

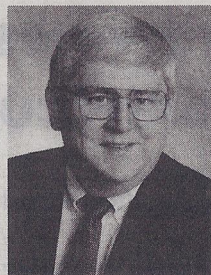
Remediation of the Niagara Sanitation Landfill

by Bob Cliffe
Wheatfield Supervisor

I was very pleased to see so many people from Wheatfield and North Tonawanda at last week's public information meeting regarding the upcoming remediation of this landfill site.

Briefly: In 1968, the Department of Transportation built the LaSalle Expressway and, during some related drainage work, dug up and moved some hazardous waste material from the Love Canal area to this town-owned, public landfill located off Niagara Falls Boulevard and Nash Road, right along the North Tonawanda line.

This landfill was only open for five years, closing shortly after the hazardous material was added. Typical of any landfill of its time, there are other materi-



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als located around this site other than the Love Canal waste. However, the immediate project is to remove the limited amount of the most toxic material from this landfill.

This project has been on the Department of Environmental Conservation hazardous waste site listing since 1985 or so, listed as a Class 3 site. From testing they did in 1985 and 1989, they determined that there was little immediate risk from this waste, but that it would have to be cleaned up some day. In 2013, they re-opened the files on this

landfill and did some testing, which led to even more testing this year. The DEC then negotiated with Occidental Chemical to remove this material, and Oxy agreed to do so at their expense.

Some folks are very concerned that while moving this waste there will be further hazards for them. What I took away from last week's meeting is that the company doing the work has a very good and safe plan, which includes protection from un-earthed waste migrating through any groundwater, monitoring the air from anything which may be in air-borne dust and hauling all of the material away to be incinerated in Sarnia, Ontario, and gone forever. Even the groundwater will be collected and disposed of properly. Both the state DEC and Department of Health will be

monitoring the project daily as it progresses.

Although there will be some construction noise to deal with for a few weeks and a fair number of trucks hauling waste out and clean soils back in, I still see this as a good project for both Wheatfield and North Tonawanda residents. Although DEC testing shows no signs of toxic materials migrating off-site, it will be nice to know that this material will be completely removed.

There is additional information available on our town website, www.wheatfield.ny.us, at the town clerk's office, as well as on the DEC website. Feel free to contact me at 694-6680 if I can answer any further questions or concerns.

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