Letters to the Editor

Resource recovery program should be regional priority

To the editor of The Herald: Councillor Terry Mannell's recent resignation as Chairman of the Solid Waste Man-Commitagement tee is an expression of sheer frustration at the broken promise of a firm commitment by

To the editor of The Herald:

While events in Cambodia

have been overshadowed

recently by those in Iran and

Afghanistan, the potential for

disaster in that troubled

The people of Cambodia

were faced with death by

famine last fall but have been

given a temporary reprieve

through the unprecedented

response of the international

community. Over 150,000 tons

of food, as well as other

necessary medicines and

supplies, have been delivered

to Cambodia and distributed

since October 1979, and that,

coupled with Cambodia's own

partial rice harvest in

December, has provided

adequate nourishment for the

people at least until the end of

April. After that, Cambodia

will again be almost totally

dependent on international

assistance until the next major

rice crop is harvested in.

To see that it does, \$80

November...if it gets planted.

million is needed immediately

for the purchase of rice, seeds,

fertilizers and agricultural

tools - in time for the spring

planting. Unless these reach

the provincial capitals quickly, the new crop will not be

planted before the onset of the

summer monsoons and, as a result, next fall's harvest will be totally inadequate, leaving

Cambodia again dependent on

Those of us living in our comfortable Canadian homes

might remember that in many

villages, the women planting

this crop will all be widows;

their men, and many of their children, having been killed in

the tragic events of recent

Much criticism and some

impatience has been directed at the international relief efforts for delays in distribut-

ing the supplies but to

understand the reasons for

these delays, one has to

recognize the complexity that

exists in Cambodia. The

government is attempting to

rebuild a country which has

been almost totally devastated

over the past 10 years. Where military factions still battle

each other; where almost the entire population is on the

move as families return to their home villages and towns,

or migrate to the refugee

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for nearly 960 million children in Third World countries is not These children need balanced dlets, clean water and immunization against disease

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cards

food aid into 1981.

years.

country still exists.

Halton Regional Council to any program of resource recovery. For all taxpayers in Halton who want the reduction and reuse of garbage as opposed to wholesale dumping, Mr. Mannell's admission that a closeup observation proves to him

Cambodia needs help

to stand on its own

camps on the Thai border, and

where there is a very severe

shortage of experienced

leadership after the mass

killings during the Pol Pot

In this complex and volatile

situation there was at first,

quite naturally, distrust on the

part of Cambodians for what

was perceived to be possible

outside intervention. This,

combined with the lack of dock

facilities, roads, trains, trucks,

gasoline, and even drivers, as

well as the lack of

communication and admini-

strative facilities, made it

unrealistic to expect distri-

bution to proceed with

"Western efficiency". But

according to Louis Wizniter.

Special Correspondent with

the Christian Science Monitor,

"An atmosphere of confidence

has gradually developed," And

he credits the Unicef-Red

Cross relief operation with

averting the full potential

effect of the disaster "malnly

because it succeeded in isolat-

ing itself from politics." And

Arnold Abrams reports in

Newsday that "the govern-

ment of Cambodia is doing its

Classes Begin

Next Week!

regime.

Halton Region does not view new methods of garbage management as a priority, can only

leave Lixpayers dismayed. For the past five years, no other single Regional issue has commanded as much press, public comment and use of

best in a country which lacks

everything, even the most

The Canadian people and

Canadian governments

responded most generously to

the first Cambodia appeal. But

in the words of Unicef official

Tony Hewett, "If we are going

to make a long-term impact,

we must now give them more

than a band-aid. Cambodians

must get back on their own

To do this they need our help

to see them through the next

eight months and to ensure

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basic things."

public money for hearings as has the issue of improved garbage disposal. When is Halton Region ever going to begin representing the taxpayers by listening to what they, the taxpayers, voice as a need? Improved methods of garbage

that the next winter's rice

We appeal therefore, to

Canadians, to help the people

of Cambodia as they strive,

with great courage and

resilience, to rebuild their

shattered country. We cannot

undo the damage but we can

Contributions should be sent

to any office of Unicef Canada

or the Canadian Red Cross

Society, and should be clearly

Sincerely.

President,

Joanna Miller,

marked Cambodia Appeal.

help to put it to an end.

harvest is successful.

disposal are needed now in Halton, not some time in the lazy, distant future. The Region promised the O.M.B. and promised the people that improved methods would be acted on, but the

promise has been broken, or worse, ignored by inaction. In his letter of resignation, Councillor Mannell said, "I refuse to be used any longer by a council which has misled the public." It would appear that the larger issue is one of the public's being used or misused on an issue to which scores of Halton taxpayers have devoted countless hours

The Region should realize that public funds would be better spent on something useful such as resource recovery that the public wants, than something negative like a hearing to push through a dump that the public does not want.

of work in the past five years.

Present council inaction on resource recovery and garbage reduction reflects a long outdated attitude that Halton taxpayers and voters of the energy conscious '80's are not about to accept. Councillor Mannell's reaction to the Regional inaction is a sign to be heeded by those elected to keep Halton moving forward positively and productively.

Now is the time for those Regional Councillors who do not have a commitment to resource recovery to re-align their priorities to the public interest and to act immediate-

> Yours sincerely, Dorothy Morgan, Burlington, Ont.

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Red Cross says thanks

To the editor of The Herald: On behalf of the Georgetown and District Red Cross Branch I would like to extend congratulations and thanks to all who were concerned with the Red Cross Campaign-for-Funds last month.

Special thanks to the rural, residential and commercial canvassers, who helped make this year's campaign more successful than ever before.

To those who gave, our sincere thanks! You may be assured that what you gave will go to help with the many services, offered in this area, including emergency disaster preparedness and response courses and training, and with national and international disaster and other emergency

At this moment in Georgetown. Acton and districts we have received approximately \$20,000.00. Monies are still to come in from various industries, business and professional and some residential donors. Further contributions would be welcome to Post Office Box 106, Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4T1.

We would like to take this opportunity to also thank the various news media for informing the public of the campaign and the Georgetown public library for the showing of the Red Cross display.

> Yours very truly, John Wickens, Chairman Campaign Com., Georgetown and District Br., The Canadian Red Cross Soc.

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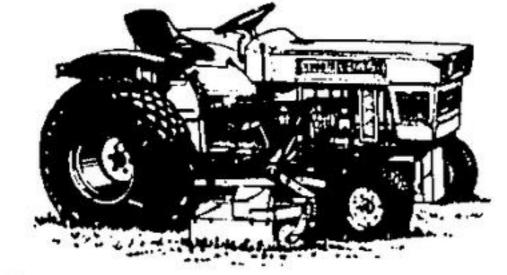
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