

Can Pak reopens waste transfer station

BY LEA SMALDON

MVP Staff

In a move heralded as a win-win for everybody, the Olds waste transfer station reopened yesterday under a new contractor.

Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission closed the waste transfer site and recycling centre on the edge of town at the end of the day last Wednesday citing safety, liability and financial concerns.

A day after the closure, the waste commission and the commission's new contractor for waste pickup, Can Pak, signed a deal allowing the facility to operate once again.

"It's business as usual over there," says waste commission CAO Pat Sliworsky.

Can Pak now leases the property from

the waste commission and has addressed the safety and liability concerns, he said.

The Central Alberta company will operate the transfer site and collect recycling there as well. Hours and rates are the same, he added.

While many things will be the same under the new contractor, gone are the days though when customers would drive into the waste facility's building to dump waste into Bay 1 or Bay 2.

Having customers dump their waste into bins that are placed outside the building solves the safety and liability issues, says Sliworsky.

The mayor of Olds, and Sliworsky himself fielded numerous calls about the closure.

Commission chair Mary Anne Overwater said she was happy that Can Pak decided to continue operating the facility.

"It's a good thing for everybody," said.

The closure meant Mountain View County and Olds residents would have had to drive their waste to the Didsbury landfill.

The controversial move drew ire from members of both county and town municipal councils because of a perceived lack of consultation and concerns that residents would resort to dumping garbage in ditches.

"The county thought we were being regressive," said Overwater, adding the commission prides itself on recycling efforts such as collection and sale of ag plastic.

Sliworsky said the commission had been negotiating with Can Pak to take over the facility ever since the board decided in August to close it.

lsmaldon@olds.greatwest.ca