

'Give us a Christmas present,' Miller pleads

Town reps fight lonely battle for Region grant

by Paul Dorsey
It was the kind of scene that cuts to the heart of what's wrong with Regional government: Halton Hills councillors standing firm against overwhelming contrary votes from the rest of Halton.

The scene was repeated four times last Wednesday afternoon as Burlington, Oakville and Milton councillors offered little or no support to Halton Hills' efforts on three fronts:

-cancellation of plans to hire a full-time environmental inspector for landfill installations;

-deferral of an interim waste disposal plan so that Halton's transfer station system can be examined in detail, including the financial woes of Leferink and other garbage haulers;

-restriction of the number of waste disposal options Halton can offer the Province, in the belief that the fewer

alternatives available, the more responsibility falls on Provincial shoulders.

Despite feisty efforts by the four Halton Hills councillors present—Mayor Russ Miller, Dave Whiting, Jake Kuiken and Mike Armstrong—council launched its interim plan, earmarking \$772,800 in its 1985 waste disposal budget in the event that a Regional landfill site is still not ready by 1987.

Chief precaution will be the trucking of Halton garbage to the Occidental Energy From Waste (EFW) plant in Niagara Falls, New York. A portion of the solid waste produced here will be incinerated in a power-production plant to reduce the amount of garbage being buried at Halton's only remaining landfill in Burlington.

But any progress Regional council makes on the waste management problem continues to be fraught with controversy.

Admitting he and other Halton Hills

representatives were simply still trying to obtain a \$123,500 Regional subsidy for the Town's transfer station operation, Mayor Miller told council he was struggling to keep his composure as he pleaded with colleagues to "give us a Christmas present."

"I don't think you people are being fair at all," he complained again and again. "I'm really upset about this."

Armstrong was just as upset, if not more so.

"The people of Halton Hills are getting a little sick and tired of having to pay twice (for waste disposal). If you think the mayor's mad, I am also," he said, "so start changing your tune or else we will. We're supposed to be here in a spirit of co-operation, but I am rapidly losing my spirit of co-operation."

The Halton Hills reps were still smarting two weeks after Regional council vetoed a recommendation by its planning and public

works committee that would have granted the Town \$123,500 to offset rising operational costs at the transfer station on Armstrong Ave. Higher expenses have forced haulage companies such as Leferink Disposals to raise tipping fees for rural residents and industries bringing loads of garbage to the station. As a result, they're losing customers and suffering financial losses.

The Town's Regional councillors hoped to gain support for reconsideration of the grant by trying to stall progress on other waste management efforts long enough for specific problems to be reconsidered.

Their losing battle started with the first in a series of recorded votes, when council decided 17-4 against deferring recruitment of an environmental inspector, as Miller suggested. Armstrong went with the majority on that issue, leaving Miller, Kuiken and Whiting with the support of only Burlington's Barry Quinn.

Miller next sought to postpone the interim waste disposal plan. Armstrong again left his Halton Hills colleagues to stand alone, this time without Quinn's help. Council voted 18-3 to launch the interim plan with a \$772,800 budget share and to hire Jarsno Equipment Incorporated of Streetsville to truck 400 tonnes of waste a day to the Occidental EFW in Niagara Falls Feb. 1 through April and again next December, and 100 tonnes a day the balance of the year.

The same motion will see Regional staff explore a proposal by Leferink to truck about 40 tonnes of Halton Hills garbage per day directly to Occidental, bypassing the Burlington landfill. Leferink general manager John Gillesson told this newspaper that his tractor trailers need a New York State transport permit before they can join Jarsno's fleet on the roads.

Armstrong next tried a short cut, amend-

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One Hundred and Tenth Year — Issue 24

Winning bake-off recipe

She takes the cake

Jim Thompson of Acton entered his mother Irene in the IGA Christmas Cake Bake-off and, much to her surprise, she won.

It's a recipe that's been in her family for "years and years," Mrs. Thompson told the Free Press.

"My mother used this recipe when I was a little girl."

The Mount Forest resident won a Portable Gas Grill from Acton IGA. Second place winner Pat Hatch won a \$35 IGA food voucher and third place winner Dorothy Roach won a \$20 fruit basket.

Mrs. Thompson agreed to share her prize-winning recipe with Free Press readers:

The night before, combine:

- 2 pounds raisins
- 2 pounds currants (although Mrs. Thompson said she used "Very little" currants)
- 1 pound nuts (walnuts and pecans)
- fruit (glazed pineapple rings, red and green-glazed cherries)
- 1 cup flour

In the morning mix:

- 1/2 to 1 cup flour
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. cloves
- 1 tsp. mace
- 1/4 cup cherry juice
- 1 pound butter
- 1/4 cup strong black coffee
- 1 dozen eggs
- 1 whole lemon (grated, use peel and juice)

Combined the above with the fruit and bake at 300 degrees Fahrenheit for 2 1/2 hours.

Mayor Russ Miller judged the finalists and found Mrs. Thompson's recipe to be irresistible.

Good luck in Norway!
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Car sideswiped

A 1975 Oldsmobile Cutlass was sideswiped and forced onto the shoulder by a hit and run driver on Hwy. 7 near the Town Line last Wednesday. The car driven by 87-year-old Robert Davidson of RR 2 Acton received \$700 damage when an oncoming car attempting to pass another vehicle hit the Cutlass and continued on. There was no description of the hit and run car.



