

GARBAGE IS BAD NEWS!

No other municipal issue can generate more reaction than garbage disposal — not highway construction, not even sewage treatment.

And yet, garbage disposal is a service demanded by all of us.

Obviously, there is a gap in our understanding of what happens to the waste we generate in our homes and factories. Forty or 50 years ago, waste disposal was simply a matter of transportation, in sewers or wagons, to the closest ditch, stream, or vacant land. Everyone forgot about it after that — except those who fell into the ditch or lived downstream.

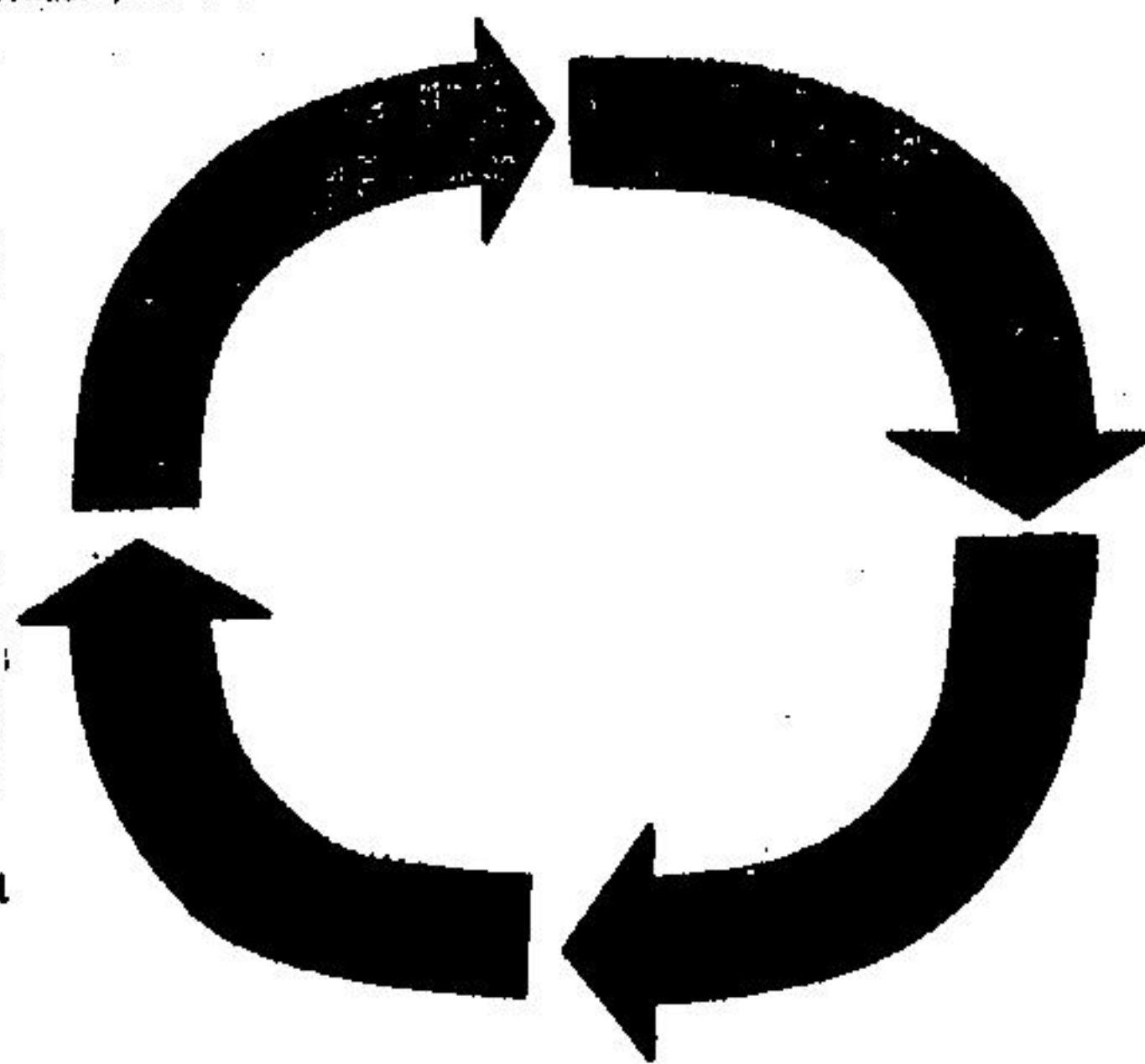
"Put it somewhere else!" was the slogan.

Although citizens, today, are not so naive there is still some reluctance to accept responsibility for our garbage.

