

"Given the municipality's expectations, public acceptability is a very important element to the project."

Joseph Squitti, letter to the residents of AC, 5 October 2004

QUYON landfill project, 2003

1)

Question: [...] A referendum has been mentioned so that the people can have a voice. When will this happen?

"The promoter certainly endorses this approach to a registry as it establishes one of the key elements to the project."

By Denis Rouleau,
Section E. Public's concerns, Question 16, in:
Typical Questions and Answers published by The Equity of
Shawville re the Quyon project (2003), in Katharine Fletcher's
Environment Forum Columns

2)

"Three elements are required to obtain a certificate: **public support**, political support and meeting all technical requirements.

Political support is confirmed, provided the residents want the project. The technical requirements are achievable. The potential for the success of the project now lies in its public acceptability.

As the sole financial risk taker in this project, LDC has everything to gain by ensuring that the residents understand the project and support it.

Denis Rouleau,
Section E. Public's concerns, Question 1, in:
Typical Questions and Answers published by The Equity of
Shawville re the Quyon project (2003), in Katharine Fletcher's
Environment Forum Columns

Health activists have encouraged Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty to create report cards for hospitals as is done in Britain and the U.S.

These report cards deal with everything from mortality rates to parking information.

In Ontario, Mr. McGuinty's

health report card is a good idea. Ontarians need a health system that fits their needs. It must be nimble and responsive. If report cards are taken seriously, they help achieve that goal.

OTTAWA CITIZEN

Athletes must be polite

Is the tail wagging the dog again, only this time on the soccer field? Why is the Ottawa High Schools Athletic Association letting a few ill-mannered hotheads dictate the way things are done? If athletes do not have the civility and sportsmanship to shake hands after a game,

GERRY HYNDMAN, Kanata

Driving in darkness

Re: Poor airport road access, Sept. 28. In follow-up to J. A. Belanger's letter, is no one concerned with the fact that driving north into the city on the Airport Parkway, there is not a single streetlight

OTTAWA CITIZEN CITYDESK

Take a look inside Ottawa's first francophone museum. Host Ed Hand talks to Francis Beaulieu of the Vanier Museoparc about the capital's newest museum. Tune in at 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Rogers Television, Cable 22.

DEMOCRACY DIES WITH DUMP DEAL



FRED RYAN THE OUTAOUAIS

We are, it seems, the garbage-producing animal. If even Aristotle overlooked this as he sought to define what it is to be human, I suppose we can be forgiven for also missing the importance of the huge trail of waste we leave behind us.

Except we seem to be missing it on purpose, at least in the Pontiac, where the regional government, the MRC, just blindsided a citizens' effort to have the Danford Lake landfill proposal publicly discussed

and voted on by the people most affected.

The MRC's council of mayors, after promising the citizens earlier this summer that it would have a referendum on the landfill, decided at the end of September to short-circuit both a referendum and a public hearing by the province's environmental public-hearings agency, the BAPE.

The MRC managed this sleight of hand by declaring the Danford site "of regional interest" and not merely a local issue. To create a landfill site on its own, the municipality would have had to go through the BAPE's environmental hearings and then open the zoning change process to its citizens via a referendum.

The MRC decision was not unanimous. Five of the council's 18 mayors voted against this flip-flop. According to

Shawville Mayor Albert Armstrong, the five refused to go back on the promise they had made to the citizens' group. We can presume, since Mr. Armstrong described the question in these terms, that the other 13 mayors had no qualms about breaking their promise.

But mayors are honourable people, so why would they act in such a cavalier manner? It could be that the Danford project is, in fact, "of regional interest." Quebec has ordered all municipalities to close their local dumps by 2008 because all waste must go to a modern landfill. Since none of Pontiac's small municipalities can afford to build their own landfill, a regional one is in their interest.

What doesn't make sense is the mayors' decision to shut out residents from the process. Citizen advocacy does make for messy processes, and citi-

zens have been able to kill similar projects, as they did in the nearby Municipality of Pontiac two years ago. The same landfill promoters moved their project to Danford Lake, determined to out-flank any residents' unrest. When an information campaign didn't do the trick, legal shenanigans were brought into play. And although the MRC Pontiac's mayors are honourable people who keep their promises, there is one circumstance that allowed them to wash their hands of this touchy question. That is the unspoken rule that mayors will not interfere in the municipality of one of their peers, in opposition to that peer.

This gives each mayor considerable power, since it means each mayor can count on the weight and legal force of the regional government to back up

whatever each mayor might wish to see within his or her own turf.

It is this unspoken rule of "don't mess with me, and I won't mess with you" that tripped up the citizens' effort. Danford Mayor Joseph Squitti, in appealing to this rule, did no more than other mayors have done in the past. It is nevertheless the Achilles heel of rural government, preventing it from cohesive action.

