

# 'Wicked Willie' wants sensible thinking

To the Editor of the Herald: I am not surprised that there has been so little response to the region's effort to get public participation in Halton Region's so-called Solid Waste Recovery Programme. The programme was doomed from the start with the participation of Ontario's Ministry of the Environment.

Anyone who knows anything about solid waste knows that the environmental ministry, from the minister on down, supports long-term landfilling, and informed people know long-term landfilling is not in the best interests of Ontario or Halton.

In a recent letter to the Toronto Star, Minister George Kerr, advocates landfilling quarries with garbage, something Halton rejected and proved unsanitary in 1973. It is important to note that the Hon. Minister doesn't represent north Halton (Halton-Burlington) anymore.

I have submitted many briefs on solid waste. I contacted the MacLaren Report on Solid Waste. I spent much time and effort writing that critique and it is important to note that when it was presented at regional council not one word was contested by the authors of the MacLaren Report who were present, so I can only see presenting further briefs as an exercise in futility.

## Letter to the Editor

I know the answer to Halton's solid waste problem, just as the other environmental groups in the area know the answers. Only the politicians seem to be uninformed.

Halton's solid waste problem is serious, just as is inflation, and if we are to solve either problem we have to take drastic measures. Half measures or 'band aid' policies won't do.

The answer to Halton's garbage problem is:

1) Ban the non-returnables.  
2) Implement two garbage pick-ups per week in urban centres, first for reclaimables (glass, metal, etc.) and second for refuse.

3) Make it illegal to put out glass, metals, or any other defined reclaimables as garbage.  
4) Set up strategically placed depots (defunct dumps) where rural people can take reclaimables.

5) Start an immediate feasibility study to ascertain the possibility of burning unreclaimable garbage to heat and power public institutions with the object of supplying power to nearby industry in the summer season.

6) Pressure the provincial government into giving grants to industries building garbage burning power plants, to supply their needs, or converting to such facilities.

7) Implement a purchasing policy in education, police, hospitals and government, stipulating that stationary used by those authorities will contain 40 percent post-consumer waste.

8) Put someone on this committee who knows something about solid waste and adverse effects of landfilling.

Having lectured, and currently lecturing on solid waste in this, and other areas, I can assure both regional and town councils that the public have never been so aware of the problem as they are now, and my advice to our local and regional politicians is to get 'with it' on solid waste or they won't be in office after the next election.

William A. Johnson  
RR2 Rockwood

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