We, not "they", produce wastes. We should use the best method of disposal and reclamation at hand. And we should control the effects on the environment as much as possible.

Through "open-house" sessions and public participation meetings in several communities, you will get a chance to understand the problem, and contribute your opinions. We, on the Program Team, hope that through this method we can all reasonably and intelligently come to a solution, acceptable to all.

We are all part of the problem, become part of the solution.



SOLID WASTE NEWS

Published for the citizens of Halton Region by the Technical Co-ordinating Committee

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Dear Citizen:

We in the Regional Municipality of Halton are presently producing some 500 tons of garbage per day. The existing sanitary landfills which we are using for disposal of this material will be filled up in less than two years.



We are therefore, in co-operation with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, commencing a program which will provide us with an operational long-range solid waste plan. Besides the planning of new sanitary landfills, one of the key elements in this study will be the investigation of a resource recovery plant which will salvage metals and other useful material from our garbage. The resource recovery plant will also render the residue, i.e. material not recovered, more suitable for sanitary landfill. It is our aim in this program, which will be completed in about seven months, to produce technically sound and socially acceptable recommendations.

This newsletter is a further opportunity for you to discover what is happening, to contribute your ideas and suggestions and thus participate in the successful solution of our solid waste problems. We look forward to your response.

Yours very truly,
A. M. Masson,

Regional Chairman.

Who is running the study?

The program is directed by a Technical Co-ordinating Committee, which consists of two regional councillors, representatives from the Resource Recovery Branch of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, representatives from the Public Works Department of the Regional Municipality of Halton and staff representatives from the four area municipalities.

The program is being developed by the consulting engineering firm of M. M. Dillon Limited in association with Connor Development Services Limited (public participation), Ecoplans Limited (environmental assessment) and Gartner-Lee Associates Ltd. (hydrogeology).

Purpose of the study

In 1974 a Solid Waste Management Study was completed for the Regional Municipality of Halton. It identified the nature and volumes of waste generated up to 1995 and recommended some locations for solid waste disposal sites.

WHAT LED TO THIS STUDY?

An investigation of waste management is currently underway by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) in co-operation with the Regional Municipality of Halton.

In June 1974, the Area Waste Management Study for the Region was completed. The report provided the Region with alternative management plans for handling solid wastes. At the same time, however, the then Minister of the Environment, William Newman, announced the Provincial Resource Recovery Program.

The Region was invited to co-operate in a pre-design study for a resource recovery plant as part of the provincial program. Regional Council approved, in principle, Halton's participation and subsequently agreed to carry out a two-part study.

In the first part, the Region extended investigation of landfill sites to include further constraints recommended by the Public Works Committee of Council.

The second part will be a review of alternate waste management plans including a pre-design investigation of a "front-end" resource plant. This will include the total waste management system consisting of transfer stations, associated with the plant sites.

The purpose of the present program is to develop an operational solid waste system for the Region with an emphasis on resource recovery. The program will integrate all phases of a solid waste system, namely:

- a resource recovery plant to separate materials which can be recycled and to process those which cannot so that the residue is more amenable to sanitary landfilling;
- transfer stations for receiving solid wastes from collection vehicles and transferring it to the processing plant or landfills;
- and sites for the disposal of solid waste as sanitary landfill in ways which will minimize environmental and social impact and ideally improve the sites' usefulness.

The program will feature among other things:

- public participation to encourage citizens to contribute ideas, and to assist in developing criteria for evaluating technically sound alternatives;
- and evaluation of environmental impact, social disruption, and the economic burden on the Region.

M. M. Dillon Limited, Toronto was engaged by MOE to carry out the study.

The first part of the study includes the evaluation of landfilling sites considering the possibility of using more than one landfill site in the Region; establishing sites for dry solid waste; using specific quarries; using only Class 3, or poorer, agricultural lands for landfill sites; extending the life of existing landfill sites; and minimizing haulage costs for area municipalities.

The Technical Co-ordinating Committee directs and assists the study team and reports to the Regional Public Works Committee and MOE.

Members of the Committee are: Regional Councillors Bill Mason and Ernie Sykes, representing Public Works Committee; Jack Corbett and Roy Cripps, Regional Public Works staff; Hal Ellis, Director of Public Works, Oakville; Harold Buckley, Maintenance Supervisor, Burlington; Bob Austin, Town Engineer, Halton Hills; Bruce McKerr, Works Superintendent, Milton; Luciano Besetti, Resource Recovery Branch, MOE; and Alex Giffen, Central Region, MOE.

The study, including a full public participation program, began in early October. The first interim report on landfilling will be presented early in 1976. The final report will be presented by the end of May.