

Regional council rejects dumping quarry sites

Despite the opinions of its Halton Hills members, Halton regional council has rejected a public works staff recommendation by which no further consideration would be given to using abandoned quarries as dump sites for Halton's garbage.

Council voted 11-10 to reject the suggestion, instead endorsing a request for additional information on the feasibility of using quarry sites for dry, inert or liquid wastes.

In a report to council, public works director Bob Moore pointed out that Halton's waste disposal consultants, M.M. Dillon Ltd., have already investigated the use of abandoned quarries and identified only three locations where it was felt waste could be dumped.

The consultant's examination automatically ruled out the use of limestone quarries along the Niagara Escarpment because of environmental concerns over the leaking of leachate from liquid waste.

THREE SITES
The three sites chosen for potential landfilling capacity were similarly ruled out for varying reasons, in accordance with council's previously-stated policies. Mr. Moore reported that the Milton Brickyard at Tremaine Road and Steeles Avenue and the "Badlands" area of Burlington, both existing shale quarries,

are intended for future extraction purposes.

The third location, the Natco quarry in Burlington, has been deemed unsuitable because of high development costs, due mainly to difficult access.

Mr. Moore added that the Milton brickyard and Burlington badlands sites also have limited capacity for landfilling at present.

"Their greatest potential lies in the future, after more material has been extracted, but too far in the future to be of any use to us now," he explained.

Milton Mayor Don Gordon pointed out that the findings reported by Mr. Moore are based upon superficial examinations and, as such, could be challenged by landfilling opponents when the region attempts to justify its ultimate choice of a dumpsite before the Ontario Municipal Board.

Oakville Coun. Laurie Mannell commented that it was "absolutely unbelievable" that regional staff is prepared to abandon its interest in quarry landfilling. The escarpment, he noted, is scarred by quarries that could be filled with garbage, levelled off with fill and rehabilitated to regain their original appearance.

NO PROBLEMS
Halton Hills Coun. Pat McKenzie took issue with Coun. Mannell's assertion that that

leachate would pose no problems to landfilling at the Indian quarry south of Acton. There are still no proven methods of collecting leachate and preventing the contamination of ground water and creeks in the vicinity, he contended. Even with available leachate collection systems, he said, how could the floor of such a large quarry be effectively sealed?

Coun. Mannell was adamant however, that methods of collecting leachate have been satisfactorily established and could help the region avoid using valuable farmland for landfilling.

"It has been well-documented that quarries can indeed be sealed effectively," Burlington Coun. Ben Ciprietti agreed. "Quarries have been used and rehabilitated in Hamilton-Wentworth region without any problems. We would be taking a passive role in dealing with this problem if we don't look at the quarries. Industries (which generate large amounts of waste) may even share in the costs of these investigations."

Burlington Coun. Tom Sutherland argued that, regardless of what Halton believes is possible, all proposed landfill sites must meet strict criteria set out by the provincial ministry of environment. Until the criteria change, he said, the

region may as well forget about using abandoned quarries.

PROVINCE PROBLEM
"The problem is what the province isn't doing anything (about re-assessing its criteria)," Coun. Ciprietti responded.

Legislation governing such criteria is now under review, he said, but the government's

efforts to implement changes are being "buried in garbage."

"Mayor Gordon is talking about going to the province and pursuing this futile exercise," Halton Hills Coun. Roy Booth observed. "(Mr. Moore's report) says simply that limestone quarries are unacceptable."

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett pointed out that abandoned

quarries are being routinely used for landfilling in the U.S. Such methods are far cheaper than buying acres of agricultural land for the purpose, he said.

SUITABLE SITES
Milton Coun. Jim Watson contended that there is no quarry in Halton that would serve as a suitable alternative to Site "F". Halton's chosen

location - at Tremaine and Britannia Roads in rural Milton - for a single regional landfill site. He added, however, that other alternatives to Site "F" have not been adequately examined.

Coun. Jack Raftis of Burlington agreed with Coun. Ciprietti that Halton should pick the most suitable quarry for landfilling and prepare a delai-

ed report on its potential for such uses for presentation to Queen's Park. He recommended, though, that regional staff should handle the investigation rather than consulting engineers.

Oakville Coun. McLean Anderson complained that the investigation is simply a "make-work project for planning staff who have nothing to

do", now that the regional plan has been finalized.

Coun. Ciprietti's motion for additional studies of the use of quarries was supported by a slim majority, however, despite the opposition of Halton Hills councillors Booth, McKenzie, Russ Miller and Mike Armstrong. Mayor Tom Hill was unable to attend the meeting because of a flu virus.

Limehouse News

By Mrs. Benton
Herald correspondent
Dr. Suzanne Sheppard recently studying in Brighton, England, now continuing in Geneva, Switzerland is home visiting her parents for a couple of weeks. Her brother Dr. Robert Sheppard after touring Alaska has recently been in England and is presently travelling in Greece. A number from Limehouse attended anniversary services at Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown on Sunday to hear their former minister Dr. Rev. Charles C. Cochrane.

(From Mrs. Hannah)
The Limehouse Cubs had a fun meeting when they took the pack to McDonalds for McHappy Day. They used the profits from their car wash to buy Big Macs and a drink and thus help Crippled Children.

Group committee held their October meeting in the Scout Hut. It was very poorly attended but plans went ahead anyway for Apple Day, improving the hut and a multisite in December.

Cubs and Scouts held their Apple Day on Saturday. 18 boys canvassed our large area and did very well again, thanks to the area residents. Mothers provided sandwiches and hot chocolate for the boys and drove the boys around. Thanks also to Rikki-Tikki-Tai (Steve Thompson) who helped.

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