

Council unanimous

Region approves plan to avoid garbage crisis

Halton Regional Council voted unanimously to support measures proposed by Burlington Mayor Mary Munro aimed at finding an interim solution to the region's pending garbage crisis.

The recommendation calls for examination of:

- Possible expansions.
- Ways to maximize use of existing sites.
- Use of NATCO lands on Highway 403 in Burlington.
- Use of Milton Brick Yards (Site H) as a dry waste site.
- Temporary burning of selected materials.

The recommendation came as a result of meetings with Mrs. Munro and regional chairman Ric Morrow with staff and consultants.

The motion is designed to stave off a crisis but still leaves the door open for further consideration of the Milton site at Tremaine and Britannia Rd. for a major dump.

Conversely if council is able to buy enough time through implementing parts or all of the recommendation it could allow enough time to consider resource recovery and or

alternate sites.

The studies recommended in the recommendation will cost up to \$23,000. For some of the work to be finalized further tests and drilling would be necessary.

Mrs. Munro told council she hoped the problem could be dealt with by adopting a package of ideas as opposed to one alternative.

She noted that the M.M. Dillon report had overstated the population projections by four to six per cent and the waste projection by 20 per cent.

She estimated that if all the dry waste generated in Halton was taken to Site H that site could accept 140,000 tons and that would meet the region's needs for three or four years.

Burlington Councillor Walter Mulkevic questioned the wisdom of investigating the NATCO property in Burlington any further when it had been earlier ruled out because of poor access.

Mrs. Munro suggested the access was a drawback but she argued that council couldn't presuppose that the problem was too great to rule it from consideration.

Both Mulkevic and Oakville Councillor Carl Erikson suggested local areas should be taking the lead and instituting separation at source programs. Erikson noted that while it was the local area's responsibility to collect garbage he felt the region should conduct seminars for the local officials to instill interest in programs such as the one in Halton Hills.

Oakville Councillor Ron Planché suggested the resolution could be just another effort to seal the fate of Site F as a garbage dump. He claimed there was no move on resource recovery yet and the extension of current sites would be a way of allowing more time to get Site F approved.

Mrs. Munro asked rhetorically what Mr. Planché's solution would be to deal with the waste.

Oakville Councillor Archie Donaghy supported the motion but insisted that residents in areas that could be affected be notified.

Oakville Councillor Gord Reade suggested the move was like a breath of fresh air.

Oakville Councillor Mac Anderson said he was reluctant to see the Oakville site expanded because of promises of termination the previous councils had made.

"But there are 200,000 people out there who need an answer."

Milton Councillor Jim Watson raised the ire of Mrs. Munro when he urged the removal of any mention of the word interim in the recommendation. He felt that by removing the word interim it would remove even the vague reference to Site F. His amendment failed.

"We have attempted to put divisions of the past behind us and make a sincere move to solve a serious problem and now the dogs are at the gate trying to change the motion until nothing is left and we would be back where we started with no solution in sight," Mrs. Munro said.

Even the councillors themselves were surprised when the vote carried unanimously. The landfill question has torn and divided the council for three years now and even the most innocent of motions have been suspect in the eyes of one group of councillors or the other.

17 Sideroad issue still up in air

The town is no closer to solving the 17 Sideroad controversy following a 30 minute behind-closed-doors meeting of Halton Hills works committee Monday.

Councillors, who were supposed to hear some recommendations from Councilor Mike Armstrong and engineer Robert Austin regarding guidelines for permit issuance to drivers whose trucks weigh more than 11-tons, came up with no recommendations to council. The item has been passed on to the next committee meeting in two weeks.

Before going into camera, the committee reviewed a letter from James Bessey, Limehouse, an independent trucker, who said all the blame shouldn't be laid on Indusmin drivers. He said many other truckers use the Fourth Line and 17 Sideroad and most Indusmin drivers use the two roads only when making deliveries in Georgetown or Brampton.

In the letter Bessey said going through Acton to Highway 25 would add nearly \$100 a month to truckers' fuel bills.

He said the half-load limit season should have been extended in the spring because of the poor shape the rural roads were in.

Bessey reminded councillors he and other truckers pay hefty licence fees and gas taxes to the province and this money is supposed to come back to municipalities for road maintenance.

He pointed out complaining residents built their homes on 17 Sideroad years after the trucks started using the road.

Councillor George Maltby described Bessey's assessment of the situation as accurate.

He noted residents don't mind the trucks using the roads for local and Brampton deliveries but object to loads going to Toronto via 17 Sideroad.

Armstrong noted Bessey worked hard with residents and council to find a solution to the problem last year.

The committee is trying to frame guidelines so town staff knows who to give special permits to once the 11 ton load limit on the road goes into effect.



ACTON FIREFIGHTERS were called to a car fire in a lot off Kingham Road Thursday evening. According to District Chief Bern Van Fleet the fire in the back seat of the auto was caused by a cigarette.

Suspicious fire is investigated

Halton Regional Police are investigating a "suspicious fire" in the locker room of an apartment building at 200 Churchill Rd. last Thursday, according to Deputy fire chief Bob Hyde.

Mr. Hyde explained that the fire broke out at 11:30 p.m. The sprinkler system in the ceiling was activated, causing most of the \$500 in estimated damages.

An R.R. 4 Acton resident reported to police the damage done to a mail box by vandals who hurled a large stone from passing auto.

Police arrest eight after mail box spree

Halton Regional Police scooped up some rowdies on charges of knocking over 22 countryside mail boxes and damaging other private property.

Eight area men ranging in age from 17 years to 21 years were arrested and charged after an investigation involving an equal number of police officers.

