

# Acton plant focus of Energy From Waste study

Halton's vision of turning its garbage nightmares into an energy user's dream is looking brighter now with the results of a four month regional study pointing to six possible industrial customers for an energy from waste plant.

The Beardmore tannery in Acton is one of six Halton companies out of 487 studied that show promise as users of steam and electricity produced by a garbage burning EFW plant, according to the marketing report.

After the study team presents its findings at a public meeting in mid-January, its task will be to do a more detailed study of the six to access the financial, environmental and technical feasibility of EFW at each.

"The main thing is that we feel we have identified a market," said Project Officer Vicky Gibson.

That will be welcome news to regional council which is hoping to turn 75 per cent of Halton's garbage into an energy resource, leaving 25 per cent of the waste that is useless for the widely unpopular landfill alternative.

Besides Beardmore, the other companies include the Petro Canada refinery, Union Carbide plant and Ford assembly plant, all in Oakville, the Fearman plant in Burlington and Leaver Mushrooms in Milton.

Energy use questionnaires were sent to 1300 area businesses in August and of those which responded, the field was narrowed

down to the final six because they were the only ones falling within Halton's stipulation that their energy consumption require the burning of at least 75 tonnes of garbage per day.

The fortunes of a Halton EFW facility have been further brightened by an Ontario Hydro policy that any electrical power produced will be purchased, says the report.

This has created three options for the region including the production of energy strictly for an industrial consumer, strictly for Hydro or some combination of the two.

"We feel confident that one of the three will work," said Gibson.

Of the six plants Beardmore appears to

have the most potential complications to the location of an EFW plant nearby, according to the results of the report. These include the lack of a good site for the plant, a possible reduction of the buffer zone between the plant and the nearby residences and possible conflicts that could result from that, and the great age of the tannery complex.

That doesn't mean these problems are insurmountable, said Gibson who explained, "(Beardmore) is a bit more complicated, but it does have the advantage in that it is up in Halton Hills," a source of garbage.

Representatives of Beardmore were unavailable for comment.

Council has asked for a definite answer on the location of EFW by July when it will decide whether to stick to its original target of 75 per cent energy use and 25 per cent landfilling of garbage or revise its plans.

The decision on how much can be fed to EFW will determine the size needed for a landfill site which the region must select this year if it is to be in operation in 1988.

Gibson would give no firm figures on how much the study has cost taxpayers so far, but she indicated they have been kept low by council's insistence that paid consultants be used only in areas where regional staff lacks expertise.

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## Esquering rebel's story as told to a judge

Edited by  
Rob Burnett

This is the second instalment of the saga of John Stewart, the Esquering rebel. A resident of the Township of Esquering in the area known as the Scotch Block which covered all of the township south of 17 Sideroad and west of the Sixth Line. The first instalment included the indictment of John Stewart for insurrection, rebellion, public war and regicide. A follower of William Lyon Mackenzie, we left Stewart as he became interested in the reforms proposed by Mackenzie.



JOHN STEWART  
The patriarch

Naturally a Reformer  
Speaking of this period, Mr. Stewart says: "I was naturally a Reformer, and when I saw the condition to which the country had been brought by the Family Compact, I determined in 1834 to stand or fall and to risk everything I had for those with whom I had allied. It is an easy matter to be a Reformer now, but at that time you were perhaps shunned by your neighbors, and all your actions subjected to an organized system of espionage. I became an agent for Mr. Mackenzie's paper, sparing neither labor nor expense to circulate it amongst the people, being willing to do all in my power to advance the good of my country."

I generally went to Toronto twice a year, and after transacting business with Mr. Mackenzie in his store on Yonge St., we had long conversations on the conditions of the country. In June, 1837, being in Toronto, Mackenzie took me to a yard back of his store to be private, and after sounding me well and finding out that I could be relied on, declared to me the whole of the secrets of himself and friends. This was substantially that they would make another effort to reform the Government by constitutional means, and failing that, they would summon their friends to arms and depose the ruling power. From that day I became a subordinate conspirator, the duty being imposed on me of marshalling and rousing our friends in the district of which the township of Esquering was the centre.

The French in Lower Canada at that time were getting very restless under the rule of Gov. Gosford, and overtures were made to the leaders in Upper Canada to assist them in one common physical remonstrance.

Mackenzie unjustly accused

Mackenzie is unjustly accused of being instigated with a desire to plunge the country into the vortex of rebellion to gratify his own personal dislike to the members of the Government. Nothing can be further from the truth, for as an alternative to the proposals made he suggested that a convention should be held of delegates from every part of the country to impress upon the Governor the wisdom of governing the country in accordance with the instructions of his commission. With that in view, Mackenzie commenced to address a series of meetings, holding one on our farm which was largely attended.

