

Limehouse dump site proposal

Report due on quarry affecting water supply

Maintaining the safety of the water supply for Acton and Georgetown residents is of "overriding importance", says a consulting firm hired by a company interested in turning a depleted quarry into a dump.

Reclamation Systems Inc. has undertaken a feasibility study into rehabilitation of the Acton quarry on the United Aggregates lands. Its initial study indicates there won't be degradation of the water supply for Halton Hills.

With the town entirely dependent on well water, this is a crucial matter.

Reclamation Systems' report recognizes the Environmental Assessment Board and the Ministry wouldn't approve or provide a certificate for a site where water and the environment would be negatively affected.

Feeding the Acton municipal wells and many private wells in the area is the Amabel aquifer. Below it is the

Cabothead water source. The Cabothead is below the surface of the proposed landfill operation.

Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER) President Ruth French expressed concern about maintaining the water quality for both the Cabothead and Amabel, at Monday night's general committee meeting.

POWER is a residents organization opposing a dump in the quarry. "You people make no guarantee to protect the Cabothead water," Mrs.

French said. "You say it is unsuitable for drinking and poor quality. I have water analysis that says it's perfectly acceptable for drinking."

She said the well on her property is 146 feet deep and drilled into the Cabothead formation.

Terrence Godsall, vice-president of the investment firm interested in developing the quarry into a 170-acre and 100 feet deep dump said his firm would "be pleased" to provide Mrs. French with another well which doesn't draw from the Cabothead, in the case of contamination.

He contended there is no need for her well to be so deep, and said the water she is using is Amabel water.

"Are you aware how many residents draw water from the Amabel aquifer?" POWER member Mark Shepherd asked.

"We're aware of the increasing importance of it. It is a very very important water resource," Mr. Godsall acknowledged.

The Reclamation Systems report says there are numerous natural

features on the site which would ensure no contamination of the Amabel aquifer system.

These include a natural inward flow of groundwater into the quarry preventing outward movement of contaminants; low permeability and a downward groundwater flow.

Shieldings intends to build a ten feet thick wall of compacted soil around the dump, building it up from the floor ahead of the filling operation, Mr. Godsall said. This vertical wall is intended to be an impermeable barrier, keeping wastes from possible contact with the Amabel waters.

Along the floor of the quarry will be pumps collecting waters which have percolated through the garbage. They will be routinely maintained for the life of the site, Mr. Godsall said. The life of the site is 30 years after it has closed, he said.

If the Ministry insists on a liner for the dump, the firm will put one in, Mr. Godsall told Mayor Russ Miller.

He said the floor is "very light" in engineering terms, meaning permeability is very low.

In brief

Planner's promise

Mayor Russ Miller got a promise from the Canadian company interested in developing a landfill site that they will make a presentation on their proposal to a citizens group.

The citizens group is called Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER) and was established this spring in response to the landfill proposal. The group objects to having a dump in Acton.

Terrence Godsall said his firm, Shieldings Incorporated, will also make available study materials to councillors and area residents, before the matter goes to the Ministry of the Environment. The Ministry must give formal approval before the dump can go ahead.

Rules meeting

The process Ontario's Regions have to go through to establish a dump is frustrating, expensive and unclear, the province is being told by a number of regional chairmen.

They've gotten together and prepared a submission on solid waste management to the provincial government. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of the Environment senior staff are to meet next month to talk about the problems with the environmental assessment process.

Halton Region isn't the only one facing a waste disposal crisis, huge costs run up by the environmental assessment process, and conflicts amongst its municipalities and citizens groups.

The Regional Chairman of Ontario wants the government to work with them on developing an acceptable and practical approach to protecting Ontario's environment and disposing of municipal solid waste. They aren't asking Ontario to exempt them from environmental assessments.

POWER meets

POWER stands for Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources, and is a group of residents opposed to the use of the United Aggregates Ltd. Quarry, between Georgetown and Acton as a landfill site.

The group meeting every Thursday night in the Limehouse school gym at 8 p.m.

For more information, contact Ruth French at 853-1328.

Fire calls

Early Saturday morning the Georgetown Fire Department was called to wash down the road after a motor vehicle accident left sections of Highway 25 South at Speyside cluttered with debris. On Sunday afternoon, firefighters responded to an alarm at a private residence on Highway 25, one mile north of Speyside. The alarm had been activated accidentally.

No toxic wastes allowed

Only municipal wastes will be put in the Acton quarry landfill, says the company spokesman for Shieldings Incorporated.

There will be no "non-committed" industrial toxic wastes buried there, Terry Godsall said. Shieldings is an investment firm proposing to develop 260 acres at the United Aggregates landfill into a dump by

"non-committed", he means unidentified.

"Who's garbage do you plan to put there?" Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson asked at Monday night's general committee meeting.

"I'd expect much of the (Halton) Region to be tipping on that site," Mr. Godsall answered, attributing it to attractive rates the company an-

icipates offering.

Along with garbage from the north and west ends of Halton, Mr. Godsall said the private landfill will draw waste from parts of Wellington County, then Peel Region.

"Properly managed, the site would live for 20 to 27 years, Mr. Godsall estimated. It will start out taking 115,000 tons of waste annually. It's not anticipated to get past 100,000 tons of waste per year. On a daily basis, it would be about 20,000 tons.

Coun. Serjeantson wanted to know if the waste arriving at the site would arrive already compacted. If so, it will mean less truck traffic for area residents, she pointed out. Mr. Godsall said some may come compacted, and some not, if not, it will be compacted at the dump site.

Economic advantages by converting quarry

Carrots were bobbed in front of budget-conscious town councillors Monday night.

Terrence Godsall of Shieldings Incorporated said a landfill in Acton would have economic advantages to Halton Hills.

The firm, which is interested in establishing a dump in a mined out limestone quarry belonging to United Aggregates Ltd., is offering the town "privileged rates" or even free garbage dumping.

Mr. Godsall estimated the inducement could save the town at least \$1 million in waste disposal, Halton Hills now pays for its garbage to be trucked down to the Region's sole landfill site in Burlington, and finds it an expensive way to dispose of municipal wastes.

At the "absolute minimum", tipping fees would be 30 per cent cheaper at the Acton site than at either the proposed Burlington or Milton Regional dumps, Mr. Godsall said.

More economic benefits were offered the town.

Mr. Godsall said it "wouldn't be out of the question to participate in the upgrading of the Acton sewage treatment plant".

He noted the plant is antiquated and hasn't the capacity to handle leachate which would be produced by the proposed quarry dump. Leachate is liquid which has percolated through the garbage. It will be collected from the dump floor and taken to a lake treatment facility since the Acton plant hasn't the capacity to handle it.

Mr. Godsall anticipated there would be five to seven gallons of leachate collected per minute at the quarry dump.

Mark Shepherd of POWER, a group fighting the landfilling proposal, questioned the success of the leachate collection system in the case of a flash storm.

He calculated there could be 1.6 million gallons of leachate produced in a 20 minute period, requiring about 250 trucks to collect and carry it off to the sewage treatment plant.

30 unfit cars

at safety lanes

The Halton Safety Lanes held at the Gordon Alcott Memorial arena wrapped up Friday with almost one third of the vehicles summoned removing their plates.

Const. A Stennett reports 145 notices were served and 25 vehicles failed to appear at the lanes.

Thirty vehicles were registered audit by the owners and five more were removed by police.

Twenty vehicles were issued new notices to appear at the safety lanes in Milton this week.

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