## Site F: Is it environmental or political?

(Continued from B6)

Craig Reld, 25 years a breeder of champion Holstein cattle, said, "this is number one agricultural land...and in all my experience there has never been a case of land fill being returned to agricultural." Region has stated the site would be covered over with five feet of fill and aguln used

agriculture. Freeman, Britannia Rd., said the wind is so bad in winter it makes driving impossible. She said she has had the roof blown off three times in five years she has lived near the proposed dump site. She says such winds will pick up paper and garbage and plaster homes. The

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Bob Johnson who lives on Indian Creek which runs beside the dump site situation in Georgetown where the landfill site was filled and covered over March 31, 1980. Now the Credit Valley Conservation Authority is investigating reports of

"black ooze" escaping into the Credit River. In fact Halton Regional Council made \$78,000 available Oct. 7, 1960 to improve leachate control even though the covering contract was supposed to have solved this. The Region states a layer of "impervious" clay will be used to help leachate at Site F. It states the percolation of water will take eight to 10 years. Region states this will not

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with his family to the Chief will be a truck pass his entangled situation. home once every minute with Site F.

Also speaking against will be several other funded by the Regional

Administrative

When the Halton site selection committee was around for possible locations, they extraction pit located Burlington dump site and the current Burlington

But when it was labelled Site A and firm president Kelly New approached to see if he member of the Halton Conservation

continues to grind on in And so the site selec-

Tremaine Rd., moved what Solicitor and Acting tion committee ruled out Site A and everything gravitated towards Site

Christensen said the land could handle up to three million tons of garbage, more if it is compacted. Morrow sent out his fateful letter, National He said the site could Sewer Pipe Executive thus be used for 10 to 15 years. And best of all the leachate pipe from the closed and current Halton dumps ran right in front of National Sewer Pipe property and a pipe from Site A could just be

the 200 acres known as Site A as a landfill site. airman Russ Miller, later to be committee chairman when Councillor Terry Mannell resigned "It seems that now Site

F is down the drain." go on like we had in Site

so close to being "ideal" that it would only be right The meeting ran from to high. Mr. for the Minister to allow this to happen.

It didn't and Dr. Parrott said so in a letter to the Town of Milton and Halton Regional Council. In essence, he said, the EPA legislation deals with one specific site and therefore, it would not be fair of him to change the rules the ball game was being played under.

The second incident which could have brought The change of heart by National Sewer Pipe was change was the Solid not based on wanting to Management Waste be charitable but on pure Committee, a public works sub-committee, economics. The company formed to help meet a makes sewer pipes of clay but the switch to Regional priority which called for Halton "to rubber and plastic pipes is taking over. By aclessen its dependence on cepting some three sanitary landfill sites." Kilborn Limited, an million tons of garbage at the \$9 Halton Region

environmental consultipping fee, Mr. New et al ting team from Toronto, was given \$55,000 to complete a full review of Halton's waste disposal picture from sludge to the sublime. The final turned down the idea of land fill in place of a Resource Derived Fuel plant to be built, with the blessing of the landthe Shell Refinery property. suggested waste transfer

steam stations: production from garbage plants to help heat the Georgetown Hospital: even a program mandatory source separation of garbage in the home so that money

made from waste could be applied against the waste disposal budget of the region.

It would take a story as long as this one to explain what went wrong, but the Chairman committee Terry Mannell resigned after the committee budget request was dropped from the 1960 operating budget April 15

of this year. "I can only assume the Region is still committed to landfill," he said.

He said a number of other things very uncomplimentary Regional Chairman Jack Raftis and ended by accusing Halton Region

Site F, it has opened the gate to what may well be environmental decision which will set a precedent not just

Ontario, but for all of Canada. And once again that precedent will wind up squarely on the desk of

The Town of Milton,

Dr. Parrott. deciding not to be the good, little member municipality of Halton Region and dutifully pass

a zoning bylaw in order to

make the proper legal

Strong stuff, but when connection, has refused the solid waste com- to enact the bylaw or mittee budget was even consider it in open completely cut except for council. \$120,000 for the source

As late as Sept. 0, 1980 Sollcitor-CAO Dennis renewed the fight. And it Main, Milton Clerk-Coordinator, warning him of the consequences of not passing the necessary

those against Site F

should be noted the

dropped again in Sep-

tember of this year when

the Region ran into a

deficit and they needed

money from anywhere to

make it good. The money

wasn't touched then, but

it has since been revealed

the sewer surcharge

system may result in at

least a \$500,000 deficit by

the end of the year, and

astronimcal \$3 million by

1983 according to Price-

Waterhouse in a sewer

Region has just received

a letter from Dr. Parrott

advising the Ministry's

the Councillors dealing

report on the senior staff

at the region which has

already resulted in the

Administrative Officer

Treasurer Don Farmer,

the letter was for all

intents and purposes

Ontario Municipal Board

concluded the lands

known as Site F could be

re-zoned for a landfill

operation. The zoning

amendment was sought

by Halton Region and

opposed by every other

group, agency, and

municipality north of the

Queen Elizabeth Way.

final act in legitimizing

Instead of it being the

On June 15, 1960 the

"received and filed."

of

Reid

more probably

surcharge report.

