



September 21, 2009

Simcoe County Council
County of Simcoe Administration Centre
1110 Highway 26
Midhurst, ON
L0L 1X0

Dear Simcoe County Councillors,

The Council of Canadians commends Simcoe County Council for protecting its groundwater by voting in favour of a one-year moratorium on construction of Site 41. We are writing now to urge you to take the next step and vote for a permanent closure of the landfill on September 22.

Concerns have been raised recently in the media about the potential for the land and certificate of approval to be sold to private developers. We hope that Councillor Little's motion will be amended to ask the Ministry of Environment to revoke the certificate of approval and to guarantee that the land will not be sold for waste management purposes.

There is still much to be learned about the state of groundwater in Canada. However, since the site was chosen for a landfill over 20 years ago, there has been an increasing awareness in Canada and around the world about the need to protect watersheds and water basins in a world running out of clean water. In 2006, recognizing the crucial need to protect Ontario's water resources, the government passed the Clean Water Act which states that, by stopping contaminants from getting into our drinking water supplies, we can provide the first line of defence in protecting our environment and our health. Ontario's Environment Commissioner Gordon Miller has said that if the decision were to be taken today, Site 41 would not be chosen for a dumpsite.

In addition, the Council of Canadians strongly believes that the public has a right to participate in decisions regarding water resources. The farmers, First Nations groups and other members of your community have made their position very clear. None of the science supporting the construction of the landfill has managed to convince the residents of Simcoe County or the numerous environmental and social justice groups allied with them, that the landfill project is worth the threat to groundwater. To prolong this matter would be a waste of public funds.

Sincerely,

Maude Barlow
Chairperson of the Council of Canadians
Senior advisor on water to the 63rd President of the UN General Assembly