MOVE OVER, LASSIE

Winston and Lucy, two show champion English Springer Spaniels owned by Linda Briggs of Acton, will soon be appearing in hundreds of homes on the front of the new Masters Dog Food package. Mrs. Briggs was contacted by the company in September and took her dogs to Toronto for the photo session a few weeks later. The new package should be out some time in January. Mrs. Briggs has been showing dogs for 12 years.



Dr. David van der Bent (left) will say goodbye to the year that saw him honored as the community's most noteworthy citizen when he and dozens of other Actonians ring in the New Year at the old Town Hall next Monday night. Rick Bonnette, who helped fellow Town Councillor John McDonald organize the traditional New Year's Eve celebrations taking place simultaneously in Acton and Georgetown, will also be on hand for a round of neighborly good cheer and hot chocolate.

BIA opposed anyway - Wood

Confusion on parking meter vote clears to find proposal forgotten

Contrary to what the Free Press reported last week, the Town will not be consulting Acton's Business Improvement Area (BIA) board of directors about a proposal to install parking meters downtown.

"It wasn't all that clear," Councillor Dave Whiting acknowledged after being asked by the Free Press about the confusion.

More than one reporter at the Dec. 11 council meeting was misled, and other observers also drew the wrong conclusion when the vote was taken, Whiting said.

What happened, in fact, was that Ward 1's three councillors, Whiting, Rick Bonnette and Ross Knechtel, recruited enough support among colleagues to kill the parking meter proposal outright.

Town staff had recommended checking with the BIA merchants and professionals first before making a decision. Whiting introduced a motion to delete the recommendation, and it carried 6-4 with the help of Jake Kuiken and Peter Norton of Ward 2 and Phil Carney of Ward 3.

There was thus no motion on the floor pertaining to Acton, and the Ward 1 councillors made it clear that they're not about to support any Town initiative to install meters on Mill and Main Sts.

Saying Town bylaw enforcement officer

Blood clinic Thursday

Christmas is traditionally a troublesome time for Toronto area hospitals struggling to meet higher-than-usual demand for blood. The Acton unit of the Red Cross Society urges you to share your Christmas spirit and help the situation by donating blood at a local clinic tomorrow (Thursday, Dec. 27) at the Acton Legion. Please take the time to help save someone's life, 5 to 8.30 p.m. For more information, please phone Alice Schreiber at 853-0681.

It's the season to be giving Blood
The gift of life
Be a Regular Blood Donor

Indusmin fatality

Corrosion found under catwalk

Undetected corrosion on the underside of a catwalk was the reason for its collapse, according to P.J. Raleigh, chief engineer with Falconbridge Ltd., who testified at the inquest into the death of Donald Colbert, 56, at Indusmin Ltd., October 19.

The five person coroner's jury Tuesday evening recommended extensive inspections of all catwalks by qualified personnel and repairs, replacement cleaning and painting, with special attention to corrosion, when necessary.

The jury consisting of William Saddington, Lance Wagner, Beryl Carter, John Passas and Stefan Macdonald, suggested the conveyor belt system be redesigned to prevent accumulations of rock spilling over on to the catwalks.

Witnesses had testified the rock or stone frequently piled up on the catwalks to a depth of six to eight inches.

The jury also urged regular inspection reports on all safety aspects regarding catwalks be logged and action taken immediately by the safety committee.

Safety barriers should be available to employees to restrict access to hazardous areas, and the Ministry of Labor inspectors should enforce the Occupational Health and Safety Aspects of the regulations more diligently, said the coroner's jury.

Cause of death was found to be massive internal injuries, and bleeding from a large laceration in the aorta according to testimony by Dr. Robert Longfield. He pointed out nothing could have been done for Colbert.

At the inquest, conducted by Coroner Dr. Alistair Macintosh, Assistant Crown Attorney Jack Belleghem, described Steve Levellie, 20, of Acton, as the brave young man who risked his life trying to save Colbert.

Levellie explained he, Colbert and Fred Newell, were cleaning stone off the conveyor belt while standing on the catwalk, when he felt the catwalk give way. Colbert was hanging on to the bottom rail and Newell was about five feet away. "Don said he couldn't hold on any longer, since he had a weak arm from an operation, so I moved over and wrapped my legs around his chest, while holding on to the rails behind me."

Levellie said Newell tried to reach him but couldn't pull him up so he told Newell to go for help. "Don said he couldn't hold on and I couldn't hold him much longer so he let go and we both went down."

Levellie said he landed on his left side, with Don beside him. Receiving no answer from Don, Levellie checked his pulse and put his ear to his chest but found no response.

Levellie received multiple bruises and cracked ribs in the 30 foot fall.

Forensic toxicologist Joel Mayer, of the Centre of Forensic Sciences testified there was no alcohol nor drugs in the blood, and no alcohol in the urine but said he found traces of cannabis, commonly known as marijuana, in the urine. He said the marijuana would have no effect on judgement or balance since it had been taken three to seven days before the accident.

Witnesses one after the other, said they did not feel the section of catwalk that

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