

# Westside Residential Disposal & Recycling Centre/Landfill Closure News



**August 2011**



*This is our monthly update on the operations of the Westside Residential Waste Disposal and Recycling Centre and on the progress of the landfill closure.*

## **News and Information**

**We apologize in advance but the September newsletter may be delayed due to summer staffing.**

### **Residential Waste Disposal and Recycling Centre**

- July 16<sup>th</sup> marked the one year anniversary for operation of the facility. We thank all residents for their continued support as we've moved from an active landfill to a temporary transfer facility. During the first 11 ½ months of operation (until June 30<sup>th</sup>) we transferred 2,225 metric tonnes of garbage to the Glenmore landfill. In addition, 1,995 metric tonnes of yard waste and 725 metric tonnes of wood waste were transported off site for chipping and grinding. Prior to April 2010 when we began hauling these latter materials off site, yard and wood waste was chipped at the Westside facility. We hope these positive changes, along with the four day a week operation and paved delivery areas have resulted in noise and dust reductions.
- The Residential Waste Disposal facility is open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. Please remember that residential loads must be covered during transport to the facility. All materials previously accepted when the landfill was open are still being accepted including free disposal of up to 250 kilograms of residential yard waste. Please ensure yard waste does not contain plastic bags, sod, rocks or other non-yard waste contaminants.
- West Kelowna, Peachland, Central Okanagan West and Westbank First Nation reserve residents may drop off recyclables at the site seven days a week, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.
- Know of an illegal dumpsite...use our online reporting form. You can find it at [regionaldistrict.com](http://regionaldistrict.com) and Select Quick Links/Environment – Report Illegal Dumping. You may also report any illegal dumping activities or sites to the Regional Waste Reduction Office at 250-469-6250 or email [recycle@cord.bc.ca](mailto:recycle@cord.bc.ca).

### **Waste Disposal and Recycling Centre webpage**

- Visit [regionaldistrict.com](http://regionaldistrict.com) - Select Quick Links / Environment – Westside Waste Disposal and Recycling Centre menu option.

### **Landfill Closure**

- In response to a query from some of our neighboring residents along Alexandria Way, expressing frustration and questioning the length of time that it is taking to complete the Final Closure Plan, we're providing some additional details about this process in order to help understand what's going on:

*Regional District Environmental Services staff has been in constant discussions with consultants and the Ministry of Environment (MOE) on the Closure Plan. Part of the challenge and reason for the delay was the community's desire to expedite the end to the burial of garbage in the landfill approximately 2 years before the original anticipated closure date. That earlier than planned cessation of garbage burial left a large volume of airspace that was intended to be filled with solid*

waste materials from across the Westside area. While this early end to active landfilling was accommodated, it created a shortfall in volumes of waste to achieve the traditionally accepted slopes for a closed landfill. While this was initially not considered as an issue when landfilling ended, the Ministry has requested a justification and rationale before accepting this approach with this reduced sloping.

Regional District staff has been diligent in receiving suitable soils to cover and create slope at no additional cost to the ratepayers across Westside local governments who support this service. In order to achieve the traditional sloping, significant volumes of fill material would need to be brought in at a substantial additional cost. The Landfill Closure Reserve Fund had been established on the forecasted volumes, and on site cover materials as well as minimal importing of materials for final cover. Along with the requirement of physical closure works, the Closure Plan must include a Post Closure Monitoring budget to ensure there are sufficient funds to monitor, test and analyze specific environmental parameters for at least 25 years.

Although the closure delay may be frustrating to some, RDCO staff is approaching the project in a prudent manner, so not to burden the participating tax base (**all** West Kelowna, Peachland and Central Okanagan West Electoral Area ratepayers) with unnecessary additional costs. Those of our neighbors living nearest the site have been extremely patient throughout the process and hopefully recognize that we have come a long way over the past two years from an active landfill operation, chipping on site of wood and yard waste to the improvements over the past year as we established and transitioned to a residential transfer facility. We trust with this extended update, that all our stakeholders now have an appreciation of the escalated timeline and the challenges facing the Regional District on behalf of all Westside ratepayers. Our ultimate goal remains final closure of the landfill in order to meet the request of the Westside community as a whole and our neighbours, while satisfying the long-term regulatory and monitoring requirements of the Ministry of Environment.

Regional District consultants are performing additional analysis and preparing a proposed work plan that will be presented to the MOE. Once the Provincial ministry has endorsed this plan, regional district staff will coordinate final filling and grading of the site. It is anticipated that a report will be before the Board once the updated work plan is prepared and communications with the Ministry have been completed.

We again thank everyone for their ongoing patience and support as we move forward to get approval for and carrying out the Final Closure Plan.

- A reminder that Ministry of Environment approval is required for the Final Closure Plan.
- We remain committed to schedule a public meeting in the future to present information regarding the Final Closure Plan and in particular landscaping and ongoing monitoring components.

#### **Landfill Closure webpage**

- Visit [regionaldistrict.com/landfillclosure](http://regionaldistrict.com/landfillclosure) or [regionaldistrict.com](http://regionaldistrict.com) - Select Quick Links and the Landfill Closure menu option.

#### **For More Information please contact:**

Bruce Smith  
RDCO Communications and Intergovernmental Affair Coordinator  
Phone: 250-469-6339  
Email: [bsmith@cord.bc.ca](mailto:bsmith@cord.bc.ca) Website: [regionaldistrict.com](http://regionaldistrict.com)

To be added to our monthly newsletter distribution list please email [bsmith@cord.bc.ca](mailto:bsmith@cord.bc.ca)