Most of the damage was done on July 9, a Sunday. Many of the mail boxes were broken and knocked down on the 6th line, though addresses of victims are up and down the 4th and 5th lines and elsewhere.

All those arrested are charged with all or some of the damage.

The vandals tried to burn one mail box twice, once on the Saturday and again on the Sunday. Also in the damage list is an RR 1 Limehouse planter which was turned over and its flowers spilled, also along the same route an outdoor lamp was broken, and one speed sign knocked over.

Three of those caught by police have Georgetown addresses, two are from Esqueping, one from Limehouse, one from Glen Williams and one from RR 3, Acton.

Health Unit busy in schools

Halton Health Unit was busy working in schools throughout the region last year performing almost 3,500 pre-kindergarten health assessments.

The pre-kindergarten testing showed 28 per cent of those tested had some kind of health or developmental problem and treatment was prescribed.

Reinforcing diphtheria, tetanus and polio shots were given to 2,616 students in Halton Hills and Milton last year with another 76 receiving measles and rubella vaccinations.

Vision tests were administered for 2,968 pupils in Milton and Halton Hills and 325 received follow-up examinations. Hearing tests were given to 2,910 students in northern schools and 507 in the kindergarten screening program 17 vision defects were discovered and 30 hearing problems out of 950 pupils tested.

A microwave oven and two packs of gum were stolen last week from the confectionary building in Prospect Park. Entry was gained into the building by prying open a large rear window. Value of the theft is \$400.

School nurses visited 1,889 homes in Halton Hills and Milton last year to discuss health problems with students and parents.

School staff handed over 5,843 student health cases to nurses for their attention and action in 1977.

\$11.9 million worth of road work need

There is over \$11 million worth of Halton Hills roads in need of work either now or over the next five years, according to town engineer Robert Austin.

This was one of a number of facts about town roads brought out during a works committee discussion Monday.

Austin told the councillors the 1977 roads needs study done by a consulting firm, reviewing the condition of all town roads, found deficiencies in a number of roads.

He explained the study is done primarily for the benefit of Queen's Park which basis its financial subsidy on the study.

Austin noted all the roads are broken down into categories based on immediate work need, work needed in one to five years and work needed in six to ten years. Provincial subsidy is based on the roads in the work needed low category and work needed in one to five years.

There is \$11.9 million worth of road reconstruction listed in the now and one to five years category, Austin said, adding the work is more long range than it appears on the surface.

He said if the town had the money and the province approved the work it could be done tomorrow, with each government body picking up 50 per cent of the tab.

But the town doesn't have the money and the province wouldn't approve spending that much right away anyway, Austin said.

What the list amounts to is "what we need but might never get" in the way of road reconstruction, he said.

Austin said the majority of the \$11.9 million would be spent on rural roads although there is some semi-urban roads without curbs and gutters and some urban roads which need work.

Austin said the work needed isn't that "startling" and while there is a lot to be done, it "could be worse."

Councillor Pat McKenzie is urging the condition of roads be examined and hard surfacing considered in light of hefty maintenance costs for gravel, oil calcium and other treatments.

He told the committee the town staff has agreed to bring in a report on road conditions and the feasibility of hard surfacing but it won't come in until September at the earliest.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson suggested councillors need to know which roads cost the most in maintenance and which need to be brought up to standard. She said she keeps hearing rumors that the controversial 17 Sideroad, repeatedly pounded by heavy trucks, eats up most of the maintenance budget.

Austin said his department doesn't have exact dollar figures for maintenance of specific roads although they

do know which ones require the most work and therefore cost the most. He said 17 Sideroad is costly but not as expensive as Serjeantson suggested.

The town is nowhere close to having its roads all up to standard but then neither are any other municipalities.

Pointing out the town has traffic counts on roads, McKenzie said he was advocating hard surfacing as opposed to gravel for high traffic volume roads only.

The deficient structure of many roads which lack a proper base and have poor drainage is to blame for the town overspending its 1978 gravel patch budget already.

Councillor George Maltby urged an in-depth roads study, noting if the town had more facts and figures it would have a "lever" to get more money out of the province. He said the town needs to know if it costs a certain amount to maintain 100 miles of rural roads but maybe just eight bad miles is eating up 50 per cent of cost.

Austin said such a study wouldn't bring in more provincial dollars, adding the Ministry of Transportation and Communications already upped the town's grant based on the 1977 roads need study.

Maltby said everyone knows some roads cost more than others. Road costs are needed so councillors can make comparisons and look for ways of reducing some costs by finding alternative maintenance methods.

He predicted if residents knew the road maintenance costs Georgetown and Acton taxpayers might support paving of some rural roads so in the long run money could be saved and later spent on urban road "beautification."

McKenzie observed with more facts in front of them councillors might even decide to increase the gravel budget.

Austin said the roads always need maintenance and the amount depends on what standard of road maintenance the council wants and will pay for.

He observed roads have been in bad shape this year because some won't keep gravel long and can't be graded. In some cases it's a big job to keep rural roads even passable.

Austin warned the day is coming when a lot will have to be spent on rural roads and urban projects postponed for a time.

Councillor Mike Armstrong rejected claims made in the past by various councillors,

particularly Pat Patterson, that roads aren't in as good shape today as they were in 1974 when Halton Hills was born.

Armstrong said anyone could find specific roads in worse shape today than five years ago but there are many which are in much better condition now than in 1974.

Maltby concluded rural roads are in better shape now than a month ago.

Spray heads stolen from tannery field

\$450 worth of sprinkler heads were reported stolen from the Beardmore Tannery fields south of the plant along Highway 25.

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