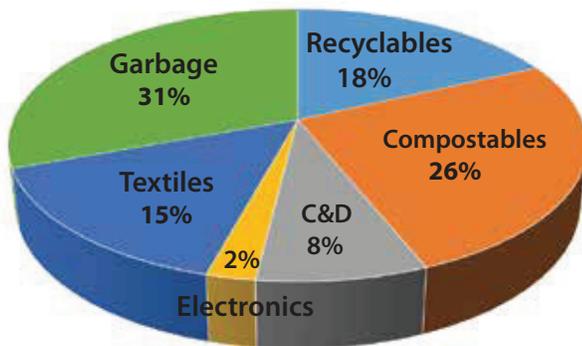
- **Greater transparency with the community**
Our new website, quarterly newsletters, use of social media and our mailing list have resulted in more effective and timely communication of landfill developments.
- **Improved communications and reporting with Mirror**
We have encouraged Mirror to join in our meetings, expanded opportunities for ongoing communication, pushed for regular reporting of waste data and are regularly reviewing landfill operations.
- **Enhanced relationship with the municipality**
We have reviewed council's representation on our committee, developed new procedures that strengthen reporting, and we are working to build stronger relationships with council members and staff.
- **Reviewed founding legal agreements**
We have ensured these agreements still enable us to meet the responsibilities that we have to our communities.
- **Revamped CMC structure and operations**
We have reviewed and refined the role of our Executive Director, increased public access to meetings and minutes, established a budget and related reports, and have reviewed our policies for hiring consultants.

What's In Our Waste

While the Halifax Regional Municipality is a leader in recycling and composting, we believe there is more we can do to reduce the waste going to the Otter Lake Landfill. Your Community Monitoring Committee (CMC) is doing its part, not just by working with you and all our stakeholders to raise awareness, but also through audits of the waste at the landfill facility from homes, businesses and other organizations in the area.



Business Waste Chart

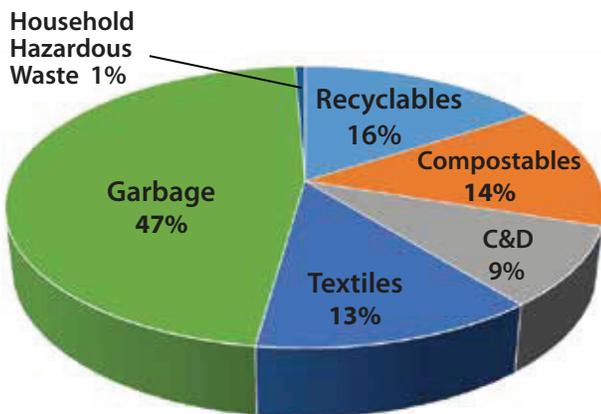


In December 2016, we conducted our first ever waste audit and this is what we discovered:

More than half of the residential waste going to the Otter Lake Landfill should have been diverted

- 16% was recyclable
- 14% was compostable
- 13% was textiles or clothing, which can be donated to charities by using bins like the ones at your local grocery store
- 9% was construction and demolition waste

Residential Waste Chart



More than 70 per cent of all business and industrial waste should have been diverted

- 18% was recyclable
- 28% was compostable
- 15% was textiles
- 10% was construction and demolition waste and electronics

The CMC will continue to do audits to measure our progress and we will share the results with you. To find out how you can help reduce waste, please visit Halifax.ca or download the HFXRecycles app from Google Play or the iTunes Store for quick, convenient advice at your fingertips.



CMC members tour Otter Lake Landfill.

Otter Lake Landfill – A Year in Review Cell 7 expansion

Mirror has begun building a new containment cell—the seventh of nine cells that are planned for the landfill site. The first section, known as 7A, has been completed and has been accepting waste since January 2017. In summer 2017, Cell 6 will be closed, capped and seeded with grass.

Landfill site capped by province

Thanks in part to the efforts of local MLA Iain Rankin, the provincial government unanimously passed a bill (Bill 176 – Otter Lake Landfill Act) that limits the landfill's size and height based on the original agreement—nine cells no taller than 113 metres above sea level. This means that the municipality will not be increasing the landfill's height by 15 metres or adding nine additional cells as it once considered.

Transfer station opens

In March 2016, a new transfer station opened that helps make transportation of industrial, commercial and institutional waste to other landfills less expensive and more environmentally friendly. The new station will also reduce the hours small hauling companies spend on the roads so they can handle more pickups.

Site tour

Members of the CMC toured the Otter Lake Landfill facilities in February 2016 to view the new transfer station and see how construction was proceeding on Cell 7.

Site tonnage changes

Due to regulatory changes made by the municipality, there has been a significant decrease in the amount of waste going to the Otter Lake Landfill. Industrial, commercial and institutional waste can now be hauled to landfills outside the Halifax Regional Municipality, instead of being buried at Otter Lake. And the amount of residential waste going to the landfill has decreased by 24 per cent, thanks to the municipality's clear bags policy.

Timeline of Events

January 2016

Mirror signs a new contract to operate the Otter Lake Landfill and the CMC takes on an enhanced monitoring role

March 2016

The new transfer station opens at the landfill, resulting in more efficient handling of waste

May 2016

The province decides there will be no expansion of the landfill beyond the original approved size

September 2016

Construction begins on the seventh cell at the landfill. Two more cells will be added before it closes

November 2016

Reg Rankin is hired as the new Executive Director of the CMC

December 2016

The CMC conducts the first waste audit of the landfill, identifying opportunities for improvements

Your CMC

We are pleased to introduce you to the 15-member CMC Board of Directors:

HRM Council (appoints six members)

- Mayor Mike Savage
- District 11 Councillor Stephen Adams
- District 12 Councillor Richard Zurawski
- District 13 Councillor Matt Whitman
- 2 Residents appointed by Council (both currently vacant)

Halifax Waste-Resource (non-profit) Society (appoints nine members)

- John Cascadden (Chair of CMC)
- Scott Guthrie (Vice-Chair of CMC)
- Bob Angus
- Frank Johnston
- Peter Lund
- Lindsay Gates
- Andrew Giles
- Murray Power
- Tom Robertson



Garbage truck unloads at transfer station.



Waste is loaded onto larger trucks to be transferred to other landfills.

Subscribe to Our Newsletter

We started a quarterly electronic newsletter to keep you up to date on developments with the Otter Lake Landfill. Visit www.otterlakecmc.ca to subscribe.

Join Us For Our Open Mic Meeting

Have questions about the Otter Lake Landfill, its management or the impacts of its operations on your community?

Please join us for our Open Mic Meeting on March 9, 2017 at the Prospect Road Community Centre, 2141 Prospect Rd, Halifax, at 6:30 PM. Refreshments will be served.

A Message From Our Chair

"This past year was one of change for the Otter Lake Landfill, and for us at the Community Monitoring Committee. The landfill operator, Mirror, signed a new contract to operate the site. We have helped reduce the amount of waste being buried by two-thirds. We have taken on a larger role in monitoring the operation of the landfill. We have also been more active in engaging communities and communicating our activities. This report card is part of that effort.

Our commitment to you remains unchanged: we will continue to keep you informed on all developments at the Otter Lake Landfill, and we are honoured to represent you and your interests, ensuring your well-being, both now and in the years to come."

John Cascadden

Chair
Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee

Subscribe to Our Newsletter

You can subscribe to our newsletter at
www.otterlakecmc.ca



The Otter Lake Landfill is recognized as one of the most advanced in the world and has attracted visitors from around the globe.