

THE Ridge

Ridge Landfill's Community Newsletter



April 2016



Welcome

Progressive Waste Solutions is pleased to provide you with *The Ridge* – our new community newsletter.

Progressive Waste is committed to keeping its immediate neighbours, residents of Charing Cross, Cedar Springs and Blenheim and the broader Chatham-Kent community informed about the landfill facility .

In this newsletter you can learn about our landfill operations and environmental management system as well as our commitment to contributing to the well-being of the local community. We have also added news about our future plans for the landfill.

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A Partner to the Community

Progressive Waste Solutions is a growing company that employs over 60 persons in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. We are committed to being a good neighbour and a responsible partner in the communities we serve.

The Ridge Landfill contributes approximately \$13 million directly and indirectly to the local community on an annual basis. On average, the Ridge Landfill generates direct and indirect benefits of approximately \$9 million annually in salaries, construction and road maintenance, goods and services purchased, taxes, etc.

The Ridge Landfill also directly contributes over \$4 million annually to the local community through:

- An annual royalty payment to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent based on the volume of material that comes into our facility from outside Chatham-Kent. In 2015, this amounted to \$2.3 million; and since 2005 we have contributed approximately \$15.9 million to the Municipality.
- Significant financial contributions to the Ridge Landfill Trust based on the volume of waste the landfill receives each year. In 2015, the Ridge contributed approximately \$1.1 million. These monies are allocated by a group of community leaders to projects and organizations that benefit the local community. The Trust has provided funding for the building of a Community Centre Park with the splash pad for children, the development of a new senior's centre and a youth drop in centre in downtown Blenheim. More information can be found at www.ridgelandfill.com.
- The Ridge provides an incentive to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent to reduce the amount of waste they deliver to the Ridge Landfill – the greater the tonnes diverted the more the municipality receives in additional funding. On average, Chatham-Kent receives close to \$800,000 per year.



Protecting the Environment

We have an environmental management system in place for the landfill that follows stringent Ministry of Environment and Climate Change regulations.

We continually review and update our operational programs in and around the landfill to maintain environmental protection and prevention of nuisance issues such as litter, birds, odour, noise, dust and traffic from impacting our neighbours and the community.

We also work closely with the Ridge Community Liaison Committee which its members have made been very helpful in providing us input on wide range of operational and planning programs that we believe have improved the operation of the landfill.



“Progressive Waste Solutions is committed to creating a more sustainable future and constantly strives to ensure it operates to the most environmentally responsible management practices.”

– Cathy Smith, Project Manager



Our Future Plans

Progressive Waste Solutions is proposing to continue the operation of its landfill and expand the Ridge Landfill. The landfill would continue to be designed, developed and operated following stringent Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change landfill regulations.

Our future plans for the landfill include:

- The development of a biogas facility to convert landfill gas into a pipeline quality natural gas which would be the largest biogas facility in Ontario and one of the largest in North America.
- The expansion of a public drop-off depot to allow residents to divert household hazardous and electronic wastes and other recyclables including scrap wood, scrap metal, drywall, concrete, tires, paints, etc., which are not being collected in the current residential recycling program. The facility would also allow businesses to segregate their recyclable from waste as a last chance harvest before final disposal.
- The construction of a new community activity centre to provide school children, community based organizations and the general public a place to meet and explore nature.

“An annual royalty is paid to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. . . which in 2015 amounted to \$2.3 million. Since 2005, we have contributed approximately \$15.9 million to the Municipality.”

– Tim Kozlof, Landfill Manager



Get Involved

Public input is very important to an expansion of the Ridge Landfill.

The proposed expansion will require the completion of an Individual Environmental Assessment (EA) under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act* in a mandatory two-step process.

- The first step involves the preparation of an EA Terms of Reference (ToR) which identifies the need/opportunity for disposal capacity and outlines the road map for the EA. The ToR must be approved by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.
- The second step is conducting the EA. The EA would look at different ways to develop the facility, diversion alternatives, the potential for environmental effects and how effects could be mitigated.

Both steps will provide opportunities for consultation with neighbours, local residents and other stakeholders.

Stay Informed

We know that people will have questions and will want to know that the environment, the enjoyment of their property and local businesses and agricultural activities will be protected. We will be consulting with our neighbours, residents and businesses in Charing Cross, Cedar Springs, Blenheim and the broader community of Chatham-Kent to discuss the project and understand their issues through a transparent process.

Join us for the Open House

The public consultation process will begin with an Open House:

**Tuesday, May 3, 2016 @ St. Mary's Hall
94 George Street in Blenheim
from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.**

To keep informed on the process, ask questions or provide comments, please contact us at www.ridgelandfill.com or call us at 519-676-5000.