



November 2012 Newsletter

Two Years of NO!

In November 2010 our saga began with news about Taggart/Miller's proposed mega-dump in North Russell. People were stunned, angry, and discouraged - I can't count the number of times I heard "well, it's a done deal". Everyone wondered what the politicians were doing, what the Ministry of the Environment was doing, and what WE should be doing - but knew the big answer was "NO!"

We still wonder about a few things, but saying "NO!" is working. Taggart Miller's original plan was to have their EA finished by early 2013 - now they don't even know if they can begin that EA in 2013. They've had to move to "plan B" and add a second site. And lately, the local politicians first in Ottawa then Russell have said they don't want this project to move ahead, echoing the outcry from the citizens here. The "No!" message is coming across, and people are listening.

The Ministry of the Environment is listening, as they read through reams of "NO!" responses right now. An agency called the Environmental Commissioner's Office is also listening. We hope working with them will lead to changes so no projects like Taggart Miller's can be proposed where communities will be put at long-term risk.

Clearly DTDN and DTD2 and other dedicated volunteers have done a lot,



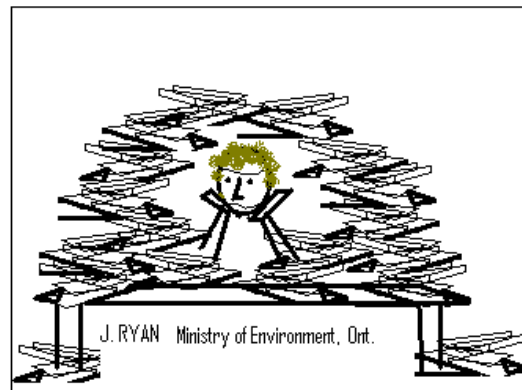
but there is serious work still to come. If this community has learned anything so far, other than some basic geology, it is that we are up to any challenge, and we will not back down until the proposed dump which threatens our future is soundly rejected. "NO!!!"

HOT NEWS!!!

Jeffrey Dea is NO LONGER at the MOE and is not on the CRRRC file anymore!! The ministry has advised that Jason Ryan Jason.Ryan@ontario.ca is now the point of contact!

Also, convey your opinions to:
Grant Crack, MPP
gcrack.mpp@liberal.ola.org

ALSO... the DTDN office in Russell is now closed. Thank you SO MUCH to everyone who volunteered over the past 18 months!!



Write ON!!

The community's response to the Terms of Reference was *fantastic!* Unofficial reports from Jeffrey Dea's office at the MOE indicate that his

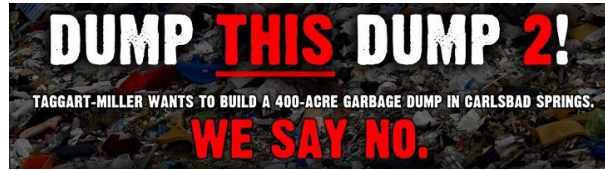


office was bombarded by thousands of hard copy letters and emails opposing the proposed dump.

“Dump the Dump Now!” submitted an official response on October 15 using the expertise of an environmental planner, a professional geologist and an ecological consultant. DTDN would also like to applaud Russell’s Mayor and Councilors who filed a response indicating a solid rejection of the submitted Terms of Reference

Minister Bradley now has up to 12 weeks to render a decision as to whether the Terms of Reference are accepted or denied. If accepted, the project moves on to the environmental assessment. If denied, then Taggart Miller can either stop right here or can re-submit a fine tuned Terms of Reference. If they make a second submission, the public will get another 30 days to respond to the new submission. We’ll keep you posted!

DTDN would like to offer a big thank you to all of you who filled out the donation portion of the DTDN package and sent in a cheque. This cash infusion was not only appreciated but very much needed by “Dump the Dump Now!”. If you would like to be more instrumental in raising funds or volunteering for either DTDN or DTD2, both groups will gladly welcome any efforts and contributions. (see contact info, end of bulletin).



