

Pipelines across dump sites fire hazards

Opponents of the regional garbage dump being located in either Hornby or in the Britannia-Tremaine area will be receiving the very vocal support of Bill "Wicked Willy" Johnson in their fight.

Mr. Johnson, the out-spoken environmentalist and president of the Nassagaweya Ratepayers Association, is presently writing a "critique" of the report on possible landfill sites prepared by the consulting firm of M.M. Dillon.

His findings, thus far, indicate that site "G" (Hornby) and site "F" (Britannia-Tremaine) would be dangerous locations for a regional landfill site because of pipelines running either through or adjacent to them.

A gas pipeline runs through the centre of the general area suggested for the Hornby location. An oil pipeline cuts the suggested Britannia-Tremaine area and a gas pipeline is on its outskirts.

"When you're burying

100,000 tons of newspapers, cardboard boxes and all other sorts of combustible materials you're creating perfect conditions for spontaneous combustion. Imagine what that could do to a pipeline running beneath it.

"You're going to have one helluva blast."

Even if the pipeline was not directly beneath or close to the garbage dump methane gas filtering from the garbage "would seep very far beneath the surface. All it needs is air to ignite."

Minister of transportation and communications James Snow has charged that he was disconcerted by the CBC's Fifth Estate's unfair treatment of the provincial government's licensing system.

"CBC reporters interviewed me for more than one hour, then very obviously cut my pre-show answers to fit in with their preconceived ideas of what the system was all about," said Mr. Snow. "The reporters were playing with a stacked deck—theirs."

Mr. Snow said he felt compelled to speak out because the show's reporters dealt unfairly with the system and left the impression the 296 agents are getting rich through a \$5-million patronage system. The facts are that most agents, who usually have other businesses, make only a minimal amount from the 75 percent fee after paying their own expenses.

"The reporters couldn't even get their figures straight; nor did they compare the actual amount of \$4.7-million paid out to licence issuers against what it would cost the government to operate the system with the taxpayers' dollars," said Mr. Snow.

"If we were to abolish the private issuers system, we would need almost 600 public servants to man the offices 52 weeks a year at a cost of almost \$6-million for salaries alone," said Mr. Snow.

"And on top of that, we would have to pay for office space, equipment, telephones, and heat," he said.

Mr. Snow said Ministry officials estimate a government operated system of 296 offices would cost about \$8-million annually.

The minister re-stated the government policy of letting private enterprise perform services for the province

where it is obvious that is the most efficient way of doing so.

Mr. Snow also explained the method of selecting agents and said that being a Tory is not the sole criteria as the CBC reporters implied.

"Licensing agents are selected for a variety of reasons; on the recommendations of war veterans clubs, local businessmen, and I must add, even on the recommendation of opposition members," said Mr. Snow.

This was the case in Hornepayne, a situation the CBC distorted to create the worst impression possible. The agency was filled February 23 by Mrs. Richard Vaillancourt on the recommendation of Bud Wildman, the New Democratic Party member for Algoma.

"The Fifth Estate reporters either didn't know that or felt it would not do anything to reinforce the slant they were taking," said Mr. Snow.

Mr. Snow also strongly objected to statements that some of the agents owed the Government money.

"In each case, the money owed was recovered. And that fact was totally ignored. I can understand that perhaps some money was owed at the time of the taping, but that wasn't the case at the time the show was aired," said Mr. Snow.

"I can only term that bad and highly inaccurate reporting, showing an utter lack of fairness and responsibility," said Mr. Snow.

Mr. Snow said one of the more ridiculous slants in the program was the attempt to

blame long line-ups on the system.

"They were blaming me for human nature there—we all know that no one likes to part

with money until the very last minute," said Mr. Snow.

Mr. Snow said the agencies are a 52-week operation. Automobile renewals are

issued from Dec. 1 to Feb. 23; snow vehicle registrations take place in the autumn; trailer and summer recreation vehicles in the spring;

commercial vehicle stickers are issued between March 1 to 31, some on a quarterly basis; and new vehicle registrations take place throughout the year.