Presumably Mr. Squitti is hoping that once the project with its safety features is running, the citizens will realize their fears were unfounded.

Take, for example, the town of Cantley, which has been battling to have a large construction materials dump closed by the province.

At about the moment the MRC Pontiac was opening the door to Danford's big landfill, the province was closing the Cantley site.

The Quebec environment ministry found the dump own-

ers were taking too long to comply with clean-up orders. The dry dump, citizens claimed, was issuing noxious fumes that had caused several families to evacuate their homes in the area.

This is not the high-tech landfill site promised for Danford Lake, but it was not the site or lack of technology that closed Cantley. It was the inappropriate behaviour of the dump's owners and operators. This could happen to any dump.

Good intentions are no substitute for careful monitoring, and citizens' groups have proven effective monitors — much more effective than the environment ministry, as the Cantley example has shown. Shutting the citizens out at the start is asking for trouble in an industry known to be prone to trouble.

FRED RYAN is the publisher of the Aylmer Bulletin, the West Quebec Post and the Pontiac Journal.



SUBMISSIONS

We welcome opinion articles on local matters or personal experiences of interest to other readers. Contact: Ken Gray, City Editorial Page Editor, at 613-596-3758. E-mail: kgray@thecitizen.com Fax: 613-726-5858. Mail: City editorial page, 1101 Baxter Rd., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K2C 3M4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Vertical text on the right margin, possibly a scanning artifact or a list of names.

DANFORD LAKE, COTTAGE PARADISE, MAY OPEN WEST QUEBEC'S LARGEST LANDFILL

Fred Ryan

DANFORD LAKE: Following an open house here, March 12, 2005 a "Notice of Project" for an engineered landfill site has been submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, formally starting the process of bringing a major landfill to Alleyn and Cawood municipality, not far from the Picanoc River which flows into the Gatineau River above Wakefield. The project, passed an earlier hurdle, approval from MRC Pontiac, with 14 for and two votes against, on February 23.

The promoters, LDC Gestion et Services Environnementaux of Gatineau, and Fondex Outaouais, consultants, tried to set up a similar landfill in the Municipality of Pontiac last year but the project was defeated by citizen resistance. The companies hope to truck in the waste of the city of Gatineau and surrounding municipalities, which is now shipped to Lachute, but which must be stored and processed locally within three years according to new provincial regulations.

The promoters began the environmental impact study for the Danford landfill in April; if their application is accepted, construction of the giant project could start in August, 2006.

"We have been meeting with the residents of Danford Lake for months," said Denis Rouleau, president of LDC. "We explain all documents to the

residents so people can comment and ask questions. The council and residents have chosen to move ahead with the project (in Mr Rouleau's opinion), and an environmental management watchdog committee has been formed." Cottage owners are not being consulted as a separate step.

Public consultation coming

The environmental impact study will take about a year, and is one of 20 studies required. After this, there will be a public consultation period of 45 days. Any problems could lead to a public hearing or mediation. "A public hearing could add four or six months," said Mr Rouleau. "It is public opinion that can delay or even kill a project, not technical issues. In the past 10 or 14 years, only ten certificates for new landfills have been issued - that's not many. The public has halted those other proposals."

The Outaouais is one of the few regions in Quebec with no sites that comply with new provincial requirements coming into effect in 2008.

Pontiac rejected landfill

Pontiac rejected the landfill due to fears of groundwater contamination, excessive heavy-truck traffic, uninspected garbage content, subterranean fires, and of an unstoppable expansion once the dump is full. A member of Pontiac's Concerned Citizens Committee told *Cottage Living* the promoters at first pro-

posed 90 to 100 trucks a day, but under pressure dropped the trucks to 20 to 30 per day. A hundred trucks would mean a truck every 8 minutes, 24 hours a day. The citizens group argued that much of the garbage will come from commercial operators and thus will not be inspected; they also believe that the province will likely grant extensions to the contract and to the size of the dump as it nears full capacity. Major landfill projects have also been rejected for the Hilton Mine outside Quyon, and for the Adam's open pit mine near North Bay; these projects had also promised research facilities and large payments to the municipalities.

The preliminary description proposes to use a forested site north of Highway 301 in Alleyn and Cawood, 8 km from the village of Danford Lake and 19 km from Kazabazua.

220 hectares

The landfill will be 130 hectares, developed in three or four year phases. This gives a capacity of about 250,000 to 280,000 tonnes of waste per year for 30 years. The infrastructure for the project uses 50 hectares for access roads and a buffer zone. Another 40 will be reserved for the extension of the project, for a total of 220 hectares.

