

## **CITY: Garbage sites to close as others open**

By DAVID NICKLE

July 03, 2009 4:03 PM

Two temporary garbage sites are closing and two new ones are opening up, as the city finishes the second week of its municipal workers' strike.

Toronto's top garbage official Geoff Rathbone announced the shift at a Friday afternoon news briefing. He said two of the city's 19 temporary garbage dumps - including the controversial Christie Pits dump in the Annex - will be closing this weekend because they're about to reach capacity.

Christie Pits, he said, will close by the end of the weekend, while the dump at the York Mills Arena was scheduled to close at the end of the day Friday.

To replace them, the city is opening Centennial Arena Community Centre at 1967 Ellesmere Rd. off Dolly Varden Boulevard, and Wilket Cree / Sunnybrook Park at 1132 Leslie St.

Those are the first closures of dump sites since the strike began - and Rathbone didn't rule out more.

"We're monitoring all our sites for capacity and right now they're on average 30 to 40 per cent full," he said. "Some of the sites are 10 per cent full and others are 95 per cent full. The Christie Pits is nearing capacity and the estimate is that it will be full and therefore closed by the end of the weekend."

The city's medical officer of health Dr. David McKeown also announced that he will be issuing an order to the city that Christie Pits be sprayed with insecticide. Contractors have been unable to do so because residents and union protesters have been preventing access to the site.

"Today my staff inspected the Christie Pits and found evidence of active insect infestation," he said. "I will therefore this afternoon be issuing an order to the city to implement an effective pest control plan at this site and I urge everyone to cooperate with the city in responding to this order."

Mayor David Miller said the city would look at various legal avenues to force the issue should it become necessary, but he said, "We do appeal to the picketers for cooperation. We understand people's rights to express their opinions, but we have to deal with this situation."

The city will, however, not be spraying as heavily as it might have earlier. Rathbone said Toronto has established new protocols.

"We will continue to spray daily for odor control but will implement a more balanced approach for insect control - we will spray based on daily individual site inspections," he said. "This has the potential to reduce the amount of pest control spraying."