



# COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

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## COMMITTEE REPORT

**To:** Chair and Members of the Solid Waste Services Committee  
**From:** Das Soligo, Manager of Solid Waste Services  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024  
**Subject:** **Rothsay Waste Facility Upgrade Update**

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### **Background:**

During the January 2024 Solid Waste Services (SWS) Committee meeting, a discussion related to the upcoming Elora and Rothsay waste facility upgrades was held. Staff were requested to bring a report back to SWS Committee to provide more information related to the Rothsay site and facility upgrade project. The following information was requested;

- Cost estimate for the different elements of the upgrade
- Usage statistics for the waste facility
- Population forecasts for Mapleton Township and for the community of Drayton, specifically
- Vision for the future use of the Rothsay waste facility

The following report addresses each of these information requests for consideration by the SWS Committee and County Council.

### **Cost Estimate for Rothsay Waste Facility Upgrade:**

In the 2021 10 Year Capital Budget, funds were allocated for the upgrades at the Elora and Rothsay sites for 2022. However, the necessary approvals had not been received from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). In the time since that initial budget allocation of \$450,000 for the Rothsay waste facility upgrade was made, inflation has increased dramatically.

While the scope of work at Rothsay has remained the same since that time, the budget for the Rothsay site was increased to \$900,000 in 2024 to account for these strong inflationary trends. It is in this context that an itemized cost estimate for the different features of the facility upgrade at Rothsay was requested.

The planned upgrades at Rothsay include;

- Scalehouse
- Scale
- Paving and associated earthworks

. An engineering consultant, Associated Engineering, has been hired to undertake the detailed design and contract administration of the project. As the site design progresses to the tender ready stage, our consultant has prepared an updated itemized cost estimate as summarized in the table below:

<b>Project Features</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
<b>General Requirements</b> Mobilization, demobilization, site trailer, insurance	\$134,500
<b>Site Preparation and Removals</b> Erosion and sediment control, removals, construction fencing and barriers	\$72,000
<b>Earthworks and Paving</b> Excavation, granulars, asphalt, curbing, topsoil, seeding and sod	\$305,000
<b>Scalehouse</b> Construction, water connection and well, electrical, septic system	\$376,100
<b>Scale</b> Scale and foundation	\$110,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>997,600</b>

An additional allowance of \$60,000 for the detailed design and contract administration fees for the County's consultants needs to be included in the project budget. The consultants also recommend planning for additional contingency funding of 10%.

During the final design and tender preparations staff and consultants will seek opportunities for cost savings within the scope of the project. At this time, the anticipated schedule is for a tender to be issued in May, 2024 with a tender award in June, 2024. This would allow for work to proceed and be completed in Summer, 2024. The schedule is dependent on approvals from the MECP.

### **Usage Statistics for the Rothsay Site:**

In viewing the usage statistics of the County's waste facilities, it can be seen that the Rothsay site processes fewer transactions than the other facilities.

<b>Waste Facility</b>	<b>2023 Total Transactions</b>
Aberfoyle	20,221
Belwood	57,135
Elora	83,688
Harriston	27,873
Riverstown	21,726
Rothsay	9,210
<b>Total</b>	<b>219,853</b>

Some of the County's waste facilities are located very close to the urban centres in a given Town/Township. The Rothsay site is approximately 12 kilometres from Drayton, further than most of the comparator sites from its primary population centre. For this reason, much of the usage of the Rothsay site tends to be larger loads of waste or patrons dropping off items that cannot be disposed of through the curbside collection service.

### **Mapleton and Drayton Population Forecasts:**

As noted previously, the Rothsay site is the least busy of the County's waste facilities. However, it does serve as the primary waste facility for residents of Mapleton Township, including the rapidly growing community of Drayton.

The County's Planning Department's forecasts for the population growth in Mapleton Township and Drayton can be seen in the table below.

	2023	2051	Percentage Increase
Mapleton Population	11,510	15,000	31%
Mapleton Households	3,350	4,820	44%
Drayton Population	2,550	4,300	69%
Drayton Households	900	1,580	76%

With the population projected to increase in Mapleton Township by 31%, and specifically 69% within Drayton, planning for the use of the Rothsay waste facility must accommodate both current and future needs.

### **Vision for the Future Use of Rothsay Waste Facility:**

Through the development of the Solid Waste Services Strategy, a report was brought forward to the SWS Committee and County of Wellington Council meetings in February 2019, considering the best use of the County's waste facilities. At that time, the options of closing, opening or relocating waste facilities were considered, and it was decided by the Committee and Council to keep all existing six waste facilities open at their current locations.

Committee and Council gave staff the direction to proceed with a vision for transitioning the waste facilities towards a Diversion Centre model, where emphasis would be placed on increasing the type of materials that can be diverted from the waste stream and kept out of landfill. Staff shared a list of items that would one day be targeted for diversion, including;

- Shingles
- Drywall
- Mattresses
- Carpet

It was noted at that time that adopting a Diversion Centre model would be challenging because many County residents use the waste facilities for their weekly waste disposal needs, in particular dropping off bagged waste and recycling, materials that can be collected using the curbside collection service. In order to free up valuable space on sites and to reduce the burden on the haulage operations that service the sites, a minimum waste fee to use the waste facilities would be needed to slow down users who could be using the curbside collection service.

A minimum waste fee to use a waste facility is a common fee applied at municipal and private transfer stations and public drop off facilities, and would support the conditions needed to fully transition to the endorsed Diversion Centre model. However, adopting a minimum waste fee would be challenging without scales at every waste facility.

The upgrades at Elora and Rothsay will result in every waste facility having weigh scales, and will enable the transition to a Diversion Centre model that staff and Council have envisioned since the Solid Waste Services Strategy was developed and completed.

**Strategic Action Plan:**

This report relates to the following objectives and priorities in the County's Strategic Action Plan:

- Making the Best Decisions for the Betterment of the Community

**Recommendation:**

That the report titled "Rothsay Waste Facility Upgrade Update" be received for information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Das Soligo", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Das Soligo  
Manager of Solid Waste Services