



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Peterborough, like all Ontario municipalities, is responsible for the collection, processing and disposal of the residential wastes generated within its boundaries. It has performed this service effectively over the years, expanding its mandate from 100% disposal prior to the late-1980's, to that of providing diverse municipal programming which encourages its residents to divert as much waste from landfill as possible. Peterborough has enjoyed an excellent reputation amongst its municipal waste management peers for the past 20 years, showing initiative and progressive thinking in waste diversion initiatives, the result of which has been a residential diversion rate of 50% and greater over the past ten years.

Peterborough's last Waste Management Master Plan (WMMP) was completed in 1993. It was a joint Plan for both the City and the County, which provided a 25-year planning tool for the Region. Many of the systems and recommendations from that WMMP have been successfully incorporated over the past 20 years. The diversion programs implemented over those years have matured to the point where little further increases in diversion rates are being realized today. Now was felt to be the right time for a new WMMP. Many new opportunities and technologies in the waste management field have emerged during the intervening decades. This WMMP considers these opportunities and identifies where the City could feasibly incorporate them into its programs to achieve substantially greater diversion from landfill.

This WMMP looks primarily at diversion of solid waste from residential sources, as this is the area the City has the most direct control over. However, the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional sectors are highlighted as areas of great potential which cannot and should not be ignored. Options for disposal/processing of the wastes still remaining after diversion are briefly outlined; however, it is not within the scope of this WMMP to make recommendations on disposal.

With an eye to the stated goals of increasing diversion, minimizing waste generation, and remaining fiscally responsible, this WMMP contains a number of key recommendations for the City's Waste Management Division to consider as it charts its course for the next 20 years.

Ambitious targets have been set so that our dependence upon landfilling or other means of disposal may be minimized. Given the changeable nature of the waste industry and the broad expanse of time it incorporates, the Plan should be viewed as a living document and reviewed regularly to ensure its continued relevancy to the municipality's social, environmental, legislative and financial state dictates.