

Waste Disposal Rate Increase

On Mar 22, 2010 Council passed a resolution to increase the waste disposal rate from \$19.50 every 3 months to \$55.83 effective October 1, 2010.

In 2005 it was identified that our landfill east of Meadow Lake was filling up and would quickly reach the end of its lifespan. When looking at an alternative landfill solution we found that many of the communities in our region also faced the same issue. This was when the Northwest Regional Waste Management Authority was created. The members of the NRWMA are The City of Meadow Lake, the RM of Meadow Lake, the Village of Dorintosh, the Village of Goodsoil, and the RM of Beaver River.

As evidenced in other areas of the province, the cost of constructing and operating a landfill in accordance with the current provincial and federal regulations is astronomically more expensive compared to landfills of the past. \$1.1M was the initial Capital Cost of the Northwest Regional Waste Management Authority to set up operations and dig the first cell. Although some grant money was received for this project, a large burden was taken on by the members of NRWMA. Federal funding for this project required that the landfill be sustainable, therefore, the NRWMA must set the tipping fees of the landfill to cover both the cost of operations and the reserves needed for construction of the next cell by the time the current cell is full. This landfill is closely monitored by Saskatchewan Environment requiring regular testing of the water runoff that collects in the landfill manhole as well as 13 other wells in the area, monitoring that no prohibited items are being accepted and that all regulations are being followed in the operation of the landfill. All these regulations and the monitoring of them have immensely increased the operation costs of the land fill.

In 2007, the City's combined operating and capital loss for waste disposal was \$74,000. Disposal rates were increased Jan 2008 from \$18.00/3 months to \$19.50/3 months but with the capital costs for the NRWMA and the tipping fees when the landfill opened in the fall of 2008, the City still sustained a loss in 2008 of \$64,000 for waste disposal. The additional annual cost of tipping fees for 2009 was \$ 122,000 resulting in a deficit \$135,000. Effective July 1, 2010 the NRWMA had to increase their member tipping fees from \$75/tonne to \$85/tonne in order to cover the cost of replacing our existing landfill packer. With this added cost and the increase in disposal rates not coming in to effect until October 1st, the City will still be facing a waste disposal deficit of up to \$100,000 in 2010.

Going forward in the future, the way to reduce waste disposal rates, is for all residents in the community to reduce the amount of waste put into our landfill. The best way to do this is by composting and recycling. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of our home compost bin subsidy, if they have not already done so, and to use the City compost site for grass, leaves, branches and garden vegetation. Many items that fill our landfill such as cardboard, paper, bottles and cans can be recycled. **For more information on composting and recycling, see our website at www.meadowlake.ca.**