



Site 41 foes bring fight to the Internet



Mirror file photo

Environmental activist Danny Beaton brought his protest against the proposed Site 41 landfill to Queen's Park on Nov. 21. The Internet is the latest battleground, with the launch of an online petition against the dump plan.

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Opponents of proposed landfill Site 41 have taken their fight online.

Environmental activist Danny Beaton has started a Stop Site 41 petition on Facebook, the popular social-networking website.

It is to be launched officially today (Thursday) at a Queen's Park press conference in hopes of getting the attention of Premier Dalton McGuinty and Environment Minister of Environment John Gerretsen.

The campaign is aimed at stopping construction of the controversial dumpsite, scheduled to be built in Tiny Township later this year.

Today's event – which will begin at 11 a.m. – will include guest speakers such as Maude Barlow, senior adviser to the United Nations on water issues and the national chairperson of the Council of Canadians; Green Party Leader Elizabeth May; and local activist Stephen Ogden.

Beaton acknowledged having environmental heavyweights like May and Barlow on their side will go a long way for the cause.

"They're leaders for Canada, and Canada should be listening to their leaders," he told *The Mirror*. "People that do positive things are very important, and people that do negative things should be stopped."

The chief concern of those opposed to the site is the damage they say it will do to the surrounding water.

"You don't build garbage dumps on surface springs," said Beaton, who last year walked from the site to Queen's Park in protest.

Despite the fact a permit to take water has already been issued and the dump is expected to open by the end of this year, Beaton and his supporters plan to continue their fight.

"They've built nuclear reactors and taken them down after because people stopped them. There were 15 councillors that voted against (Site 41) and 16 that voted for it," he said. "That's obvious that there's something not right."

"I think it's in the people's best interest if they speak out for the children's future."

Beaton's online petition, which he said is to "educate the people and ask them to get involved in protecting Mother Earth's blood," currently has at least 400 signatures. A Facebook page titled Stop Site 41 has more than 900 members.

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