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\$8M infrastructure cash flows into Dufferin

By DAN PELTON
Staff Reporter

Dufferin County got a strong indicator last week that the tap has been turned on and the infrastructure funds are starting to flow.

New federal and provincial grants will finance two-thirds of nearly \$12 million in infrastructure construction projects. Representatives on hand for Friday's announcements in Orangeville and Shelburne were also confident more money will come from the senior governments' stimulus programs.

Further funding announcements of this type are expected after the Ontario government announces its budget March 26.

Following are the total federal/provincial grants and the estimated total cost of the various municipal projects. In each case, the federal and provincial governments are each contributing one-third of the projected cost, with the municipalities responsible for the balance.

Orangeville (\$3.3 million of \$4.95 million), Shelburne

(\$2.78 million of \$4.17 million), Mulmur (\$1.2 million of \$1.8 million), Mono (\$433,300 of \$650,000) and East Garafraxa (\$230,000 of \$344,000).

Under this agreement, the municipalities pay the cost of the projects, then receive the funding from the senior governments. Should the costs be lower, those grants will be lowered accordingly. Should the costs be more, the municipality is responsible for the cost overruns.

In the case of Orangeville, the funds will be taken from the town's \$4.7 million water and sewer reserve fund.

Orangeville's funds will be directed to the reconstruction upgrades to its South Park subdivision, built about 40 years ago around Myr Morrow Park east of Dawson Road. Mono will be fortifying Bridge 26 on the Mono-Adjala Town Line and East Garafraxa will pave a 1.1-kilometre section of the A Line to the western entrance to its Garafraxa Woods subdivision.

In Shelburne, the funds will be used for a new long-term water supply well and a universal metering system. In Mulmur, there will be infrastructure improvements on Second Line EHS between Terra Nova and Tenth Side Road.

"This reaffirms the importance of partnerships," Dufferin-Caledon MP David Tilson said Friday. "It reminds us that, to get things done, we

have to work together. We're cutting the red tape, creating jobs for Ontarians and getting that shovel into the ground."

Mr. Tilson also noted that the partisan politics in Ottawa have, in his opinion, been put aside in order to quicken the funding process and enable projects to commence.

"I've never seen Conservatives and Liberals so friendly to each other," said the Tory MP.

"I have to give credit to Michael Ignatieff and the official opposition. They've been supporting (infrastructure initiatives in) our budget."

Regarding the South Park funding in Orangeville, Mayor Rob Adams said the funds "provide the town with an opportunity to renew services in a subdivision that was built in the 1960s. The cost to maintain aging infrastructure is daunting so this funding assistance is indeed welcome news."

Town Public Works director Jack Tupling says the first things that need to be done to get the project moving are to set up a project management team and to procure a consultant for design purposes.

If everything goes smoothly, Mr. Tupling says the South Park project should go to tender in June, have construction start in July and be finished by early December. Surface asphaltting of the various roads would be done in the spring of 2010.



Photo/DAN PELTON

LOCAL POLITICIANS gathered at Orangeville Town Hall Friday for the announcement of grants for local infrastructure projects. Left to right: East Garafraxa mayor Allen Taylor, Mono mayor Lorie Haddock, Orangeville councillor Sylvia Bradley, Dufferin-Caledon MP David Tilson, Orangeville mayor Rob Adams, Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones and Orangeville deputy mayor Warren Maycock.

Nitrate facility raises more questions than answers

By WES KELLER
Freelance Reporter

The consensus of an overflow crowd at an open house in East Luther Grand Valley council chambers Tuesday night was that an ammonium nitrate facility in the township would be a potential hazard to both the Grand River and the local aquifer.

And more than one member of the audience questioned the integrity of proponent Orica Canada Inc., a company that supplies explosives to quarries in southwestern Ontario.

No sooner had Orica presenter Pierre Chauvan concluded his half-hour presentation than he found himself under siege.

