

Olds waste transfer station to close Oct. 1

BY JOSEPH HO
MVP Staff

The Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission will close the Olds Transfer Station on Oct. 1.

The commission made that announcement this past week.

Mary Anne Overwater, the commission's board chair said it made the decision because the transfer station was not financially sustainable.

While she did not provide a dollar amount for how much the commission would save, Overwater said repair costs to the site have been "substantial" over the years. Some of it included building upgrades and a baler replacement that would have cost more than \$100,000.

Currently there are four fulltime staff and one part-time worker.

"It's just not in our best interests to keep that site open," she said. "It's just not affordable and feasible. It's not good sound business decision to keep that transfer station open."

Area residents can still dispose of recyclables in Olds and waste at the Didsbury Regional Landfill.

Overwater said the Didsbury landfill would save users money.

"It costs residents \$242 per tonne to go across the scale there (the Olds Transfer Station). They would save a lot of money by going to the landfill, where it only costs them \$100 to go across the scale there."

Olds mayor Judy Dahl reacted to the announcement over Twitter, writing she would ask Overwater, also a town councillor, if residents were consulted before the decision.

Overwater said they were not. She added that keeping the transfer station open was not an option, even if the commission charged users more.

The volume of waste crossing the scales at the transfer station is also less than it was at this time last year, she said.

The commission is also selling assets after dissolving its collection fleet. Overwater said they haven't decided what will become of the site after closure.

"We'll have to clean up that site first before we can think about what we're going to do with it."

jho@olds.greatwest.ca



The Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission announced it will close the Olds Transfer Station on Oct. 1 this year. The commission cited financial sustainability as the chief reason for its decision.

Joseph Ho/MVP Staff