

March 1, 2013

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Mr. Keith Riel, Chair  
Peterborough County-City Waste Management Committee  
County Court House  
470 Water Street  
Peterborough ON K9H 3M3

Peterborough County  
Administration Office

MAR 15 2013

RE: BENSFORT LANDFILL SITE HOURS OF OPERATION

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Dear Mr. Riel:

As a local contractor, I would like to point out a problem that has occurred since the closing of some landfill sites in the County. This was recognized when the change first occurred, however, to my knowledge it has not been addressed by the City or County.

Due to the size of the County, there can be large distances between a job site and the Bensfort landfill site. The current hours of operation at the Bensfort site do not accommodate these potential distances, forcing contractors to cut their work day short in order to reach the gate by 4:45 pm. This occurs if you are working anywhere in the County except for the area immediately south of Peterborough, where you would already be in close proximity to the landfill site. For example, I often have contracts in the County area north of Peterborough but I'm forced to stop work at 2:30 pm in order to reach the landfill site in time to dump that day.

Even when working in the City you would need to cut your day short at 4 pm to get to the Bensfort site. Many seasonal contractors work well past 5 pm as this is our busiest time of the year and we try to take advantage of as many daylight hours as possible. It would not make sense to leave the job site in mid afternoon, especially if we had to return to one of these remote locations to complete our work for the day.

My request is for the Committee to consider extended hours for 6 months of the year between April 1 and Sept. 30th. I realize there is a labour cost attached to this but shared between County and City it would be minimal when compared to the increased service it represents.

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Using \$20/hour for wages & benefits (as an estimate) it would add less than \$20,000 in total cost. Another option is to extend the hours by staggering the start time of current employees.

The current hours of operation only accommodate the commercial enterprise. In addition to not adequately servicing the seasonal contractors, the current schedule does little to accommodate the permanent and seasonal residents of the region.

For example, why close early on Saturday and not be open at all on Sunday when the majority of people in the City and County are trying to get work done on their property and would welcome being able to access the landfill site on these days. Our current system is based on a very outdated model. In Selwyn Township which has a large population of seasonal residents, they are closed on both Sunday and Monday, creating a major inconvenience for many.

We spend thousands of dollars to attract tourists and many buy seasonal properties yet we continue to use the same model for our landfill operations that we had in the sixties.

Because I work in many municipalities I experience a host of hours of operations for landfill sites. The best I have seen has to be Minden Hills. Their summer schedule is 7 days a week with Sunday open until 9 pm. This is beneficial to all residents and seasonal contractors.

One last point I would like to make is that many contractors in the City and County operate reasonably large dump trailers. When attending the Bensfort site we are obligated to dump in the same area that is designated for commercial trucks. It becomes extremely difficult trying to navigate amongst the larger commercial vehicles, and is worse when it has rained. The ruts left by the larger commercial trucks make it a chore when fully loaded. Could an area be designated for pick-up trucks and dump trailers, rather than lumping us all in as commercial vehicles?

Trusting the committee will give this serious consideration.

Sincerely,

cc Members of the Peterborough County-City Waste Management Committee

Dean Pappas, Len Vass, Dave Nelson, Ron Gerow, Barry Rand