Come on Down!

Dump This Dump 2 invites the community to get involved and come to our planning meetings at the German Club (Leitrim Rd). Next dates are: **Dec 3 and 17**, then a break until January. Bring your energy and ideas and join the team!

Dodge-tastic!!

The Carlsbad Springs dodge-ball tournament was a blazing success. Enormous thanks to Lisa Hearty & Derek Bergeron and all the players and volunteers who pulled together and made this event happen. Funds raised will be used by DTD2 to engage an environmental lawyer to stand up against the proposed mega-dump.

So 2 geologists walk into an office...

In 2011, two scientists from Russell drove to Toronto to present their findings and concerns to the Ministry of the Environment. In short, they raised two points:

“the timeframe involved in managing landfills;

and the risk associated with the potential impact of seismic activity on these facilities.”

The scientists asked for a review of the government’s rules regarding landfill planning and approval, but the Ministry of the Environment piously denied their request. However, the



Environmental Commissioner's Office (ECO) said this:

"The ECO disagrees with MOE's decision to deny a review of O. Reg. 232/98 and the Landfill Standards guide. The technical components of the regulation ... have not been updated since 1998. Fourteen years is a long period between reviews in a rapidly evolving field like waste management.

The risk of an earthquake in Ontario, that is large enough to cause a release of toxic leachate into the environment from a landfill may be close to Zero in a short time frame (years), but may be significantly larger in a multi-generational timeframe.

Seismic risks notwithstanding, the applicants' point with respect to the long-term liability represented by modern lined landfills is valid and of great concern to the ECO. Liners do not last forever and, as the applicants point out, the toxicity levels in contained landfills can remain substantially unchanged for centuries. This is an unacceptable legacy to leave for future generations.

As the ECO pointed out in our 2010/2011 Annual Report (pages 91-97), "for decades, MOE has continued to propose progressive and potentially effective solutions to improve waste reduction and diversion." Despite the good ideas, little has been done. The denial of this application, which might have provided a spark for change, strikes the ECO as just another such opportunity wasted." (quotes from official ECO report 2012).

Kudos muchos to Joe Wallach and Harry Baker. Now let's tell the ECO to pursue this topic. It doesn't need to be "another wasted opportunity" if agencies with the power will engage for change: commissioner@eco.on.ca



Other Environmental Issues...

Ontario is proposing that industrial extraction of aggregates be allowed in important wetlands, woodlands and prime farmland as long as operators rehabilitate the land...eventually.

Today, there are more than 4,000 abandoned, non-rehabilitated pits and quarries in Ontario. Moreover, removing huge amounts of rock and gravel permanently changes hydrology and soil conditions, meaning the land can never return to its original state.

To stand up for prime farm land, significant ecosystems, and important habitats, let the Province know that aggregate extraction should not trump all other land uses. Go to:

<http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?noticeId=MTE3NDQz&statusId=MTc1Nzgw&language=en>

(Be sure to include the EBR reference # 011-7070).

Trees, please!

The Russell & District Horticultural Society and "Friends of the Environmental Committee" are working on an initiative to plant thousands of trees in Russell township. Russell currently sits well below the target of 30% forest cover which is the minimum for retaining moisture in the area, providing habitat, preventing wind and water erosion,



and for the long-term health of the region's biodiversity and ecosystems. To get involved, please visit: <http://www.russellgardeners.ca/>

What's up?

- Visit the websites:
www.dumpthedumpnow.ca
(North Russell site)
- www.dumpthisdump2.ca
(Boundary Rd site)

- Like our Facebook pages



- **NOTE:** the DTDN Russell office is now **CLOSED** and the phone has changed. You can reach Dump the Dump NOW at 613-445-3079
- email:
info@dumpthedumpnow.ca
or
dumpthisdump2@gmail.com

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