

Ashgrove people to fight dumping

Ashgrove citizens took the first step in attempting to prevent Halton Region's garbage being dumped on their doorstep.

Over 30 concerned residents attended a meeting at Marne Taylor's home on the Sixth Line Monday night and it was decided that three people, George Redfearn, Gordon Kidd, and Taylor will spearhead the attack.

These three will receive assistance from Bruce McClure and Norman Bird, both of the Halton Federation of Agriculture and members of the land use committee. Besides working with the Acton group McClure and Bird are helping with an Agricultural Federation brief.

The meeting was chaired by Bill Johnston of the Ontario Garbage Coalition and GUARD, while John Mitchell, Georgetown Pollution Probe, assisted. Ward two councilmen for Halton Hills, Dick Cox, Dick Howitt, and Russ Miller were also in attendance.

"We are all just shocked, stunned, and surprised by what we were told here tonight. I don't think anyone realized how big this was and the significance of what they plan to do to us," Redfearn said.

Through press He said that before hearing Johnson, Mitchell, and the councillors, none of the residents knew very much about the proposed dump. What they did know they had learned from recent press accounts.

"What we plan to do now is survey all the other residents in the area, let them know just how big this is and then call a public meeting," Redfearn said. They will look into the possibility of using Stewarttown Hall or maybe one of the rural school's auditoriums depending on how many people are expected to turn out.

Johnson started off by telling the group that area water courses and Ashgrove were purposely left off the map accompanying the final McLaren report on waste disposal in Halton. It is the McLaren report which recommended two sites in the Ashgrove area be used for regional dumping.

"They have deliberately left Ashgrove and the water courses off the map so people in the south won't think there is anything there," Johnson charged.

He suggested that their best line of attack would be to point out to the region the Ashgrove area has prime farm land, that there are water courses in the area, and that since the garbage is generated in the south why not dump it in the south. He went on to point out that the citizens group may use his Ontario Water Resources Commission maps which clearly show there are streams in the Ashgrove area.

Shallow wells "You might also want to point out to them that wells in the area are shallow, 15 to 30 feet, and therefore there would be a danger of water pollution," Mitchell said. He added that some soil quality information showing that it was a bad spot for the dump for ecological reasons could help their fight.

Both Mitchell and Johnson urged the citizens to join them in their fight to get some kind of system going in Halton which reduces the garbage and reclaims what might still be useful. They said current technology would allow such facilities to be operative within five years and no land fill plans should extend past five years in Halton. The 200 acre site in Ashgrove would be in operation for at least 20 years, according to the report.

"When you have landfill you must contend with pollution, property devaluation and constant truck traffic. Let's face it, land fill is never a good neighbor," Mitchell stated.

Coxe said there must certainly be areas in Halton for such a dump that don't have the potential for agriculture and the scenery Ashgrove has.

Bird told the group that the report said Ashgrove would be a good place because it would avoid water pollution, there wouldn't be much public resistance, the dump would have a longer life there than any other place, and the

public would accept the dust and noise.

The mood of the meeting clearly indicated the people weren't about to accept the decisions.

"You will have to have good reasons for opposing it, not just the fact you don't want it here. We won't be able to help unless we have facts to counter the recommendations of the report. Halton Hills is out-gunned and outnumbered at the region. There are only five of us at the region and from Burlington alone there are nine. They sure won't want the garbage even though a lot of it will be theirs," Coxe stated.

From south He said the close proximity of water courses, prime agricultural land, and the fact most of the garbage was from the south would be strong arguments but the people would also need to come up with an alternative location to suggest to the region.

One angry resident wondered why they would want to put two dumps right on top of the most important agricultural land in all of Halton.

Johnson warned the group it would be a tough fight first at the region, then the environmental hearing board then the O.M.B. "You need hard facts and they don't listen to you unless you restrict yourself to discussing that one area," he said.

He offered to include the Ashgrove brief in an overall plan which will go to the region from the environmental groups in Halton Hills, Milton, Burlington, Speyside, and the rest of Halton. "This might work. A united Halton attack on landfill sites and other environmental hazards could throw its weight around at the region, especially with Burlington people in on it," Johnson suggested.

Suggests brief Howitt suggested the group prepare a brief which he felt the entire Halton council might endorse so the area municipality might go to the region and air the objections and endorsement of the citizens' complaints.

"Going to Halton Hills might be a good first step and a way to get the ball rolling. Esquesing's representatives could fight to convince Acton and Georgetown that the dump would be a bad thing for the town," he offered.

"Besides complaints you will have to have alternatives. You will have to tell them where they can put the dump and show them it will be a better site for it. Otherwise you will be ignored," Coxe warned the group.

"No place in Esquesing is a good place for it," Coxe answered.

"If we win here and then aren't careful they might just turn around and pick another place in Halton Hills to put it," Miller cautioned.

Redfearn suggested the group start by finding out about wells and soil, and hold a public meeting to get everyone's views and then try to worry about coming up with another site.

South too One resident suggested that the group invite anyone south of the site who was worried about water pollution in their wells to join the fight and not restrict it to just Ashgrove area residents. It was quickly decided that anyone interested in the cause could participate.

Johnson pointed out to the group that the plan showed the garbage would first be dumped down near Five Highway, sorted and then taken to Ashgrove. He thought that it was an absurd idea to dump it there and then move it.

"Be sure and look at the detailed report and the conclusionary summary report. We paid \$60,000 for reports filled with inconsistencies and it is very biased to the south. By reading the report you wouldn't believe there are people here living in permanent homes and working productive agricultural land. There are many differences between the technical report and their final conclusions," Kidd told the group.

Howitt suggested a good weapon might be the region's preliminary land use plan. "It is just a preliminary report but it does say this area is agricultural and should re-

main so," he said. He added the haulage costs from the south to the north would not be a useful argument because they would just pay for it.

Regional cost "Up to seven miles away from a municipality they pay the haulage, after that the region picks up the tab," Coxe informed the meeting.

"You mean we would be paying to ship the south's garbage," one irate citizen wondered incredulously. Coxe told him that was just about the size of it.

Redfearn was particularly upset since he moved here just 15 months ago from Port Credit because he thought Ashgrove was so beautiful and peaceful.

"We will have to lean heavily on the councillors, Mitchell and Johnson for information, help and guidance in the fight that lies ahead," he concluded.

Rash of accidents

Milton Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police investigated 26 motor vehicle accidents last week. The accidents resulted in one death and 12 injuries as well as over \$24,000 in damages. On Oct. 11 a car driven by Karen Parsons of Limehouse

was in collision with a car driven by Edgar Becey of H.R. 1, Georgetown. No injuries were reported but there was over \$2,500 in damages. The accident happened on Highway 7, south of Halton Rd. 20. On Oct. 12 on Halton Rd. 15 a car driven by Murray Brooke went out of control and struck a culvert causing \$500 damage to the car and leaving Brooke with minor injuries.

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Region seeking new site

Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill hopes to have a recommendation before Regional Council within a month, considering the selection of a permanent regional headquarters site.

Hill said a building committee had been formed and the board of education was contacted to see if a common site could suit the needs of both agencies.

Hill asked department heads at the region to try to estimate how much space

would be required for departmental use in the new building.

Regional staffers moved into the new Burlington building at the corner of the Guelph Line and the Queen Elizabeth Highway in April. The region has a three year lease with provision to extend it to five, if necessary.

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