Peter Turrell, a resident who lives on Orica's haul route, accused the presenter of being less than truthful in stating that the company had had no (road) accidents. "You wiped out two tractor trailers," he said. Another auditor said one of the accidents happened when a tractor trailer jack-knifed at the entrance to the Orica site as the entrance is poorly marked and unlighted.

Mr. Turrell also questioned Orica's statement that there is no manufacturing at the site, when the federal screening level Environmental Assessment (which only recently came to light) states that manufacturing is one of the functions.

Grand Valley resident Joan Pope was one of the more vocal in her opposition to the facility on the basis of "water concerns for the entire Grand

River" which flows through urban centres into Lake Erie.

She said it's not just a local concern, but one that affects everyone who relies on the Grand. The water concerns, not limited to the river itself but including the Guelph-Amabel aquifer, were echoed by several auditors.

The Orica response was that the silos for ammonium nitrate storage are on concrete pads. A company representative said Orica was voluntarily building a berm surrounding the pad to contain any spills until the emergency response team could clean it up.

Most questioners did not identify themselves, including

several who had sought answers to how local emergency services would handle a variety of situations - ranging from cleanup of spillage to the theft of explosives by terrorist groups.

Although Orica says it has an emergency response plan in place, one resident said she had found that Dufferin OPP was unaware of it. A member of the Grand Valley fire department said the volunteer members have never been trained to deal with ammonium nitrate.

"The local police don't know about it. The fire department has not been trained. You're in an isolated area and the police don't know about it.

You've been there how long? And you're just going to get around to it sometime," said one resident.

Curiously, the federal Environmental Assessment did not find any aboriginal concerns although the site is in the disputed Haldimand Tract. Nor did it find a need for public consultation as it presumed there had been a prior EA and the explosives storage had been in place for more than a decade.

Mr. Turrell was among those who questioned the adequacy of the brief federal screening report - signed in

• Please turn to page A3

Dufferin compost safe for now

By WES KELLER
Freelance Reporter

Although composting facilities in Canada are in short supply, and one in Peel Region was recently shut down over odours, Dufferin County's Green Bin program has thus far been unaffected.

A Toronto Star story Sunday said a facility in Caledon had been closed. In an interview Tuesday, Dufferin Public Works Director Trevor Lewis said the facility referred to is in the former Chinguacousy township, and is not the one Dufferin uses at a landfill site west of Caledon Village.

Peel, he said, has three facilities: one in Brampton and the two in Caledon. The closed one is a secondary treatment installation for source separated organics that go first to

Brampton.

The Caledon facility Dufferin uses is a fully containerized and computerized Herehof system created nearly two decades ago.

At one time, it was the preferred system for Dufferin but county council couldn't agree on the type of composting that would be most appropriate for the 200-acre county-owned site at Highway 89 and the Amaranth-East Luther Townline.

There are said to be no odour problems at the Caledon landfill site from the Herehof system.

Now, with the county on notice that it could be shut out of Caledon at any time, the county is on the threshold of getting its own facility in partnership with York Region but a Request for Proposals (RFP) is

still in the drafting stage.

Dufferin had previously obtained responses to its request for qualifications, and had selected a preferred supplier for a facility, but York found some unspecified problems with that choice and has now taken over the selection task.

At York, Neil McDonald heads the team drafting the RFP.

He said they're trying to complete it as quickly as possible - and that the team would consult with Dufferin prior to issuing the RFP.

York, he said, now transports its organic wastes to facilities at Welland and St. Thomas. It had previously hauled to a facility in Quebec but has stopped using that one.

York Region says it is just as anxious as Dufferin to have a composter closer to home.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 8



Contributed Photo

DRIVING HOME A DONATION: Dufferin Big Brothers/Big Sisters was the recipient of a \$3,900 donation from MacMaster Pontiac Buick GMC. Posing with the cheque are, left to right: Dealer principal and general manager Danny Brackett, Nancy Stallmach of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and sales and leasing representative Rick Norenberg. Mr. Norenberg has been an ardent supporter of, and fundraiser for, Big Brothers/Big Sisters for 17 years. The management of MacMaster annually matches the funding he raises to help the organization.

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