

### Region still seeks site

The Tremaine-Britannia Citizens Group has won a major victory in its battle against the proposed Halton regional landfill site, but according to its chairman, suggestions that regional council is abandoning its plans to establish the 250-acre dump in rural Milton are still far from accurate.

David Katz expressed pleasure and satisfaction Thursday with regional council's decision the day previous not to appeal an Ontario Supreme Court ruling which requires Halton to obtain Milton council's permission for the project. He pointed out, however, that more important confrontations before the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and the environmental assessment board (EAB) are forthcoming.

In voting to accept the supreme court ruling handed down March 29 by Mr. Justice James Southey, regional council rejected the recommendation of its solicitor, Dennis Perlin, who urged council Wednesday to pursue the matter.

The region must appeal the decision, he advised, because the "narrow interpretation" of the Municipal Planning Act upon which the court based its ruling could hamper future regional public works projects.

The court cited a section of the Act which requires the applicant, Halton Region, to win approval for official plan amendments before work can begin on any project. Regional council nevertheless heeded a warning from the legal consulting firm of McCarthy and McCarthy that the appeal would have only a 50 per cent chance of succeeding.

Mr. Katz explained that the region must now ask the OMB to order the town of Milton to amend its official plan and zoning bylaw. Project approval must also be obtained from the EAB, he said, which is still referring to Ontario's Environmental Protection Act for guidance in municipal affairs.

Mr. Katz called the protection act a "basically weak legislation" which could provide a relatively easy victory for the region. If, however, the newly-adopted Environmental Assessment Act replaces the protection act, as is expected in the near future, Halton could face a difficult battle to win approval from the EAB for the Milton dump proposal.

The later legislation, Mr. Katz noted, "asks a lot of pretty powerful questions", particularly about the project's anticipated social impact, and would require thorough justification of the dump site choice by the region.

The citizens group chairman stated that the dump opponents will ultimately appeal to the Ontario cabinet if the region wins the support of both the OMB and the EAB. He added, however, that the group's lawyer, David Estrin of Toronto, is already preparing for the OMB hearing and fully expects, along with the citizens, to win the case.

Among the factors involved in the dump proposal which the group contends the region has overlooked is the volume of ground water beneath the rural Milton site. Mr. Katz pointed out that it took only minor showers late last month to flood a portion of the so-called Bell School Road which runs close to the site boundary. The road had to be closed, he said, indicating that there is much more water beneath the site, which could be contaminated by a dump operation, than the region realizes.

Regional council also heard Wally Wells of M. M. Dillon consulting engineers firm outline six submissions for the construction of a resource recovery plant that would incinerate anywhere from 50 to 100 per cent of Halton's garbage for a capital expenditure by the region of between \$9.2 million and \$32 million.

Council voted to approach the ministry of environment for assistance in funding a "back end" recovery plant, a move which Mr. Katz praised. Back end plants, he explained, handled every scrap of garbage, whereas "front end" plants are only about 50 per cent efficient and as such still require some solid waste landfilling.

Mr. Katz said that the efficiency of a back end plant such as the facilities now in operation in Montreal and many other locations around the world has become a topic of debate for the region and the citizens group.