Regional headquarters: The Impossible Dream?

How are the new regional headquarters coming along? Well, uh...it's hard to say.

Things appeared to be rolling along relatively well prior to last Wednesday's regional council meeting.

Three senior members of the region's staff had whittled a total of 19 preliminary submissions by architectural firms down to the six best entries.

The next step would have

been to have each of those six present more detailed information on their firms, their costs and their experience in the field of designing municipal headquarters.

But, thanks to an hour-long debate by regional councillors last Wednesday, the next step is totally up in the air.

The top six were not accepted. Further submissions will not be accepted. A selection committee was not

accepted.

The roadblock was created when some Burlington councillors attempted to have the name of a Burlington architectural firm added to the list.

If we do it for one, we'll have to do it for everyone, replied other councillors and thus the argument started.

When it finished the councillors had voted against accepting the first six plus all others leaving the administration committee and staff to once again begin sorting out the problem.

Complicating the issue, no doubt, will be the motion which an Oakville councillor has given notice will be presented at the next council meeting.

That will call for putting the planning and building of the new headquarters under the control of the works committee.

Another brochure on garbage report to cost \$2,000

The people of the region are going to have another opportunity to voice their feelings on the proposed sites for Halton's new garbage dump.

The latest follow-up to the recently released M.M. Dillon

Report and the public meeting three weeks ago in Burlington will be a brochure to be sent to all Halton residents within the very near future.

Cost of the preparation distribution of the brochure will be \$2,000.

Region approves grants

Regional council has approved grants for a number of organizations providing community services for Halton Hills residents, including a \$4,000 start-up grant for the newly formed Acton Community Services Centre.

Also receiving grants were the Halton Helping Hands who had their request for \$9,500 cut to \$8,500. The Multiple Sclerosis Society will receive \$2,000, the Lorne Scots Regiment, \$1,500, the Royal Botanical Gardens, \$24,000;

Halton Region Fire Service Association, \$2,000; agricultural grants including the Georgetown Agricultural Society, \$3,000; the Halton Federation of Agriculture, \$3,000; the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded, \$6,000; the Acton Community Services Centre, \$4,000; the Credit Valley Association for Handicapped Children, \$10,000; the Halton Branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses, \$8,000; the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, \$1,500.

Winterbreak can be busy time

Students of Georgetown can make their upcoming winter break from school full of activities by participating in either one of the two winter break programmes which will be sponsored by the Georgetown District YM-YWCA.

"Holiday Fun", a program of movies, crafts and games for boys and girls from ages five to ten years old will commence on Monday March 22 and will be carried out until March 26.

"Holiday Fun" will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the "Y" at 89 Mountainview Rd. S. in Georgetown. Children

can pay on a week basis or on a day-to-day rate.

"Winter Sports Camp" will be held the same week for girls who are interested in gymnastics and various types of dance. The emphasis will be on beam and floor work, instructed by experienced gymnasts. The programme will also include such things as crafts, games and movies.

Young ladies between the ages of five and 15, with gymnastics experience, are welcomed to participate in this program which will also be held at the "Y" from Tuesday March 23, to Thursday, March 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Snow charges unfair treatment by CBC show

NDP critic to speak on aid to other countries

MP Andrew Brewin, the New Democratic Party's foreign affairs critic, will talk

on "Is Canadian Aid to Third World Countries Doing Any Good?" at St. Paul's United

Church, 30 Main St. S., Brampton on Tuesday, March 16 at 8 p.m. The meeting is

sponsored by the Inter-Church World Development Study Group.



THE HALTON HILLS SCUBA TREK carried out another winter dive recently on Acton's Fairy Lake. While their first winter dive a month ago was hindered by bitterly cold weather their latest dive was plagued by bad weather of another sort, pouring rain. However once divers Walter Noble of Georgetown, Jim Mulholland of Acton, Jim Powell of Milton and Dave Francis of Georgetown were beneath the surface of the water the rain made no difference at all. However dive master J.D. Hewitt of Georgetown was meanwhile left standing holding the ropes in the soaking rain.

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