Ironically,

municipalities

management

sacking

almost

Ontario Municipal Board may be enforced as a Judgement or Order of the Supreme Court of Ontario and therefore should be treated with due respect," he sald.

Mr. Perlin said he was aware of opponents of dicated previously that they may attempt to forestall environmental proceedings on the basis environmental approval cannot sought andfoor finalized until the Official Plan has formally

intention of setting up plants which would use And indeed the zoning garbage as a source of Region has only been heat and fuel. Halton given two readings at this Region, he said, was one date and it is incumbent of the few Ontario bylaw before this can Ministry would like to include on a short list. On happen.

But Milton was waiting the Sept. 17, 1980 for a break and that Regional Council agenda the letter appeared. With break came July 25, 1980. The break was furnished by D. P. Caplice, that same day with the auditor's report on the still Director of Environmental ovals Branch.

> He was commenting on a letter from David Estrin, on behalf of the Tremaine-Britannia Citizens Group that to proceed under the EPA would be constricting on Environmental Assessment hearing which by then

had been officially slated

to begin today. Writing to Mr. Perlin, Mr. Caplice stated "It has not been the practice in the past to impose any conditions Environmental Asses-Board sment respect to the manner in which hearings are to be conducted as it is difficult beforehand to determine

all the issues which should be considered at the hearing. "It is not reasonable to unknowingly place obstacles through directing any prior conditions in any notice to the Board which would prevent any

of these being dealt with at the hearing." And then the crucial sentence:

"I am of the opinion that the Board must have considerable latitude to ensure that a proper hearing can take place and that all relevant matters can be fully EPA. explored and report upon as may be required on a

case by case basis." For the Town of Milton and its associated anti-Site F allies, the door to bringing back a hearing under the EAA head "considerable latitude' was taken to mean Site A

associated with the EAA as opposed to the pointon-the-map regulations of the EPA.

So armed Fred Leitch representing Milton and Edgar representing Regional Municipality of Halton met Sept. 30 before Mr. Justice James Southey to argue whether the Oct. 15 hearing would

be under the EPA or the Mr. Justice Southey, looking at a blizzard of documents arguments from 9 a.m. until 5.30 p.m. He decided he must defer to Dr. Parrott and that has Site "F" who have in- resulted in him giving Milton and Halton 30 days in which to have all documentation placed before him so that a decision can be made.

concerns.

The Region's case will be more strict. Mr. Perlin is counting on a "grandfather clause" in environmental regulations. Even though Site F was started before the implementation of the EPA, it probably still under

regulations. On top of this Mr. Perlin will be sending a book almost 10 inches thick of studies done all with the understanding that the hearing would proceed under the EPA as decided in 1977 and confirmed by Halton Regional Council

Mr. Perlin said some with consultants on studies and reports. To as the reports branch out to cover all of Halton.

another \$150,000 he told Council Sept. 24.

the Region is convinced There will Environmental

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Based on two very different conceptions of how the hearing should proceed, the resumption of the hearing could take until Nov. 11 as Mr. Perlin predicts, or into the new year, which Site

F opponents predict. Milton's case is the bylaw is not passed and the zoning is not official and this must be considered with the fact wide latitude must be given to take in all environmental

Resolution Sept. 24, 1980. \$500,000 has been spent change now to the EAA would mean a long delay The cost would be at least

Both the Region and Milton et al are convinced they can win from a strictly environmental point of view, provided of course, they get the

"right" political ruling on which act will be used at the hearing. All these reports indicate Site F is suited for a landfill operation and

of success under the sment Board hearing and

will decision reached. But what decision be and

elements are going to decide it?

Site F-Is vironmental? Political? Is it right? Is it wrong?

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area 15 years ago to Officer Dennis Perlin "escape the hustle and terms a "no On Sept. 28, 1979, some bustle of Oakville." Now situation", there are two two years after Mr. he has been told there new wrinkles in the whole

The statements were looking heard at the 1979 OMB hearing into zoning the noted National Sewer site for landfill but they Pipe Limited had an will be heard again when and if the Environmental reconvenes later this

site F at the hearing and expected to return again

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vice-president Christensen appeared Regional Solid Waste Management Committee. He said the firm was now ready, willing, and able to talk about using

in a huff, was elated.

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could count on at least \$27 million coming in over the next 15 years. authorized noted hydrogologist Dr. John Cherry to start a study and even allowed for an over-sized

leachate pipe to go in just To Milton, and all those opposed to Site F, the feeling was summed up by Mr. Gordon who stated Oct. 3, 1979.

"I say we wan't have Site F. "The hearing on Site F has now been put off until November and we're going to have a long

bearing after that. "In the meantime, if all runs tickety-boo, I think we could have Site A approved next year. . .I mean 1980," he said.

It has been one year since those statements hydrogeological report is not completed and Mayor Gordon is claiming a Regional stalling tactic. But it's not for want of trying. On March 13 of this year Regional Councillors found embroiled themselves

petition Minister Environment Parrott Environmental Assessment Hearing consider what is most environmentally sound

for the Region. Although of using bad faith with it has not yet been the ratepayers by promising policy of the EAR to them waste disposal but consider more than one continuing on with land-

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