



NORMAL CORNWELL PREPARED to show an audience some points to look for in operating a chain saw during a seminar about wood at the Acton Library last Wednesday. Rud Whiting, in check suit, Al Ails, Jim Bowles and MPP Julian Reed already had addressed the audience about wood burning stoves and the uses of re-useable energy.

Seminar on wood burning points to alternate energy

The energy crisis is pushing technology to make wood-burning stoves more efficient while it also shapes lifestyles to make wood-burning acceptable, an audience learned in the Acton Library last week.

Al Ails and Jim Bowles of Georgetown, Norm Cornwell of Silvercreek and Provincial Liberal energy critic Julian Reed of Norval held a seminar concerning the merits of wood burning.

About 40 people took in the two-and-a-half hour long seminar. Mr. Cornwell gave listeners tips on what the market has to offer from axes, to chain saws to wood. Mr. Bowles and Mr. Ails are partners in J. Bowles Stove Company on Mountainview Rd. N., Georgetown and told of what is available. MPP Reed detailed the back-

ground on Ontario's place in the energy situation.

Mr. Reed said he backed steps to increase the use of renewable resources, such as wood. Wood burning is again becoming socially acceptable because of necessity, Reed observed.

Mr. Reed linked energy to how people live. Energy is perhaps the single most important factor to do with the raising of our standard of living, he said.

Increases in productivity on the farm and in the plant depend on energy, asserted the MPP.

Wood burning in the 1930s was socially looked down upon, Mr. Reed told the gathering. Because of such social expectations much of the available energy in Ontario remains unharnessed, he said.

Reed has an energy project of his own. On his Norval farm he is trying to build a small hydro electric plant.

While the remaining hydro electric potential is explored and nuclear power comes on line, the province needs to examine other forms of energy—the renewable kind.

Statistically he pointed out Ontario imports 80 per cent of its energy. Coal and petroleum cost about \$6.5 billion last year. The balance of our energy needs come from hydro sources.

"It makes us rather vulnerable as a province," Mr. Reed said. Only Prince Edward Island is in a worse position, he indicated.

Reed also discounted fears that wood burning would result in the denuding of forests. That's not so, he said. "There's tremendous potential for this."

The most important point about wood, Jim Bowles said, is that it is available, while oil and gas are not. Wood is expensive, but it's available, he added.

Wood burning stoves have improved too, Mr. Bowles said. Stoves today are ten times as efficient as before.

He used the example of power cuts during the recent storm as a situation where a wood burner could play an important role.

Jim's partner Al Ails detailed the different types of wood stoves on the market.

Traditionally we got most of the heat from the action of wood turning into charcoal as it burned. Modern wood burners try to recapture and burn gases as they are given off from burning logs.

A fireplace is about 15 per cent efficient, Mr. Ails said. On the other hand the amount of heat that reaches the owner of an Ashley airtight stove is about 50 to 60 per cent, he said.

Mr. Ails cautioned would-be stove buyers that the-

Canadian Standards Association has yet to approve any stove, but he said he expected the association to make rulings within a year.

A cord of wood, 4 feet by 4 feet by 8 feet, is equal to 297 gallons of heating oil, claimed Mr. Ails.

Wood burning, to Norm Cornwell, is a personal activity. It becomes a way of life.

A cord costs between \$80 and \$90. He also cautioned buyers to make sure they insist on getting what they are paying for.

Some less than scrupulous wood sellers claim that a cord of wood amounts to 90 cubic feet, he said. A cord is 128 cubic feet, and weighs up to three tons. It includes the wood and airspaces, he said.

In this area, beech and maple are the best woods. Mr. Cornwell gave an indication of the amount of wood a user could expect to use.

The average house could use from five to six cords in a winter. Insulation may cut down on the amount.

An acre will produce about three-quarters of a cord of wood in a year. Perhaps more, he said.

A maple tree with an 18-inch width will deliver about half a cord.

Tree felling requires knowledge which can be learned by experience and from books. The library has books about chain saws.

Chimneys can be a problem in wood burning, Mr. Cornwell said. Old ones in particular can be dangerous. Check your chimney before starting a fire.

The best chimney for you and me is the metal one, he said. Chimneys should be cleaned about once a year. They should also be capped in order to keep birds and rain out.

The seminar was sponsored by Halton Hills public libraries.



AHS TEACHER Paul Tamblin and MPP Julian Reed discuss the uses of renewable energy sources following a seminar at the Acton Library Wednesday on the subject of the merits of wood-burning.

Landfill always required experts advise council

Halton should be looking for a second and a third landfill site now according to Halton Planning Director Ed Cumming. He told regional council during a seminar on waste management that the official plan sets out a reduced reliance on landfill and an increased reliance on resource recovery.

He pointed out, however, that the need for landfill will continue to exist and the region should identify future sites long before they are required.

Milton Mayor Don Gordon said he felt the region had misled the public into believing that there is a shortage of landfill space in existing sites.

He noted that consultants and regional officials have continually said there is only 12 to 18 months left in the present sites.

Gordon said he believed the

reports were used as scare tactics to force council to support a landfill site at Site F. He claimed the site might never be necessary, because resource recovery could be built in time.

