

Chemical 'dumping' charge worries region

Worried that it might be party to crime, Halton Region is checking into allegations that an American manufacturer picked to supply ferric chloride to the region may be illegally "dumping" the chemical in Canada.

A recommendation before the region's public works committee last week giving the nod to four different companies to provide various chemicals ran into two snags, one of which has councillors concerned.

The committee expressed its regrets to Amplex Chemicals over a mutual mix-up that inadvertently omitted the company from a list of tender bidders. Staff at both the region and the company had failed to anticipate Amplex's perennial bid on region tenders and the tender call went by unnoticed by the company.

The committee rejected the company's request that the contract be re-tendered.

Things didn't run so smoothly with the committee's other delegation on the matter.

Norman Uffen of Eaglebrook Environmental Corp. suggested that the region may want to reconsider its intention to buy ferric chloride from the U.S. firm which transports its chemicals from the Detroit area. Ferric chloride is used in the region's sewage treatment plants.

The U.S. firm's bid was selected over others as the lowest offered, but Eaglebrook and the manufacturer it sells for, Diversey Environmental Products Inc. of Mississauga, took exception to the decision, citing accepted Canadian content policy and charging that the successful-tender may well be engaged in "dumping", selling

chemicals across the border by undercutting Canadian bids.

Eaglebrook bids against the firm "all over Ontario", Uffen said, but noticed a sizeable discrepancy in prices quoted on a Sarnia project. The price offered for Halton's ferric chloride tender is even lower than that quoted to Sarnia, even though the chemical comes from directly across the border, he claimed.

The committee decided to award the contract to the U.S. firm subject to the deal's legality being confirmed prior to regional council's next meeting May 9.

While Diversey uses Ontario raw materials and services the committee was told, the successful company is totally controlled by a U.S. parent firm, with a small office in Oakville with one full-time

clerical worker the only Canadian facet.

Uffen told the committee that Eaglebrook has filed an affidavit with the Ministry of Commercial and Consumer Affairs concerning the U.S. firm's Canadian dealings. It will be nine months before they can "get to the bottom of it," he said.

The Halton bid, he said, is the second one made at a price far below those of competitors, raising suspicion among other chemical manufacturers that illegal dumping is taking place. A letter from Diversey management to regional chairman Pete Pomeroy went even further with the allegation.

"Acceptance of their bid will support their dumping policy and the jobs of 35 people (at Diversey and Eaglebrook) will be put in jeopardy," the letter said. "Such action will

hurt local ancillary industry as well, such as Niagara Mill, Neath Industrial Supplies, Gerrie Electric, John Mahler Inc. and Glidden.

Chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin advised the committee that Uffen had raised "an excellent point" that had not been made strongly enough to staff previously.

Chairman Pomeroy cautioned committee members that the region is in no position to make accusations about the successful firm. He expressed displeasure over Uffen's repeated references to regional policy governing Canadian content.

"We got a low price, so what do we do?" he asked rhetorically.

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Board briefs

No hunting

Signs will be going up on school properties around Halton that are close to areas where deer hunting takes place.

Thursday night Halton Board of Education approved Trustee Dick Howitt's call for not hunting signing of schools. As well the region, which with the province runs the three day deer hunt, is being asked to prohibit hunting on school property or within a 1/2 mile radius of a school.

Howitt reported there were two incidents during the last deer hunt where shots were fired, hunters and deer carcasses seen and heard by students outside Acton High School and Speyside School.

Howitt and other trustees noted the signs will only be needed for schools adjacent to or in rural areas, since municipal laws prevent discharging a firearm in an urban area.

Trustee Ivan Armstrong noted most hunters wouldn't hunt near a school without having to be told not to, but a few spoil things for everyone.

Rather than putting up signs, he favored giving hunters a notice not to hunt near schools when they get their licence.

Waste of time, money

Queen's Park is making Halton Board of Education go through another costly exercise, many trustees feel.

Thursday night trustees approved the criteria for codes of student behavior to be developed at each high school.

A few years ago the board spent a lot of time developing a Halton wide code of behavior.

Several trustees blasted the Ministry of Education for wasting time and money requiring boards to come up with codes of behavior for all high schools.

The individual school codes will have to conform to the Halton behavior code.

Named to committees

Trustees Dick Howitt and Diane Filman have been named to the board's selection interview committee for secondary school principals for 1984. At the same time Milton Trustee Bill Harrison was picked to sit on the selection interview committee for elementary school vice-principals.

United Way study launched



Piscatorial splendor

Dave and Deb Mills had better luck than most on Saturday morning as the trout season opened. The pair were out early, claiming 10 speckled trout for their efforts. Dave's biggest catch of the day earned him the honor of the Glen Anglers' Association's biggest catch in the speckled division opening day. According to Fred Howse of Fred's Live Bait and Tackle in Norval more fish were reeled in than last year in Halton Hills haunts.

