

Community meeting planned about compost site

Region of Peel staff and residents in the vicinity of the Chinguacousy compost site on King Street will have the opportunity to discuss the site's odour issues at a town hall-style meeting this week.

Organized by Ward 2 Regional Councillor Allan Thompson, this is an important community meeting.

"At the regional level staff and I have been trying to keep residents up to date with what actions the Region has been taking to fix the problems, but the time has come when I think everyone needs to sit down together to hear both sides of the story," he said.

Odour from the site has been an ongoing problem for the last few months and Thompson said he understands the residents' concerns and hears the

frustration, but that he and regional staff have been working to remedy the problem. A number of letters have gone out to residents in the last six weeks to keep them up to date on what actions the Region of Peel has taken to try to resolve the problem, but because the odour issues haven't yet improved, it is important that staff and residents have the opportunity to share open discussion together.

Thompson added a number of problems have already been identified at the site and as each of them have been brought forward, actions have been taken to remedy them. Has also had conversations with Janette Smith, the region's public health commissioner, and was told staff have gone out to visit in the homes of residents who expressed

health concerns.

Despite these efforts, the situation remains unresolved and last week four area residents delegated Caledon council to raise their concerns. Thompson said because the issue is a regional matter, the concerns need to be raised before Peel Region council and he has instructed the residents to do that and has advised regional staff to expect the delegation at the next regional council meeting.

Because the issue remains ongoing, many residents are calling and telling Thompson they are feeling frustrated because they don't think the Region is taking the resident concerns seriously. But Thompson says that isn't true.

"Have we been working on it? Absolutely. Have we solved the problem yet? Not

yet. But I'm committed to moving this file forward and to working with staff to make sure it is resolved."

The councillor admitted he's taking quite a bit of heat from the residents but said as the elected regional representative working between the residents and the Region, he knows that is his place and he isn't afraid to tackle it. A couple of weeks ago a delegation of Region of Peel staff and some councillors went on a week-long study tour of other waste management

facilities and he said that when a letter went out to residents immediately before his departure there was discussions about who residents should contact while he was gone.

"I kept my name on the letter as a contact person so that concerns would still flow through my home-office and I could remain in the loop while I was away. I'm not looking to dodge this thing in any way," he stressed.

The meeting is being held this Wednesday, June 27 at

Mayfield United Church, 12496 Dixie Road, Caledon (north of Mayfield Road) at 7 p.m.

Peel chair Emil Kolb, Andy Pollock, director of waste management and Mitch Zamojc, public works commissioner, have all confirmed they will be in attendance at the community meeting.

Residents with any questions are invited to call Thompson at 905-873-6811 or by e-mail at allan.thompson@caledon.ca.

Peel dump site a horror for residents

By ALAN LICZYK
Staff Reporter

Residents living near the Peel region dump site at King Street and Dixie Road in Caledon complained to Caledon council last Tuesday about the stench arising from the site and the various illnesses they've been suffering from.

One of the residents, Sue Thurston, told council the dump site is an "ecological horror." She said they've been smelling the stench since January. Some of the problems people have been suffering from include sore

eyes, nausea and debilitating stress.

"We've had to flee our home to avoid illness," Thurston said, adding they're trying to escape the outside air. "This is a colossal injustice to the people you were elected to serve."

She questioned how do they make people do the right thing when money is in the ring.

"This is a regional issue," said Regional Councillor Allan Thompson. "I'm not trying to pass the buck."

He noted he has visited

the dump site.

"You can taste it," he said. "Our guys have failed to do the job properly. We're using the wrong equipment."

Mayor Marolyn Morrison explained the region owns the site and it may have to enclose the whole thing.

A half-dozen other residents also addressed council.

"It's wrong, it's immoral," said a tearful Celia Chapman. "We have a right to breathe fresh air."

Cliff Chapman asked council who would authorize a dump on top of a dump.

"You should not have to put up with what you've had to put up with," Morrison said. "We expected this not to smell."

She added the region must figure out what the problem is. She expects the problem to be solved eventually so that it operates like the Caledon dump site.

Councillor Richard Whitehead said it was important for the residents to make a delegation to the Peel regional council meeting last Thursday. He explained only the region can deal with this problem.

Council unanimously passed a motion receiving and forwarding the residents' petition to the region, and requesting regional staff and the medical officer of health immediately report back to council regarding the cause of the problems, the solution to these problems, the health and safety concerns, and the timelines to resolve this matter.

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Faith Orlando

"As a matter of fact it just plain stinks."

While she spoke to me on the phone, I could feel my resume reluctance creep up the back of my neck, forcing my shoulders up around my ears; my face turned fire engine red. I hung up and went back to my desk and rewrote the thing for the 95th time. I rummaged in unpacked boxes for sales figures of the times I had surpassed sales budgets. I looked for the materials I'd created for marketing campaigns and articles I'd written.

Several months before, we had relocated our family for my husband's work and as a result, I had to give up a teaching position at a community college. I'd been so busy working I hadn't bothered to gather what I needed in order to introduce myself to a new business community. Now I had no portfolio and no business contacts there. I needed those few pieces of paper since they were proving to be my weakest link.

