



News Release

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Westside Landfill Information Open Houses

Residents living on the westside of Okanagan Lake will have a few opportunities to learn more about the future plans for services at the Westside Landfill.

Communications Coordinator Bruce Smith says, "Five public Information Open Houses are planned during April to bring residents up to date as the Regional District progresses on developing a temporary convenience solid waste disposal and recycling centre at the site along Asquith Road. The landfill's active life is nearing an end and we plan to stop burying garbage by mid-year. At that point we'll continue to offer an outdoor, residential drop-off for self-hauled garbage, recycling, yard waste, wood waste and appliances and will be open four days each week, which reflects customer use for disposal service. But instead of burying the garbage in the landfill, once it's closed we'll be transporting garbage and yard waste for disposal at the Glenmore Landfill which will be the only active landfill in the Central Okanagan."

The sessions will also update residents on the costs associated with operating the temporary Westside Residential Waste Disposal and Recycling Centre for the convenience of people living in West Kelowna, Peachland, Central Okanagan West Electoral Area and Westbank First Nation reserves. As well, those attending will learn about what the landfill will look like when it is closed and the Regional District's ongoing responsibilities for environmental monitoring. They'll also have the opportunity to make suggestions about possible future uses for the landfill site and provide feedback on options for the Residential Waste Disposal and Recycling Centre operations.

Information Open Houses are scheduled for:

- Monday, April 12th in Peachland at the Peachland Recreation Centre, 4450 6th Street – 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- Tuesday, April 13th in West Kelowna at the Westbank Lions Hall, 2466 Main Street – 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm (a second meeting date and location will be scheduled and advertised)
- Wednesday, April 14th at Killiney Beach Community Hall, 514 Udell Road – 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- Thursday, April 22nd at Wilson Landing Fire Hall, 2396 Westside Road – 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Smith adds, "Those attending the Open Houses will have the opportunity to fill out a questionnaire and enter a draw to win a free backyard composter. Reports and information regarding the meetings will also be available on the Westside Landfill Closure page of the Regional District website."

During 2008, more than 1,200 residents filled out a questionnaire and another 250 responded to a statistically valid telephone survey and very strongly supported continued provision of a convenience residential waste disposal and recycling centre after the landfill was closed. The 1993 Landfill Closure Plan and a subsequent 2009 Concept Closure Plan suggested the Asquith Road site could offer such services. The Concept plan also proposed that once the landfill was closed, it would be capped and covered with soil suitable for seeding with native grasses and other natural vegetation to blend in as much as possible with the natural surroundings and that it might be considered for future development as a passive community park.

Once this pre-closure phase is complete, a final closure plan must approved by the Ministry of Environment.

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