\$2,000 grant for Halton Hills

Halton Regional Council is expected next week to allocate a \$2,000 social service grant to launch a study on forming a United Way in Halton Hills.

The region had set the money aside previously for use by the task force studying United Way development in town, an idea rejected several years ago by local health and social service agencies but recently revived.

The region's health committee last week received a report from task force chairman Jarvis Sheridan which includes terms of reference for a \$6,000 voluntary funding study. Sheridan, an Oakville lawyer, indicated that his task force has selected consultant Michael Pennock to conduct the study.

the existing Halton United Way, which services Burlington and Oakville.

According to Sheridan's report, this month and next will be spent analyzing available data and surveys and July will see consultants follow up on questionnaire results. By September, the task force will be ready to review information and determine the next step.

A second meeting was set for this week involving Regional Chairman Pete Pomeroy, Mayor Russ Miller, Halton Social Planning Council chairman David Rae, Sheridan and regional staff, to determine the region's position regarding a Halton Hills United Way and how it would relate to

The voluntary funding study hopes to discover how much money could potentially be raised in Halton Hills, to what extent those funds could help increase services, what gaps exist in local services and how much it would cost to fill them and what kind of corporate support exists for a United Way.

Over 300 plant Trees for Canada

Over 300 Cubs, Scouts, leaders and parents helped in planting "Trees For Canada" Saturday, April 29, an event which started in 1972.

Cedar, maple, pine and spruce seedlings were planted at the two sites. Limehouse Conservation area, and the McDonald property on the 10th Line.

George Henderson co-ordinated this successful event with Ross Boyle site supervisor at Limehouse Conservation and John McMurray at the McDonald property. Ken Bath, field staff of the Credit Valley Conser-

vation Authority was on hand to help out when needed.

Acton, Georgetown, Limehouse, Hornby, Glen Williams, Scotch Block took part in the planting. 8th Georgetown Cubs and Scouts sponsored by the Lions Club had 100 per cent attendance and several other groups came a close second.

North Halton District served refreshments and doughnuts at the end of planting at both sites. Some groups had a hike while others camped out, to complete a fun-filled week-end.



They'll grow tall

Planting trees Saturday on Trees for Canada planting day are, left to right, Jeff McRae, Scott McKee and Scoutmaster Bob McKee, all of 1st Acton Scouts, with Ken Bath of the field staff of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority handing out a few pointers. Over 300 participated in Saturday's planting.

Region briefs

Secret sludge?

Milton Councillor Bill Johnson is concerned enough about unauthorized tanker trucks hauling sewage sludge into Halton from other regions that he recently followed one into Guelph to discover its business. Citing a Milton colleague as the source of his information, Johnson asked the region's public works committee to check into the possibility that sludge is entering Halton without the region's knowledge or approval. In extreme cases, he said, trucks top off a load of hazardous waste with just enough sewage sludge to fool the farmer on whose fields its being dumped.

Tourism study

A much-touted tourism study for Halton region will get underway this month once council approves the hiring of Peter Barnard Associates to tackle the project, which could cost up to \$60,000. Halton's administration committee selected the consulting firm last week, anticipating completion of the study by next December.

Hospital appointee

Town council and the Georgetown District Memorial Hospital board will consider plans for appointing a regional council member to the board at separate meetings in June. Regional representatives have already been appointed to three other Halton hospitals. Bylaws must be changed in Halton Hills to allow for the regional appointment early next year. Town council will consider amending its bylaw so that it can recommend an appointee to the region at the same time it makes its own local appointments each year.



Cavassers will be calling on homes and businesses throughout the area May 6 through 12 seeking donations for the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded. Association president and campaign chairman Bert Arnold (left) and Mayor Russ Miller got together last week to look over campaign plans with Linda Parker, who with Joan Banks and Marlene Johnson will be organizing the Georgetown canvass. Julie Conroy heads the Acton drive and Valda May will take care of the Hornby area. If you've got some spare time, the Association needs help canvassing.

NHAMR drive seeks \$16,000

Marking its 29th year of service to mentally retarded residents of north Halton and their families, the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded (NHAMR) is hoping to raise \$16,000 in this year's campaign for funds.

Volunteers are needed to help the door-to-door canvass planned for Mental Retardation Week, May 6 to 12. If you have some spare time to help out, call 877-5557. Canvassers receive a pre-assembled kit and are asked to visit 15 to 20 homes.

About 40 per cent of the NHAMR's annual budget—the portion not covered by provincial and regional grants—must be raised through user-fees and donations.

Most of the money finances a variety of NHAMR services, including residential and work training programs for adults and day programs for pre-schoolers.

NHAMR, under president Bert Arnold and executive director David Williams, is an incorporated, non-profit agency. It's easy to be non-profit, treasurer Ed Schmeier says; the trick is to be non-deficit.