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Friday, October 23, 1981

Halton studies 'neighborhood' incinerator plan

Garbage as fuel may fill Niagara's energy appetite

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

"Burning issues" facing Niagara's regional government may be heading east, much to Halton's delight, Coun. Russ Miller told The Herald Monday.

Representatives from Niagara's public works department visited Halton's solid waste management sub-committee Friday, bringing along a proposal which would see Halton's combustible garbage trucked off to Thorold to fuel the Ontario Paper Company's steam generators.

Fitting nicely into the region's own long-range goals to see more garbage turned into useful energy, Niagara's still-sketchy plans impressed Coun. Miller.

"I'm excited about it. I think it's one of the best things that's happened (in solid waste management) in a number of years," he said. "We're into something that could be very big for Halton, very big."

As Halton's Oakville garbage dump rapidly nears its capacity and the likelihood of a new landfill site in Milton (Site "F") is questionable, regional officials are only too happy to hear about new proposals which will help rid the region of its garbage headache.

Using garbage as an energy source, or refuse derived fuel (RDF), is about the most promising solution.

However, Coun. Miller pointed out, it takes a lot of burnable garbage—even more than Halton can produce, to keep a large industry fueled each day.

"We haven't got the market for RDF yet," he said, "and you shouldn't build an incinerator unless you've got the market."

But Niagara is fortunate enough to have an industry which can use garbage as fuel. Moreover, Ontario Paper



NOW THAT'S INFLATION

Talk about stretching your dollar value! Tellers and bank officials at the Toronto Dominion branch on Georgetown's Main Street were a little overcome when Mayor Pete Pomeroy (left) dropped in with a 33-foot cheque worth \$2,500 collected from the Georgetown Little Theatre's benefit night held the day before. Joining the mayor with the "tellers' nightmare" are (left to

right) branch manager Terry Dickinson, cultural centre fund-raising committee chairman Rex Heslop and employees Karin Watson, Karen Riley, Susan Rose, Mary Edgar, Dorothy Succes and Eleanore Slimmer. The money is part of the town's fund-raising for the cultural centre. (Herald photo)

heartily endorses the idea. To find the enormous sources of garbage needed to produce paper and electricity for the Thorold mill, Niagara will likely have to encourage neighboring regions to ship their burnable wastes from various collection, separation and transfer sites. Haldimand-

Norfolk, Hamilton-Wentworth, Halton and Niagara region are welcome fuel suppliers, but to meet the Thorold mill's estimated 2,300 tons per day appetite, Niagara may have to step south of the border for garbage. While the solid waste sub-committee is excited about the proposal, its optimism is couched in caution. Some of the costs, Coun. Miller pointed out, may put the plan out of Halton's grasp. "We're just scraping the surface of the proposal now," he said. Further study will have to be done by Halton's planning and public works committee.

nary figures discussed in reports sponsored by Niagara region indicate that if the project were to get underway now, it would cost \$76 million. Other expenses on which participating regions will have to figure are transportation costs, and possibly tipping fees for dumping garbage at the Thorold Mill.

Meanwhile, St. Catharines is working on its own proposal to provide an incinerator at a General Motors plant. However, this project is smaller than Niagara's and is not expected to involve other regions.

The RDF approach Halton hopes to eventually take in the disposal of household garbage will relieve pressure on landfill sites such as the one in Oakville, expected to be completely filled by 1983 or 1984. Heavier trash like old washing machines will be buried for sometime to come.

Recently, Halton passed a bylaw prohibiting the dumping of newsprint at the Oakville site, and has called on area municipalities to collect news-

print and direct it elsewhere by April, 1982. Old newspapers, corrugated cardboard containers, fine papers and glass make up about one third of Halton's total annual solid wastes output. A study prepared for Halton last year stresses that the region must improve its current four per cent recovery rate of resources from garbage to at least 10 per cent and even 20 per cent in the not too distant future.

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Town council declines aid request for Acton Optimists' financial woes

Town council has decided not to help the Acton Optimist Club recover a \$583 bank overdraft by giving the organization a special "one time only" grant to pay for the rental of the Acton Arena during a dance and Monte Carlo Night June 27.

The decision, reached at council's Monday night meeting, culminates a confusing and sometimes bitter disagreement between the club and the Acton Chamber of Commerce, which the club says contributed to the deficit by holding another event that same evening.

Acton Coun. Dave Whiting suggested that the town give the club the \$175 from the town's miscellaneous grant account, acknowledging that the town is unable to waive the arena's rent.

Despite the subject being brought up twice at the meeting, council concurred with Coun. Harry Levy's argument against setting a precedent encouraging other clubs to approach the town for funds when their own coffers run dry.

"I'm an old service club member myself, but I must oppose the recommendation," he said, adding that the deficit incurred by the club may be due to "poor administration".

"When you're short of funds you go out and earn some more," Mr. Levy argued. "Service clubs should provide for the community, not the community provide for the service clubs."

Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson's attempt to re-open discussion of the Optimists' request was later rejected by other council members.

Meanwhile, club representatives at Monday's meeting told reporters that the date for the dance and Monte Carlo Night

was included in the October, 1980, edition of the Optimist Bulletin. Although the Optimists and the Chamber of Commerce had discussed Back to Acton Days events (of which the Monte Carlo Night was a part), the Chamber eventually chose to hold its Acton Citizen of the Year banquet that same night.

Normally, the citizen of the year is chosen in April.

Dave Hall, Optimist president while the club was planning its Back to Acton involvement, was joined at the meeting by current president Walter Barlow as council declined to assist the club. Had the club attracted 30 of the 200 people who went to the banquet

instead of the Monte Carlo Night, it would not be in the financial situation it now finds itself.

He called the confusion which led to the two events being held the same evening an indication of lack of cooperation between the Acton Chamber and the service clubs.

Net losses from the dance and Monte Carlo Night totalled about \$480, which was paid by the club leaving its bank account with a \$83 overdraft. Outstanding bills from its sponsorship of the community's soap box derby and a commitment to a soccer team bring the deficit to the \$583 mark.

MP's mortgage rate petition accepted in Parliament

From the Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

House of Commons Speaker Jeanne Sauve has accepted a petition signed by 6,725 residents of Peel and Halton protesting high mortgage interest rates.

The petition was presented in the Commons by Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid, who said the grievance "reflects the attitude of most Canadians who feel that they have waited long enough for some form of

remedial action by this government".

The petitioners claim that grossly increased monthly interest payments on mortgages are unjust and that payments are "unreachable" to the average family. The document suggests the government reduce the interest rates and make home ownership possible for the average Canadian.

It demands a mortgage interest tax credit "and any other kind of assistance to help those suffering from high interest".

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