



News Release

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New Westside Residential Waste Disposal & Recycling Centre

Starting Friday, July 16th, Central Okanagan residents living on the westside of Okanagan Lake will have a new look drop off centre for solid waste open four days a week.

Regional District Communications Coordinator Bruce Smith says, "People should be quite familiar with the location as it's actually at the Westside Landfill property on Asquith Road, off Shannon Lake Road, the same place residents have been using for many, many years. Over the past few months we've made some improvements to the garbage and drywall disposal areas to provide larger bins, created more defined areas for yard waste and construction wood waste drop off and will be fencing the site of this temporary facility and paving some key access roads to reduce the impact of dust on adjacent neighbours. In the months ahead we'll continue to refine and landscape this area."

While the location of the new centre is the same, the operating days will be changing. "Starting Friday, July 16th" Smith says "the Westside Residential Waste Disposal and Recycling Centre will be open four days a week, each Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday between 7:30 in the morning and 4:00 in the afternoon." He adds, "At the recent Information Open Houses held in Peachland, West Kelowna and two communities in the Central Okanagan West Electoral Area, the overwhelming majority of residents attending and filling out questionnaires were pleased that they would continue to have a convenient spot on the Westside to drop off excess residential garbage, yard and construction wood waste, white goods and metals. They felt the Friday through Monday service would meet their needs and the majority didn't want to pay more in taxes for an additional day of operation."

Access for dropping off recyclables and unwanted items for re-use by the Big Brothers/Big Sisters will continue to be available at the Asquith Road location, seven days a week.

Smith says, "The temporary Residential Waste Disposal and Recycling Centre was created because as we moved toward closing the Westside landfill, our research showed strong support from residents for continued access for the disposal of residential solid waste materials. Coinciding with the new days of operation for the Waste Disposal Centre, we'll no longer bury garbage that's dropped off in the landfill. Instead, it along with all the other materials collected will be transported off the site for processing. The garbage, yard waste and construction wood will be taken to the City of Kelowna Glenmore Landfill, which will be the only active landfill for the Central Okanagan."

The Regional District's consultant is finalizing the extensive details of a Final Closure Plan for the Westside Landfill. It'll outline ongoing environmental monitoring and responsibilities for the next 25 years. It'll also detail capping, site topography, drainage and landscaping. Once received it'll be presented to the Regional Board for consideration and then will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment for approval.

Those responding to the questionnaire available online and during the recent Open Houses were given an opportunity to suggest future uses for the closed landfill, given Ministry restrictions for building and development. Almost two-thirds supported consideration of developing a park on the landfill in the future.

The 2009 Westside Landfill Concept Closure Plan suggested 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. The initial 1993 Closure Plan also proposed consistent site uses such a waste transfer station and passive park.

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