Rebellion was not advised by the speaker, but he forcibly and scathingly exposed the maladministration of the Governor and his irresponsible executive. This was the latter part of harvest. The next meeting was held at Churchville, but the Family Compact, becoming alarmed, sent word to the local Tories to suppress the meetings. We, however, appointed our chairman, but after I took the platform to count the number on our side, the Tories made a rush on the platform to throw Mackenzie down. We had the majority, but in spite of that, the meeting had to be abandoned; the local magistrate, Col. Thompson, having refused to keep the peace.

Mackenzie left the place guarded by his friends, and I took another direction homewards. Entering the field the crowd followed me, yelling, "Kill him, kill him," but being swift of foot I outran them, and coming to the Credit River, I plunged into it. I have not the slightest doubt that had they caught up to me they would have murdered me. In this way freedom of speech was denied at our own doors, and even those who were lukewarm in the cause began to see that liberty must once again be obtained by bloodshed.

Hints of the coming storm

We could hold no meetings, but to those I could trust I communicated the intention of Mackenzie and advisory council in Toronto. I gave hints of the coming storm to my brothers, who were in the building line in Toronto, so that they would guard against any losses, but they paid no attention. Meanwhile the Lower Canadians hurried on the crisis, and Mackenzie was sent down to Quebec, where he held conference with Papineau, the Nelsons and others. When he came back action was taken and December 7 was fixed on as the day for the rising of the people against the Government. This deci-

sion was communicated to me by messenger from Toronto. He hired a team to take arms to the city, placing them under the care of Edward Hilton, a man who could be relied on in any emergency.

The work of preparation and summoning of friends to the place of rendezvous had to be carried on with the utmost care and secrecy. Spies were on every concession and Stewart's movements were closely watched and reported by agents to headquarters. On the Thursday before the day appointed for the taking of Toronto, Stewart and his friends were thrown into a consternation by the arrival in their midst of a messenger from Hincks and Rolph, who told them to come at once. The messenger had similar papers for other districts.

The blunder

This move on the part of the advisory council was a huge blunder, and it was little wonder that the Montgomery tavern affair put an end to the rebellion. Mackenzie was blamed for this new departure, but Mr. Stewart, who knew all the affair, states distinctly that he was holding meetings in the country when the order was given to reverse the decision first arrived at to march for the city so as to meet in a body December 7. After going to Burlington and Hamilton, Stewart returned on Sunday night, and on Monday he invited his friends to meet that night at his house to prepare for the march.

Of this Mr. Stewart says: "they assembled to the number of 60, and immediately walked across two concessions where they were to wait until I should arrive from visiting my mother, who had broken her leg during the day. When I arrived where my men were, they appointed me captain, but on an enumeration I found to my amazement that they had all left but twenty-two."

Nothing daunted, Captain Stewart marched on and met with no opposition until they came to the town line of Chinguacousy, where there was a chopping bee, and the choppers rushed on the patriots with their axes, but when they heard the click of muskets they retired and allowed them to pass unmolested. The ardor of the men soon began to cool and after going a short distance further, all but five returned home. Stewart, Kilburne, Hilton, Donald Campbell and Wm. Robertson, returning their arms.

## Georgetown man heads riding NDP

Jo Surich of Georgetown, newly elected president of the Halton-Burlington NDP, says the party will be an active and visible force in the area during the next year.

"We are determined to make the NDP a visible and viable alternative in the Halton-Burlington area. We have the people, we have a strong, new executive and we have the money to make a real showing here in the next year and in the next election," Mrs. Surich said.

The annual meeting of the provincial party was held at the UAW hall in Milton last November. Elected to the executive were: Mr. Surich president, Tom Moore, a member of the Energy and Chemical Workers Union, was elected vice-president.

pushed on with a resolute determination. All kinds of stories were then afloat, but they said nothing.

After travelling by night and day through the woods, they crossed the Humber at Weston and made due east for Yonge St. When they came to the Green Bush Hotel they saw and heard that all was over.

All is over

They just arrived in time to see the Loyalists set fire to Gibson's house and barn, shoot his poultry and stock and cheer for their victory. The rebels, active and passive, were now under the iron heel of their opponents, and from this out the narrative will be confined to the career of Mr. Stewart after arriving at the Green Bush Hotel. He and Kilburne started for Toronto, but on meeting a man who warned them against such a course, they retraced their steps, with a view of coming to Lloydtown next day. They succeeded in getting through several companies of Loyalists, but at last they were arrested and brought back to a place near where Richmond Hill now stands.

The arresting company was under the command of Ross McKay, and there were in all 100 prisoners in their grasp. In dealing with this part of the subject—the imprisonment, trials, and judgement of the courts, Mr. Stewart goes on to say: "We were put in rooms in Linfoot's Hotel. Ross McKay was a disgusting coward. He was never tired talking about "our prisoner," and assuming an air of superiority. He gave us nothing to eat until Squire Roe told him to, was using his men worse than dogs. We then got bread and water."