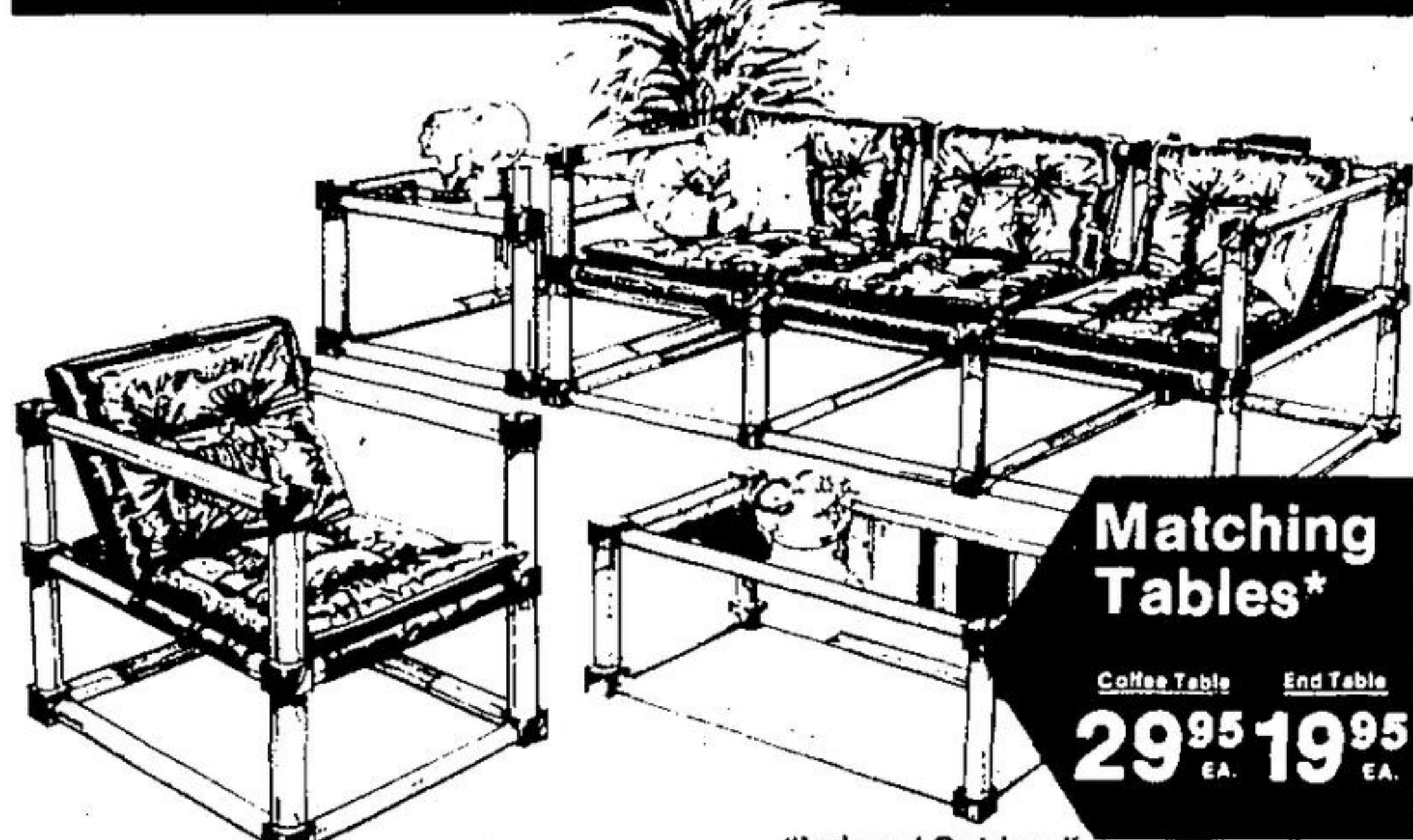
Regional council, he said, refuses to accept that such a facility totally eliminates the need for a landfilling operation of the kind proposed for Milton. Instead, the recovery operation, which can produce steam for energy or drive turbines to create electric power, leaves only an ash residue that can be safely dumped in old quarries or gullies.

