

Serve Halton-Peel

Consider 1,200 acre dump near Hornby

Halton and Peel Regional Councils are investigating the possibility of operating one giant landfill site that would handle garbage from all of Peel and Halton Regions.

The site proposed is in the Hornby area—south of Highway 401 and straddling the border between Halton and Peel.

Last week both councils passed resolutions directing staff and consultants to investigate the feasibility of the scheme.

Until that turn of events

last week, Halton had unofficially favored a site in the centre of the region near Britannia and Tremaine Rd., south-west of urban Milton.

Got together

Meanwhile Peel Region was also looking at a site near the middle of its region. Halton Regional Chairman Allan Masson told a press conference last week that the idea for a shared site came about after he and Public Works Chairman Jack Rafitis met and discussed the

problem with their counterparts in Peel. That meeting took part when the parties involved were attending an ACRO planning seminar.

According to Mr. Masson, the idea makes good sense at a first glance. He said the shared site could be operated by one staff and one set of machinery and eventually one resource centre could be established there for the two regions.

When the province first indicated a move towards resource recovery, it said it

would help fund one for the two regions. The regions said that would be unworkable and convinced the province to authorize studies for a plant in each region. If the shared site is developed, it would almost certainly lead to one resource recovery plant as well.

Both regions are under heavy pressure to provide a landfill site or sites—and quickly. Halton's sites will be filled to capacity by the middle of next summer.

According to one spokesman from the Peel clerk's office, "the need is for a site yesterday." Meeting only one day after the Halton meeting, the Peel Council passed a resolution indicating full co-operation in the investigation of a joint site.

According to the official, Peel sites are overflowing now. Sites there are being filled to higher elevations and sites are over capacity.

If a joint site is proceeded with, it will be in the order of 1,200 acres, three times the size of what Halton was looking at for its own needs.

During the debate at Halton Region's council meeting, Milton Councillor Jim Watson said the overall idea made sense and he favored it in a general way, "but isn't this the site that had the underground river running through it when the experts were pushing for the Tremaine Site?"

Public Works Chairman Rafitis said the \$20,000 worth of studies commissioned earlier on four Halton sites would continue. "I think it is wise to continue that study concurrently. We could get help up on the other."

Works committee member Councillor Gord Brown said it would be important to have the answers on the other sites as well. He didn't want to delay one study until the other was completed.

The M. M. Dillon consultant's report outlines difficulties with the Hornby site. Consultants suggest expensive engineering might be necessary to protect the area from groundwater pollution.

On the other hand the larger site, if accepted, would make it possible to consider imaginative innovations like developing the site into a ski hill.



PARENTS GET a last wave as all the participants in the junior finale leave the ice in Saturday's carnival. Older skaters helped the youngest ones.



GRADUATES are Sarah Homer, Donna Briggs, Karen McEachern, Yvonne Blain, Chris Baginski and Kelly Payne. Mortarboards and scrolls add to their costumes at the figure skating carnival.

Hornby to fight site

A dramatic change in thinking of Halton Regional Councillors that seems to have elevated the Hornby area as a favored locale for the massive landfill site has disturbed residents in that area.

Last week the possibility of a massive 1,200 acre site serving Halton and Peel was announced. That site is designated as an agricultural area straddling the Halton-Peel border south of Highway 401.

Both Regional Councils have agreed to investigate the likelihood of such a site. That investigation is now underway and will take about six weeks. Meanwhile investigations at other sites in the region are being carried out concurrently.

Ugly view

Milton Councillor and a Hornby area resident Don Gordon said that the site would provide an ugly view for people as they enter Halton region.

He points out the site would be situated under the proposed 500 kV hydro line and it is in the greenbelt.

"I'm sure the province doesn't want too many people working under the proposed hydro line," he said. Gordon recalled that earlier reports suggested the site was one of most expensive to develop, once the existing artesian wells were taken into consideration.

He predicted that the people in that area would be prepared to put up the same sort of strong fight and repre-

sentation that the people in the Tremaine-Britannia Rd. area had put up.

Nancy Kee, a resident living just south of the proposed site, said she thought the idea was dreadful. "Just terrible, the whole idea of burying garbage is so archaic. There are places in the United States and Canada where refuse is disposed of right in the cities and no one is aware of sight or smell," she said.

Meanwhile some residents in the Tremaine-Britannia area are hesitant about organizing any celebration concerning their own fate. "We see it as a smokescreen and we won't be letting up our fight," one resident said.

Salary cut goes by the board

Even though it had voted earlier to support a 10 per cent reduction in salary for its members, Halton Regional Council rejected a by-law that would have implemented the \$850 cut at a meeting Wednesday.

For months now, councillors have preached restraint. The most often uttered phrase by politicians at the regional level is "in this year of restraint."

The message during the region's council meeting Wednesday was that restraint or no restraint, salary reduction is a "no go" deal for the councillors.

Budget meetings held recently stressed the tight money situation and in fact even Wednesday's meeting featured endless rhetoric about economic restraint.

Typical

The by-law was rejected on an 11-9 vote. Council's action Wednesday is typical of the unpredictable style that has marked council since its inception.

Council had passed a resolution in January calling for the preparation of the by-law. Usually once a resolution is passed indicating council's intent, the passing of a by-law is a formality.

The by-law was initially brought forward in March. At that time it was deferred at

the request of Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur.

She noted February and March were the months many councillors used for winter holidays and southern trips. As the by-law affected all councillors, it should be voted upon when all members could be in attendance, she said.

Wednesday's meeting was held with three members absent. Two of them had favored the reduction. Mary Munro, who also favored the reduction, was unable to vote as it was her turn to serve as chairman of the committee of the whole session.

With the exception of a few, regional councillors have full time jobs outside of the political interests.

\$8,500 now

Councillors receive \$8,500 each for service at the regional level as well as varying degrees of payment at the area level. That ranges from a low of \$4,000 per year in Oakville and Milton to \$6,800 in Burlington. Halton Hills councillors receive \$5,400.

Burlington Mayor George Harrington earns \$21,500 as Mayor and \$8,500 as a regional councillor and drives a city-owned Chrysler.

He is the only mayor in the region who has a municipally owned car at his disposal.

Mayor Harrington was one of the opponents of the reduction. "I don't know about the rest of you, but I can't afford

The by-law was rejected with next to no discussion during Wednesday's meeting.

A request for a recorded vote on the matter was deemed out of order as the matter was considered to be finished once it was defeated on first reading. By-laws have to be read three times before they become law.

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