Extreme sufferings

"Next day we were marched, to the number of 100, to Toronto where we began our horrible sufferings. We marched two deep, the right arm of each being tied to the left of his comrade. An immense crowd of people stood on both sides of Yonge and King Streets as we walked along. We were hissed and groaned at on all sides. We were lodged in the Parliament buildings securely guarded by soldiers pressed into service by the Government. We had to lie on the floor, beds being denied us.

Hon. Archibald McLean came in to look at the prisoners, and released several. Attorney General Hagerman also released a number, by what authority I do not know. I decided to try my hand. The Attorney-General asked me my name, and on telling him he said: "You are a perfect devil. No! No! You cannot get out. See what you have brought the country to with your elective councils and your secularization of the clergy and what not." So that it was a bad lookout for me.

On the week following I was called before the Commission appointed to conduct the preliminary trials. A letter was found among Mackenzie's papers from me, and my doom was apparently sealed, the letter being treasonable. I was asked if that was my letter but I neither denied nor confessed. They asked me some questions but I said "I have no knowledge of what I am accused, and will have to take counsel."

Taken to Gaol

"I was then taken to gaol by six men, two before, two behind and one on each side of me. I was put in a cell with two felons, and on making preparations to sit on the floor, my fellow-tenants warned me that I would soon have lots of undesirable company. The cell was indescribably filthy; it seethed with vermin, and during the whole of the night I stood with my back to the door.

(This series, supplied by Esquering Historical Society, and edited by Robert Burnett will be continued.)



Craiglea, the Stewart home in the Scotch Block, was the first home in the Block made of materials other than logs. It was built in 1832 and there the Esquering rebel, John Stewart, was raised. The home still stands in the Scotch Block.

## Betty Fisher Board cream rises to the top

By Helen Murray

The past decade has seen a series of victories for Betty Fisher, which have led her from being an activist mother of three, angry with the Halton Board of Education, right up to her leadership of that very same body she so vehemently opposed.

The cigarette ad says "You've come a long way baby." Perhaps in this case, it could be changed to "You've come a long way Betty." She admits she's not done it without making mistakes, but she has played a major role in getting the education system in Halton back to the basics, which is what she set out to do.

As a mother with small children entering the local school system, Fisher was appalled when she discovered the children in her nearby school were not being encouraged to learn vowels, phonetics, and all the other basics of learning to read and write. She was told the reading would come eventually. However, as a concerned parent, Fisher felt while parents were waiting for their youngsters to suddenly know how to read, they were getting behind in other subjects and wouldn't be able to catch up. They would just lapse further and further behind.

The Fisher children were transferred to a school across Georgetown where resources were more plentiful and reading and writing more important.

But her other major thorn was still there—values education. For Fisher, it was like the beginning of a very long fuse leading to a keg of dynamite. And 10 years ago, it was lit and burning rapidly.



BETTY FISHER  
New chairman

The new chairman of the Halton Board of Education explains that rather than being taught right from wrong, students were given problems to solve on which they were to supposedly mold their future characters.

If Johnny went into a store with his friend Timmy, she said pointing to one such "problem," and Timmy stole a chocolate bar, should Johnny a) eat half the bar, b) tell the store owner Timmy stole the bar c) do nothing. It outraged Fisher that the child was to make his or her own decision as to what is right or wrong.

Fisher contends there are no shades of gray in many cases, and honesty is honesty. The schools were undoing what parents were trying to instill in their children at home. She viewed values education as potentially destructive for children and their future thinking process, and was leaving the future open to thievery, criminal acts, dishonesty, and chaos.

Group formed

That's when Concerned Parents was born. Fisher and other mothers and fathers with the same views as hers got together to fight the school board. At the same time Renaissance, headed by Rev. Ken Campbell was also going strong, and the two ran parallel for some time. Fisher points out Campbell's group was against sex education in the schools, while Fisher's organization was only against it when teamed up with values education.

When Campbell was ready to step down from his group, he asked Fisher if she would replace him. She declined, mainly because she was not a member. However, she did accept the post of communications co-ordinator. She felt Renaissance's biggest negative factor was their communication with parents, the school board and the press. It was a challenge for her to accept the position.

It only took about three months however, for Fisher to discover her style of communication was not the same as Renaissance's. She felt it was better for her to leave them to do things the way they wanted to.

She went on to form the Halton Education Action League. This group was interested in watching budgetary items of the board. Their major concern was the \$1.2 million board building expansion. By creating more space, more civil servants would be hired to fill it, Fisher contended. Her group waged war against the board, and even went so far as seeking an injunction against the construction. However, lawsuits were soon threatened and the group had to back down. They were too naive to know how to stop it, she recalls.

But the committee continued to monitor the budget committee, and watched for inappropriate subjects being taught to the students.

At this stage in history, Fisher says, the board's major concern was not communication, but just to get the job done. Parents concerned about their children's welfare and education felt as if they were coming up against a brick wall. It needed a total reorganization.

A posting on the library board kept her busy for some time. However, she never forgot the Halton Board of Education, and it was while she was on the library board that she decided it was time for her to work from the inside, rather than the outside.

(Continued on B4)