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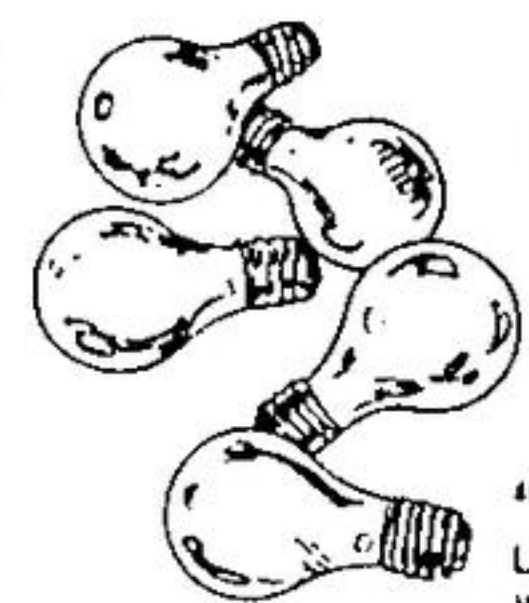
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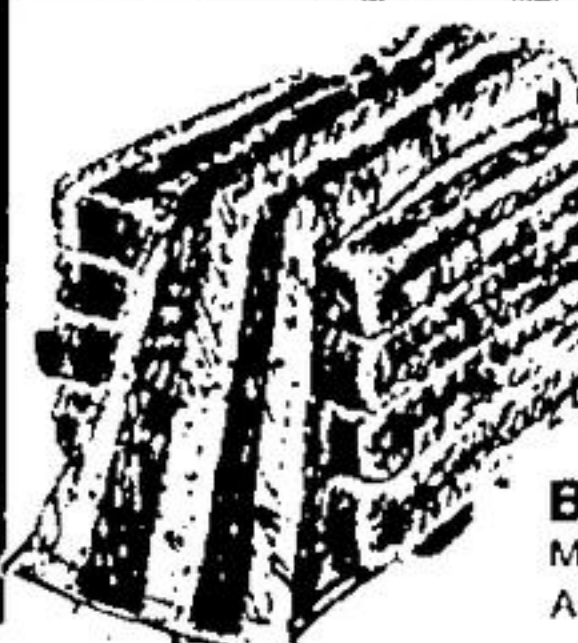
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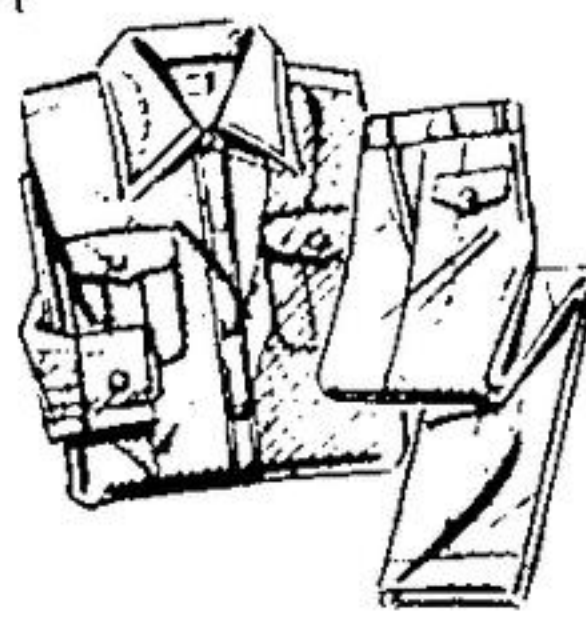
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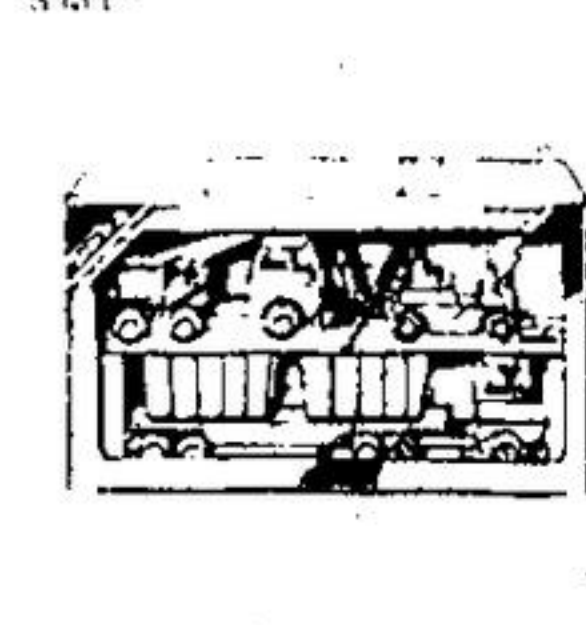
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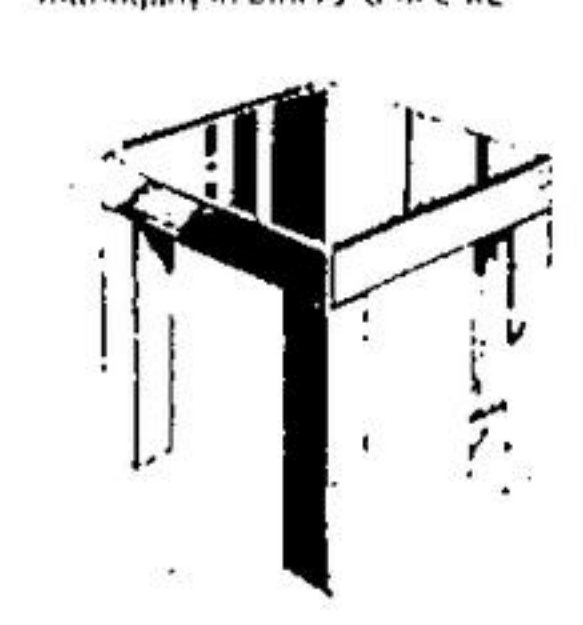
