

# Hopes are the Region will have curing facility up and going by fall

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The gore cover system will be used to cover the organic material in the curing windrows. Gore, a material known for being breathable and water-resistant, is "the one proven system in the world today," said Pollock, adding it is expected to result in odour reductions of 95 per cent.

These results are based on a simulation study in which organic material from Peel underwent a standard eight week curing cycle at All Treat Farms in Arthur.

Staff and Regional Councillor Allan Thompson, who visited facilities using the gore cover system, reported being impressed with the system and said people at these facilities were very pleased with it.

An enclosed screening operation, which is used to filter out larger chunks in the compost, is expected to prevent both dust and odour emissions from being released. Enclosing this process will also make it possible to operate year-round.

The installation of a conveyor system to transport compost material will reduce carbon emissions and increase operations efficiency.

Pollock explained how a

loading conveyor will transport material from a central location to the screening facility, thereby eliminating the use of vehicles and increasing processing times. Two more conveyor loaders will transport finished compost to covered storage units.

Peel staff have prepared a contingency plan outlining the response protocol for potential problems.

The object is to outline a process which ensures this experience will not have to be repeated, said Waste Operations Manager Larry Conrad.

The plan includes responses to problems ranging from equipment failure to disruptions to normal operating conditions, severe weather conditions and factors that could cause an increase in odours.

Particular emphasis is to be placed on responding to odour or noise complaints, said Conrad. "Our plan is to put a lot more emphasis on complaints," he said, adding that these are events that need to be monitored, followed up and reviewed.

One resident at the meeting wanted to know how many trucks would be entering and exiting the site. Though this will vary from week to week, about eight loads could be delivered to

the facility per day, in addition to trucks carrying finished compost, said Conrad. The in-loads are expected to be received by noon.

Another resident wanted to know how loud windrow turners would be. Conrad explained they are "relatively quiet and quick-moving." The windrow turners are expected to spend 30 to 40 minutes turning each row, and six to nine rows will have to be turned weekly, while

occasionally installing new rows. The anticipated operation time of the windrow turner is 400 hours per year.

Questions also arose on the construction of berms around the site. Staff said the berms will be noisy to construct, so moving quickly is important. They speculated the construction process will span one summer month and will require a significant number of loads to deliver approximately 50,000 cubic

metres of dirt.

One resident asked if staff still considered the site on King Street appropriate in retrospect, to which Pollock responded that despite considerable costs, this is still the least expensive option, especially taking into account the site's competitiveness among other Greater Toronto Area municipalities. Although restructuring the site increased system costs to \$71 per ton (up from \$55), Peel still has the lowest cost

among all municipalities, he remarked.

The curing facility is the only one in Peel and has the capacity to cure all of the Region's organic kitchen and yard waste.

The next steps will be to meet with the Ministry of the Environment, to finalize the contingency plan, and to report to councillors Feb. 7. If approved, construction to the site will get under way this summer and the curing facility may be operational by October.

## Terra Cotta residents receive Trillium grant to restore Community Hall

By Anneleen Naudts

Residents of Terra Cotta enjoyed a potluck dinner Saturday night in the soon-to-be restored community hall, bringing them together in a time when hibernating tends to become second nature.

While they enjoyed a variety of home-cooked dishes and warm apple cider, local resident Ron Budemas addressed the audience, announcing the highly anticipated arrival of a cheque for \$100,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The Trillium Foundation,

which required the community to raise \$35,000, awarded the grant to the people of Terra Cotta to help pay for the restoration of their community facility.

The community hall, a former Methodist church built in 1862, was donated to the people of Terra Cotta. It needs a new foundation, improvements to the structure, a new kitchen and bathroom. The building is also to be made wheelchair accessible.

Over the last four years, a 12-member board of trustees has spent countless hours preparing for the

restorations.

Private donations and funds raised through golf tournaments, potluck and spaghetti dinners, plant and flower bulb sales, barbecues and cycling races resulted in more than \$150,000.

Area resident Ted Webb has been involved in organizing the annual cycling races, which sees participants ride through the village 12 times. Webb, a member of the Ontario Cycling Association and, at age 75, the oldest participant in the race, plans to head up the event he called "a pinnacle of Ontario's racing program." The event is scheduled for July 6, and Webb said it will attract 150 to 200 licensed and non-licensed cyclists.

To date, the races have raised \$7,000 towards the hall's restoration.

Sometimes, fund-raising initiatives do not have to be elaborate to be effective. That was demonstrated by Verna Jespersen's idea to send letters asking for a donation to all members of the community. The

initiative exceeded expectations when residents donated \$4,000.

Jespersen said the letters made sure everyone would be included, and offered "a way to reach people other than those who have often been called upon over the past years."

Restoring the hall is important for the community, she said. Having a place to meet is vital for the town's cohesiveness, especially since Terra Cotta no longer has a community store, and kids on the same street may not go to the same schools since the village straddles municipal boundaries.

The restored hall will allow a wider variety of events to bring people together than is currently possible. Jespersen joked that holding a dance in the hall in its current state may result in everyone falling through the floor.

The total cost of the restorations will be \$300,000, said Budemas. Along with funds to finance the construction, residents are pitching in by donating materials. One resident donated materials for the kitchen and another person will handle the expenses related to installing the bathroom.

"Everyone in the community pulled together," reflected Jespersen.

Construction could commence as early as spring.



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