

Dump this dump 2 ramps up as landfill site chosen near Carlsbad Springs

BY TOM VAN DUSEN, OTTAWA SUN

FIRST POSTED: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 09, 2013 06:03 PM EST | UPDATED: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2013 02:24 PM EST



SUN+

Motorists on North Russell Rd. have no trouble finding the site of a proposed waste recovery and disposal centre, thanks to signs erected by the Dump the Dump Now committee, which is opposed to the plan. A second Dump the Dump campaign has now been launched for a site near Carlsbad Springs. (Tom Van Dusen/Ottawa Sun)

RUSSELL – It’s been a classic bad news, good news week in my little wedge of the world, North Russell farm country.

First came the bad news that the flow of fresh curds to local stores has been at least temporarily disrupted due to the fiery destruction of the St. Albert Cheese Factory 20 minutes east in neighbouring La Nation Municipality.

The good news came later in the week when I learned there won’t be a mega dump in my backyard.

Call me peculiar but I imagine that would be good news for anybody.

It wouldn’t literally have been my backyard in that I don’t own the field in question.

But the site is right on the other side of my east property line, part of a 450-acre package of aggregate and agricultural land known as Taggart Miller Environmental Services’ North Russell Rd. site.

The news arrived in the form of an announcement from TMES that it has chosen what’s known as the Boundary Rd. site as the preferred one for its proposed integrated waste management project including landfill.

To be called – if greenlighted – the Capital Region Resource Recovery Centre, the facility would accept some 450,000 tonnes a year of industrial, commercial, institutional, construction and demolition refuse, primarily from Ottawa.

Adjacent to an industrial park, the Boundary Rd. site south of Hwy. 417 is within the expanded city limits; TMES project manager Hubert Bourque noted its “outstanding” transportation links and underlay of deep clay deposits providing good natural containment.

Bourque also emphasized that the 400-acre site is part of an area identified in the late 1980s as a preferred location for a regional landfill.

He neglected to mention it was at the centre of a battle 20 years ago in which area ratepayers thwarted a previous landfill proposal.

He also confirmed that Taggart Miller doesn't need two sites and North Russell will likely be sold when market conditions dictate.

TMES will explain its choice of preferred site during two open houses: Feb. 25 at Carlsbad Community Centre and Feb. 27 at the Russell Arena, both from 4 to 9 p.m.

The company launched the approval process for its project more than two years ago, setting out with only the North Russell site for consideration. But the company encountered such a tsunami of opposition that, several months ago, it added Boundary Rd. to the mix.

Using scientific and sociological data, opposition group Dump the Dump Now raised a wagonload of concerns about North Russell, a former brick quarry with a stream-fed pond at its core, including the unsuitability for a landfill of brittle and porous shale, a natural resource that must be protected by law.

Just before Christmas, Environment Minister Jim Bradley announced approval of the terms of reference for both sites, the first hurdle to be successfully crossed by TMES. Provincial endorsement came despite the fact Russell Twp. council rejected the North Russell terms.

So the news is bittersweet. While I'm relieved the dump probably won't end up right in my backyard, it could wind up three km north west of my place in somebody else's line of vision.

That's why Dump this Dump 2 is gearing up for a fresh attack, refocusing its objections on the natural virtues of the Boundary Rd. site. The group held an "Ice the Dump" protest Saturday on the Rideau Canal.

In a year from now, at about the time that a bright new cheese factory is opening in St. Albert, we should learn if a mega dump will darken the southeast corner of rural Ottawa.

tom.vandusen@sunmedia.ca

[See All Sponsored Links](#)