

Leferink Disposal offers alternative to once-weekly garbage pick-up

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By LORI TAYLOR
 Herald staff writer
 Garbage is a dirty subject, but one which is increasingly on people's minds, especially in Halton Hills.

Halton Hills council recently voted to discontinue the twice-weekly pick-up of residents' garbage, and that's where Leferink Disposal comes in. This company, which has been hauling garbage in Halton Hills for 23 years, is making a proposition to Halton Hills residents.

Albert Leferink and his partners are offering to make the second garbage pick-up which the town has dropped, for \$5 a month.

started making garbage pick-ups part-time in 1956. He quit in 1959 when the garbage business became too demanding.

"We had a family conference, and we figured out that I was earning \$1 a week more picking up garbage than I was making at Domtar, so I quit and started garbage collection full time," Mr. Leferink said.

FAMILY BUSINESS
 The business is family-operated, with Mr. Leferink's sons, a nephew, and his brother-in-law all working with him. It has grown steadily since it started, Mr. Leferink said, taking a big step forward when one of the company's biggest customers switched to using containers, and the company had to get the equipment to handle containers, or lose the customer. The company now has five trucks and a number of containers.

The garbage business is not without its problems. The regional government keeps threatening to close down the regional dump site on Armstrong Avenue, which is the only dump site in Halton Hills. "They notified us by mail

last May that the dump was being closed, so we had to get another truck to handle the extra distance, because we will have to haul the garbage to Oakville if they don't open the dump in Milton," John Gillissen, one of the partners in the business, said.

"Every month there are new rumors about the closing of the dump," Mr. Leferink said. "The latest date is October 31. First it was last August, then they postponed it to March, then from month to month, they put it off, to June, August, September and now October."

The company has been working almost since the decision to close the dump was announced, to get permission to install a disposal transfer system on their property on Trafalgar Road, across from the town offices. The transfer system would enable the company to dump truckloads of garbage into a large container, and compact it. This would reduce the number of trips the truck would have to make to the dump. Mr. Gillissen said there would be no odor or health hazard because the container would be "hermetically sealed."

Mr. Leferink said garbage has changed greatly over the years. Garbage collectors no longer haul away the ashes from coal furnaces, for example, as they used to do at one time, he said.

"The garbage bag was a real improvement over the garbage can," he said. "It made it a lot easier to just pick up the garbage and throw it in the truck, plus the bags are certainly much lighter."

Mr. Leferink said he doesn't think people are throwing away any more than they used to. Recycling is not economically feasible in Canada yet, and he estimates it will be another ten to twelve years before re-cycling is a viable alternative.

"There are groups still collecting newspapers, but the paper market is unstable," Mr. Gillissen said. "We've had a couple of times when we've collected paper and ended up with no place to take it. There was a time when a price of \$35 a ton made it a worthwhile proposition, to collect paper for re-cycling, but not now."

The company has the contract to haul the glass and tin for the town's resource recovery program, but is not involved in the selling of the materials.

There are about 12 plants in the United States involved in re-cycling on a major scale and only one is breaking even, Mr. Gillissen said.

"Re-cycling is in the early stages," he said. "It's good for the environment, but not for

business." He said there are one or two experimental plants in Canada, but he doesn't know whether or not they are making money.

GOOD MARKET
 Circumstances differ from country to country with regards to conservation and re-cycling, Mr. Gillissen said. In Amsterdam, garbage is composted "but there is a good market for compost over there, so it is economical. Here there isn't as much of a market," he said.

In the city of Utrecht, where the houses are very close together, garbage is burned in central locations to heat water which is then circulated through a number of homes to provide heat, he said.

"We could burn garbage here, but we would have to be careful of pollution," Mr. Leferink said.

In the United States, there are experiments in using garbage to make fuel which will make electricity, but it is still more expensive than using oil, so it isn't economical, Mr. Gillissen said.

To make such schemes profitable, or even economical, in Canada would require a large investment, Mr. Leferink said. He estimated that 80 to 85 per cent of garbage is burnable and is a potential energy source.

Mr. Leferink said it would definitely be advantageous to his company to have the landfill site in Milton, but "There are plenty of sites

available in Halton Hills."
 "I think you will see a lot of changes when everybody has to take their garbage to Oakville," he said.

"It may be that people aren't happy with the cutbacks, but they don't want to pay for another pick-up," Mr. Leferink said. "Of course we are more expensive, but we make a lot of individual pick-ups so we do a lot more driving."

Mr. Leferink emigrated from Holland in 1954, and has lived in Halton Hills ever since. He worked at Domtar for a number of years, and

drawing board while council intermittently allocates some municipal revenue to a building fund.

Clerk-administrator Ken Richardson explained that the main floors "battership linoleum" tile was installed when the building was constructed for the former township of Esquimes in 1962. Since then, he said, "the movement of equipment and normal office wear" have taken their toll, producing many marks and stains.

OWN CUSTOMERS
 Mr. Gillissen said the unit could only be used for the company's own customers, because otherwise there would be more public hearings required. The region, the town and the ministry of the environment are all involved in the process.

The town's general committee has sanctioned the purchase of \$1,300 worth of new carpeting for the Halton Hills municipal head-quarters on Trafalgar Road.

Subject to council's approval next week, Georgetown's Carpet Barn will supply and install 119 yards of medium-weight Colonsse Goliath, similar to that found in the downstairs council chamber, as a replacement for the well-worn linoleum tile on the building's main floor.

Carpet replaced in town office

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Estimates of the cost of carpeting for the floor were obtained from two local businesses, with Carpet Barn's coming in lower.

Coun. Hoy Booth added to the humor of the situation by searching for a pun in the fact that the town offices feature linoleum bearing the trade name "battership".

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"Are we gradually getting this building replaced this way?" Coun. Harry Levy joked Monday night in reference to the town's contentious but abandoned plans to build a new municipal complex on the site.

Expansion plans, greatly modified in deference to the angry complaints of citizens two years ago, remain on the

drawing board while council intermittently allocates some municipal revenue to a building fund.

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