Wally Wells of M.M. Dillon reviewed the timetable and the progress with Site F. He said the region would be hard pressed to open the new site before the old ones are forced to close.

Regional Lawyer Dennis Perlin said public hearings are scheduled to be held in Milton Feb. 28 with an OMB and Environmental Assessment Board Hearing in the fall of 1978 and probably an appeal to cabinet in February of 1979.

However, David Estrin, a lawyer representing the Tremaine-Britannia Citizens Group, said court action he intends to follow will set the region's schedule back by at

least one year and probably two.

During the morning session council heard presentations from Regional Treasurer Don Farmer, Works Director, Bob Moore, Planning Director Ed Cumming, Lawyer Perlin, consultant Wally Wells and Wes Williamson, the Director of Resource Recovery for the Ministry of the Environment.

Moore cautioned the region about moving into resource recovery systems which has not yet been proven.

"I've found no one in a responsible position who will say that resource recovery will take 100 per cent of the waste generated in the region."

Moore said the region had no plan for a contingency in the event that Site F can't go ahead. He said it is now too late in the process to consider a contingency.



GREG VANDAL of Peel Street, chats with Al Ails (right) about the advantages of wood burning stoves after a seminar about wood burning held at the library last Wednesday.

Region misinformed on resource recovery

This statement was issued by Julian Reed M.P.P. after attending a meeting at Halton Region on resource recovery:

"This morning I attended a regional meeting on resource recovery, and heard the remarks made by staff and some of the questions asked by various municipal councilors. Some very salient points were revealed, which led or misled depending on how you feel about resource recovery.

First of all, it was revealed that there is no one on regional staff with any expertise in resource recovery, and it was stated a little later that no research has been done on this alternative. Such admissions only serve to illustrate the confined framework in which the regional councilors are forced to operate.

Some information was apparently misleading, for instance, it was suggested by Wes Williamson of the Ministry of Environment that a back end system, that is a system that incinerates garbage and generates electricity, or makes some energy form, would cost in the neighborhood of \$30 to \$60 million.

An official of manufacturer to which he was referring was seated beside me at the meeting, and advised me that the cost would be around \$20 to \$30 million. Secondly it was stated that there is no such thing as 100 per cent waste recovery. Let's make it clear that there's nothing which can't be reprocessed, including rubble from demolished buildings.

It was also stated that the incineration process could only take about 50 per cent of the garbage, but what was obviously left out was the fact

much of the remainder is saleable as recovered material.

It was interesting to note that costs were the only items discussed, and there was no real effort made to project revenue, from saleable end products. For instance a 400 ton per day plant in Halton would produce about 10 megawatts of electrical power on a continuing basis, plus another 10 megawatts of waste heat potential for district heating. The dollar value of 10 megawatts in 1977, if wholesaled to Ontario Hydro, would be roughly \$1.1 million, based on their prices offered for private production of hydraulic power. Hydro has publicly stated that they will buy power from any source.

The projections for energy costs would tend to indicate that the average revenue which can be expected from such a plant coming on stream probably in 1980 would be around \$2 or \$2½ million not counting any revenue generated through the sale of waste heat.

Then, of course, there are those who are convinced that we will still need landfill anyway. If we choose this option i.e. not to process these inert materials which are neither saleable nor combustible, then it is obvious that they can be used because of their inert nature. It is organic materials which are largely responsible for leachate.

The problem of time deadline in the construction of resource recovery hardware is a very real one for Halton Region. However it should be pointed out that by source separation the life of the existing land fill sites could

be extended sufficiently to allow for the realization of such a commitment.



Julian Reed

It became disappointingly obvious at the meeting that the provincial government who had ostensibly touted the 100 per cent capital costs, and 50 per cent pay back, have limited that kind of financial assistance to demonstration projects only. It is absolutely essential that the provincial government

understand its commitment on the broadest possible base, and support whatever technology choices through financial arrangements by each region or municipality.

There was a statement made that the technology of generating steam needed more refinement. It should be pointed out that steam generating garbage burners have been operating successfully throughout Europe and parts of North America for over 30 years, and while improvements can be made, the hardware is very well established.

It was obvious as well that private enterprise has not had the opportunity to have real input in presenting its own technology to the region. It is absolutely essential that all areas of alternatives be scrutinized, and this is one politician who is convinced that in most cases private industry can function more effectively than government.

The \$15 million investment in front end technology by the Ministry of Environment is largely a duplication of work

that has been completed in the U.S. It appears cumbersome and costly compared to the private enterprise alternatives.

Finally, it seems incredible to me that these people on regional council who are supporters of the regional system cannot understand that a resource recovery system would be one way the regional government might be seen to work.

The choice of a consolidated dump certainly does nothing to boost support for the regional concept. I have arranged a meeting with the M of E at the earliest possible moment to discuss the problem and to point out to Mr. McKay that he must assume the role of active leadership in this issue.

Garbage is a national resource and must be looked at by all levels of government from that point of view. Only then can we proceed on a positive path and get rid of negative, reactionary, and badly informed thinking that governed the regional meeting."

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