I struggled for another couple of weeks and then I heard about an Employment Resource Centre in an adjacent community. It was difficult to admit I couldn't figure this one out myself, but I needed help, serious help, since my resume was now up to four pages in length and everything I read told me it should be two pages. When I got to the ERC, I quietly approached the counter with the newest rendition gripped in my hand. I looked down and noticed the side of the document crumpled where I was gripping the paper. A woman at the counter approached me and I looked around nervously, suspicious that I was going to be overheard. In a hushed voice I asked if someone could review my resume. She introduced me to an employment counsellor who helped me pull out pertinent information and encouraged me to delete the rest of the novel that my resume had turned into. When I finished, I had edited the resume down to two pages.

Taking it with me on a grocery shopping trip, I courageously gave the resume to my biggest critics, my two teenage sons, Bo and Mike, thinking they may remember a piece of my professional or volunteer life that I'd overlooked. I left the two boys in the van to review it while I ran through the grocery store.

"What do you think?" I asked as I hopped back into the vehicle.

"It's good" Mike hesitantly replied. "But we don't understand why we aren't in it," commented Bo.

A Just Point of View

Never ask a friend for feedback on your resume if she ran a marathon the day before. Even though it was seven years ago, I remember my friend's blunt comments like they were yesterday. She left me with no grey areas to wonder what she meant. "It's awful," she said,

I chuckled, imagining a person in a Human Resource department reviewing my resume and tossing it aside when they got to the part about raising five kids.

"Guys, I can't put you in it. Companies don't see mothering as an asset; actually, it might even prevent them from calling me because they'd be concerned that I wouldn't be focused on my job and I'd just be wrapped up in my family."

"That doesn't make sense. You'd think companies would want you because of your life experience" said Bo. "Don't they realize we are like employees you have to learn to motivate and no matter what, you can never fire us. What could be harder than that?"

"And you juggle your own work on top of it all," Michael added.

My hands fell slack off the steering wheel and sitting back I exhaled a huge sign of relief. If I'd been on the road I might have run off. This was incredible. I knew the full scope of my work was valuable, but I had the country's future sitting in the back seat clearly recognizing it. This was quite possibly making up for all the months of unemployment I had endured. It was the emotional boost I needed. A few weeks later I was hired as an instructor at Humber College.

Today I'm the Coordinator of Employment Services at Caledon Community Services and I continually hear people minimize their efforts with "I'm just". I'm just a stay-home-Mom, I'm just a student or I've just arrived in Canada.

My unemployment experience helped me adjust my just. Employment and career development are the result of the full life experience. I'm not suggesting that at the next interview you pull out the pictures of your children, skateboarding with your grandchildren or your newly landscaped garden. I am reminding you to remember what it took to get to where you are at this moment in time. Ask yourself: Is there really any just about it?

Reflect on the courage and adaptability it takes to move to the other side of the world and leave all the comforts of language and culture behind. Remember the long hours of work and creativity you had to get through in order to motivate yourself and your children to the end goal. Consider all you've accomplished without pay, with hobbies, interest and community service work. You show up with that information foremost in your mind and employers will pick up on your confidence and success.

Thank goodness for my athletic friend who couldn't hold back her honest opinion. It was a drastic way to motivate me but her direct and honest approach worked.

Think about: What just are you using in your job search? Feel free to contact me, if you want to talk more about how I adjusted my just. P.S. I'm not a marathon runner!

How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it. You can reach Faith Orlando, Coordinator of Employment Services at 905-584-9460 or email forlando@caledoncommunityservices.org
This column is provided free of charge by the Caledon Citizen



Tyler James "TJ" Irwin
June 01, 2006 –
June 30, 2006

The family of the late Tyler James (TJ) Irwin wish to express sincere gratitude for the overwhelming support this past year following his sudden passing. During his 29 days with us he brought much joy to his family, and

we are very grateful to our friends in Canada and our family and friends in Ireland for their cards, flowers, and letters. Also, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the companies who donated funds raised in Tyler's memory:

The City of Brampton management and staff
Papa's Pizza owners and staff (Acton)
Wal-Mart (Georgetown) management and staff
The Caledon Mountain Trout Club staff
Fraser Direct (Georgetown) staff

There are also many people who deserve special recognition for their assistance at the accident scene and/or who dedicated their time to our family during the weeks following the accident:

Dr. Stu Bernie (Bolton) who tried to revive Tyler
The two citizens who stopped and pulled Tyler out of the car
The Caledon O.P.P.
The Inglewood Fire Department
Headwaters Hospital staff
St. Michael's Hospital staff
Kathleen and Gord and Family for taking care of Leslie during that week
The Caledon Lions Club Members for using their hall and providing the food for the reception following Tyler's funeral
Neighbours Randy and Angie for the food tray provided the day of the accident and Cathy for lending her support while Shawn went to the hospital
Rev. Carol Berry for conducting the funeral service especially since she was on vacation
Julie Elliotson for her beautiful eulogy
Steve Drys for his heartfelt reading at the funeral
Scotts Funeral Home (Brampton) and Holy Cross and Assumption Catholic Cemeteries
In closing, if there is anyone we have forgotten we say Thank you and God Bless.

Love and Missed by
Mommy, Daddy, Big Brothers Leslie, Michael
Poppa and Nana (Ed and Cathy)
Granny (Pauline)
Great Poppa and Great Nana (Percy and Marg)
Aunts, Uncles, and Cousins in Canada
Great Aunts and Uncles in Canada

Our Little Angel Has Gotten His Wings