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Be forewarned Toronto residents: The people who manage waste in cottage country will be watching what and how much you dump in their landfills.

With inconsistent rules and long delays of up to several hours at Toronto's designated transfer stations, residents may look beyond the city's borders during the strike to solve their trash-disposal problems.

As the first official weekend of summer looms, some people will no doubt sneak a bag or two up Highway 400 to the Muskokas or to their cottages in Haliburton.

"Certainly it's on our radar," said Jamie Delaney, manager of waste management for the District Municipality of Muskoka, which processes the waste of 23,000 seasonal residents and another 24,000 permanent residents.

Like most others, the municipality is barred from accepting garbage generated outside its boundaries by its certificate of approval, which is issued and enforced by the provincial Environment Ministry.

Attendants at the community's three landfill sites and six transfer stations have been told they can't accept any waste from Toronto, he said.

Muskoka tracks its three-bag-per-week-per-household limit by computer.

Most garbage is collected at the curb anyway, so Mr. Delaney said he doesn't foresee any problems.

Andy Boyd, supervisor of solid waste for the City of Kawartha Lakes, said there was no increase in collection during Toronto's 2002 garbage strike.

"We have lived through this once before," he said.