About \$2.5 million to the municipality, plus perks

The project promises many benefits for

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Danford Lake is one step closer to getting its engineered landfill site

Lily Ryan
CAMPBELL'S BAY: At the MRC November meeting, Allyn-et-Cawood mayor Joseph Squitti asked the council of mayors for a firm resolution of support. The mayor and a committee of partners in Danford Lake have been working on a project to build an engineered landfill site in Danford Lake. "I have the support from my community and the location," said Mr Squitti. "We have to have a place by 2008, there is no more time to fool around." The MRC's Waste

Management Plan, written by the Roche consultant company, does not include Danford Lake. However it does include Calumet Island which can not have a landfill site there because it is an island and it includes Campbell's Bay which can not be an option because there is no where within the municipality far enough away from residential areas. Mr Squitti asked the MRC to add Danford Lake to the plan as a possible site.

Although the MRC

passed a resolution several years ago not to take garbage from outside the region, the Danford Lake proposal is for an Outaouais only facility. "Garbage is big business," said Fort-Coulouge mayor Raymond Durocher. "Are we tying the MRC's hands by giving the project to a municipality?"

MRC COULD NOT AFFORD TO BUILD OWN SITE

Other mayors commented that even if the MRC kept open the option to be the promoter of the site, they probably couldn't come up

with the millions of dollars need for the environmental impact study and other planning costs. LDC Environmental services and management is ready to be the promoter. Mr Denis Rouleau attended the MRC meeting, answering questions about the planning protocol. "The environmental impact study can happen after the municipality is sure it has the support to go ahead with the project," said Mr Rouleau. The resolution of support was passed with two votes opposed.

Gatineau beef auction may be sold

Fred Ryan
The UPA said, November 22, that it expects to have its beef auction barn near the Gatineau airport sold "soon". UPA spokesperson Marie-Claude Thibault declined to identify the likely buyer. The auction house has been closed since October, 2003, when volumes fell drastically as a

ducers have been selling their cull cows in Ontario.

The Gatineau auction handled largely cull cows—cattle too old to keep milking at high volume or breeding cows to be replaced within cow-calf herds.

Despite promising words by American and Canadian officials every few months, the border

many of these smaller operations will stay out of business, even if the border re-opens, which does not bode well for rural economies.


FLOOR PRICE FOR BEEF

The UPA has asked Outaouais' Minister Benoit Pelletier to support their call for a floor price of \$.42 lb. for cull cattle. Mr Pelletier promised, at a demon-

stration that the plan might be applied across the country, noting that the federal government has joined Quebec in offering \$19 million to Quebec producers. A floor price would be a mechanism for such support, said Mr Pelletier.

ABATTOIR ELSEWHERE?

Mr Pelletier also repeated his support for a slaughterhouse in West



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NOTICE is hereby given by Ruth Strutt
There will be a special meeting held
Tuesday, December 21, 2004 at 7:00
Hail. This meeting will deal exclusively
Given this 1st day of the month of
Ruth Strutt,
Secretary-Treasurer

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SOMMAIRE

MÉMOIRE SUR LE PROJET DE PLAN DE GESTION DES MATIÈRES RÉSIDUELLES DE LA VILLE DE GATINEAU

Présenté par
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préparé par

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Marc Drouin, ing.
FONDEX Outaouais Inc.

André Poulin, ing., Ph.D.
TEKNIKA HBA



Le 6 juin 2005

que les municipalités aient mis en valeur entre 60 et 65 pour cent de leurs matières résiduelles ayant quelque potentiel.

8. L'acceptabilité sociale du projet

Vous trouverez en annexe du Complément d'information, copies des résolutions officielles d'appui au projet de **LDC Gestion et Services environnementaux** par la MRC du Pontiac et la Municipalité de Danford Lake qui a été mis sur pied par la population locale. Des consultations préliminaires ont démontré que près de 100 pour cent de la population locale est d'accord avec l'aménagement de cette nouvelle installation à caractère régional en bordure de la route 301, sur le territoire de la Municipalité de Danford Lake.

9. Conformité complète au nouveau Règlement sur l'enfouissement et l'incinération des matières résiduelles

La conception du LET de Danford Lake sera conforme en tous points au nouveau *Règlement sur l'enfouissement et l'incinération des matières résiduelles*, adopté le 25 mai 2005 par le Gouvernement du Québec. Le site envisagé possède d'ailleurs toutes les caractéristiques biogéochimiques pour recevoir un LET (voir description technique en annexe A).

10. Redevances

A compter du 1^{er} janvier 2006, le Gouvernement du Québec prévoit imposer une redevance de 10\$ la tonne à toute matière résiduelle enfouie au Québec. L'un des objectifs principaux de cette redevance consiste à compenser les municipalités et régions hôtes de sites d'enfouissements. À Gatineau, ces redevances représentent un montant annuel d'environ 2 280 300\$ que l'Outaouais devrait verser en compensation annuelle à la région des Laurentides — en surplus du coût du transport et de l'enfouissement de ses matières résiduelles — si celles-ci continuent d'être exportées à l'extérieur de la région