



WE CAUGHT THEM

Staff and day campers at the Y's Outdoor Education Centre were pretty proud of their catch following "The Great Crayfish Hunt" Thursday afternoon in the creek at Cedarvale Park. They found all sorts of interesting specimens, from king-sized to Tom-Thumb sized and everything in between. Some

had pinners, some didn't. The crayfish were returned to the creek, no doubt somewhat shaken by the experience of being stared at by all those children, but otherwise unharmed. (Herald photo)

MOE wants the region to monitor its sludge

Ontario's ministry of environment is seeking greater municipal involvement in the selection of Halton region properties where sewage sludge is being disposed.

Following a second confrontation at the region last week which brought together officials of the ministry, region, Halton Region Conservation Authority and Halton Federation of Agriculture, agencies that had been accused of allowing local streams to be polluted through their negligence took their first steps in response to charges.

The ministry's initial reaction to Mr. Stephen's charges was to order that the region must approve all sludge disposal permits issued by the province, the region in turn will be asked to monitor all private hauling operations for which it has signed contracts.

Ministry official Alex Giffen told the region's public works committee last week that the province will no longer actively encourage the practice of spreading sludge on Halton farmland. Mr. Giffen maintained, however, that it is the region's responsibility to pro-

vide contracted hauling and disposing operations and to provide sludge storage facilities where needed.

The committee recommended to regional council that municipal staff should be directed to keep an eye on hauling operations and continue to closely monitor the content of sludge leaving the water pollution control plants. Council is expected to accept the recommendation today (Wednesday).

SLUDGE HAULAGE: The role played by Hageman Farms Ltd., the region's chief

contractor for sludge hauling, was both attacked and defended at last week's meeting, with Mr. Giffen defending the company's operations and Mr. Stephen arguing that the company's trucks are lax in the way they spread the sludge on rolling fields during unsuitable weather conditions.

The committee learned that less than 200 of the 2,162 acres of Halton land licensed by the ministry for sludge disposal operations are owned by non-tenant farmers. The vast majority of the land, it was revealed, is owned by corporate developers.

Region considers private offer to bury waste in south Halton

Opponents of Halton region's plans to establish a major landfill site in rural Milton are watching with raised eyebrows as the region considers a private industry's offer to bury Halton's garbage on its own land, but officials are advising that it could be months before any decision is made.

Although discussions between the region and the industry, National Sewer Pipe Ltd. of Mississauga, have been going on intermittently for the past three months, according to regional chairman Jack Raftis, the company's offer was not revealed publicly until a week ago.

Company president Kelly New, a provincial appointee to

the Halton Region Conservation Authority, reportedly contacted Mr. Raftis and the provincial ministry of environment with the information that the company's vacant, 150-acre property adjacent to the Burlington landfill site appears, after preliminary testing, to be suitable for landfilling operations that could accommodate from six to seven million tons of solid waste.

SEVERAL YEARS

The landfilling would continue for several years, with the region paying the company a price that would have to be negotiated.

The company has acquired a 20-year licence to mine shale at the site, located in Halton's

southwestern corner just north of Highway 403. If the landfilling offer proves feasible and is accepted by the region and ministry, garbage would be dumped into the quarry as shale is removed.

With engineering tests completed and hydrogeological tests now underway, Mr. New commented, the company's offer appears to be economically viable.

Region officials had little to say about the company's offer this week, saying the ball is in the firm's court until tests are conclusive about the site's suitability. Mr. Raftis pointed out the site is far from the region's centre of waste generation, thus adding more transportation costs to the financial disadvantages of entering a long-term landfilling contract with private enterprise.

Milton Mayor Don Gordon commented last week that the offer made by National Sewer Pipe Ltd., coupled with a federal government proposal to ban landfill sites within five miles of an airstrip, indicate that Site "F" will never become a landfill site.

Halton MP Otto Jelinek had warned the region late last month that the government is "seriously considering" new legislation which would prohibit landfill sites near airstrips. Site "F" is less than two miles from the Burlington Air Park, aircraft from which could be damaged by birds attracted to the dump.

Lunch policy still in effect

The Halton board of education's school lunch policy will remain in effect, despite an attempt by trustee Noel Cooper to have it rescinded.

Mr. Cooper asked that the policy be rescinded, since its aim was to make the school lunch programs uniform from school to school, and this has not been the case.

He said schools which had their own school lunch policy have been asked to change them. He also pointed out that high administrative costs involved in letting more children in urban schools stay at school for lunch; additional costs include providing supervision, and the possibility that parents may be expecting the schools to make expensive improvements in lunchroom facilities, he said.

LUNCH POLICY

"As long as we have a school lunch policy which encourages school lunches, we are going to have pressure from parents to have better lunch facilities."

trustee Bill Lawson said. "By that I mean a cafeteria at the elementary level."

Halton Hills trustee Barry Shepherd expressed concern about students such as those taking French immersion courses, who are driven to school by their parents. He said the principal had in the past allowed the students to eat their lunch at school at no cost to the student, but now students are being charged for the privilege.

Trustee Florence Mearns suggested the board should either do away with the policy altogether, or give it a try for a year, and then make amendments to smooth out the problems.

Hon. Chapman, superintendent of special services, said the policy has not yet been fully implemented, and he expects a staff report on it. In the meantime, the board voted in favor of continuing with its present policy.

Jack Corbett of the region's public works department noted the company will have to approach Burlington city council with its landfilling scheme before inviting the region's decision on its offer. The region's involvement at this point is purely at the discussion stage, he stressed.

Meanwhile, the region's legal department continues to prepare for the first in a series of appeals expected to be launched over the recent decision by the Ontario Municipal Board ordering the town of Milton to rezone 246 acres of prime agricultural land for the region's landfilling plans.

REGION HOPES

The region hopes to bury some two million tons of waste at Site "F", near the intersection of Tremaine and Britannia Roads in south Milton, although the proposal continues to meet strong opposition from concerned citizens and Milton town council.

RELIABLE ROBBERY

Burglars gained entry to the Reliable Taxi Stand in Acton by cutting a chain link fence covering an open window with a pair of pliers. About ten cartons of cigarettes were taken, as well as a square green box containing three watches and \$7 in change. Suspects were observed in the area of the stand at the time of the break-in.

Maple Nursery School

Contact: Julia Manning Registrar 877-8874

VARIAN WINS CONTRACT

Varian Associates of Canada Ltd., Georgetown has won two federal government contracts, Supply and Services Canada announced Monday.

Electron tube-related equipment will be supplied by the company to Transport Canada at a cost of \$14,715.

Varian will also supply the National Research Council with optical instruments worth \$24,438.

The contracts are among 277 awarded in the week ending June 29 to Canadian companies. Total value of the contracts is \$12,341,720.

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