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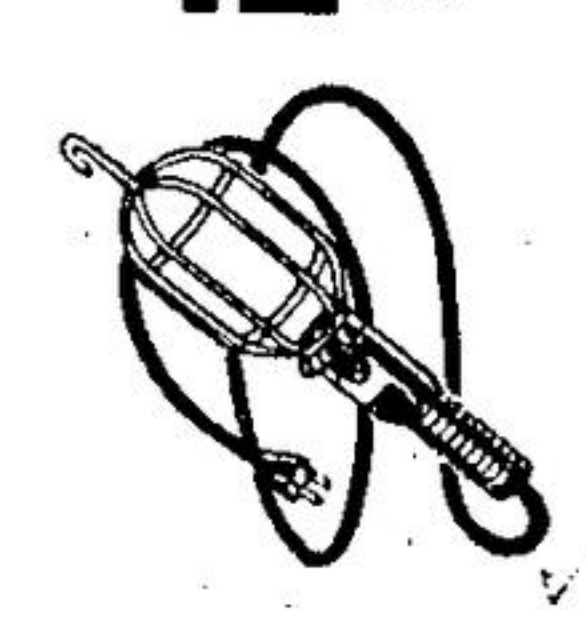
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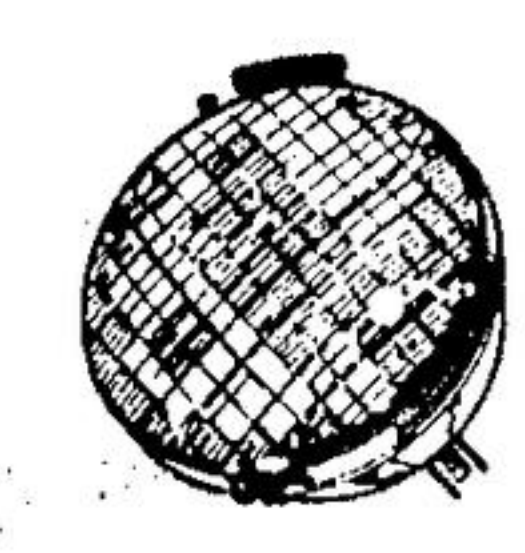
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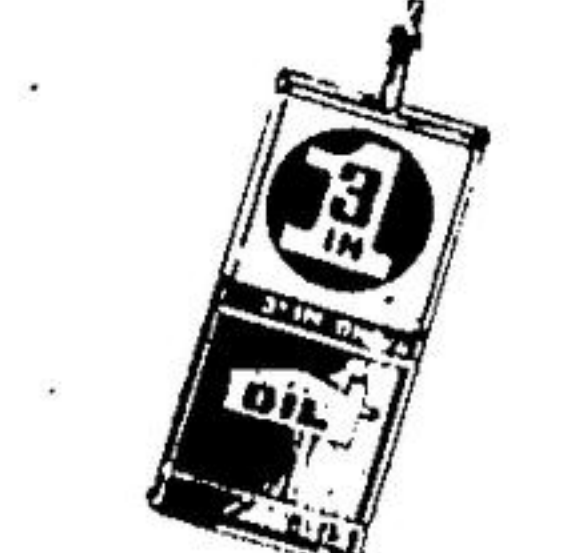
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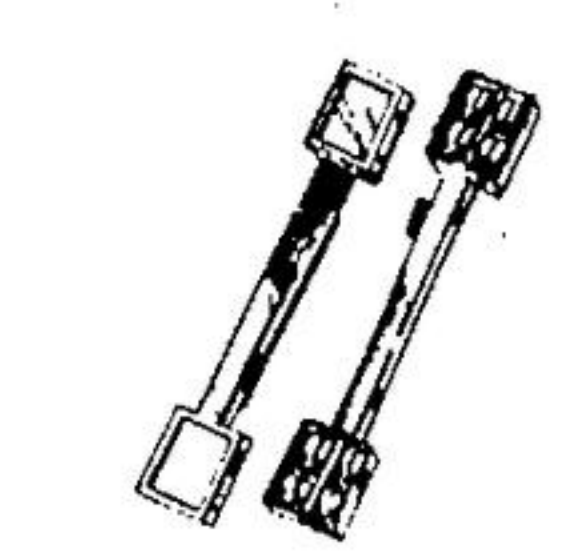
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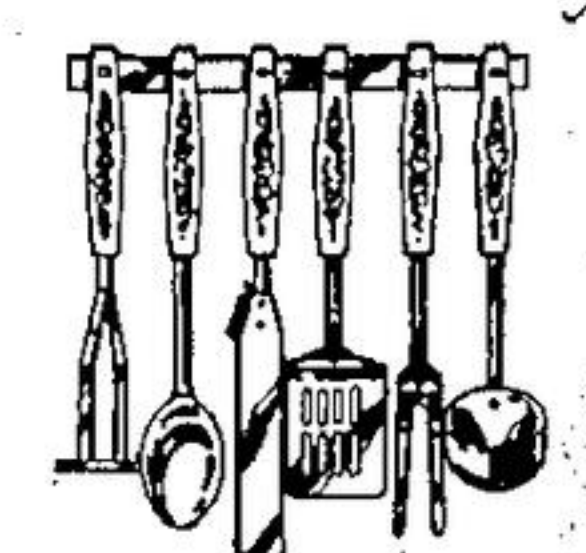
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