

Outlook on Halton Hills

'Merry-go-round' EFW program

By BRIAN MACLEOD
Herald Staff

Infuriated councillors almost derailed Halton's energy from waste program before it got rolling March 9.

Regional councillors decided to hire consultants to prepare for the first phase of their energy from waste program but not before a letter from the Environment Minister angered some councillors.

Chairman Pete Pomeroy told councillors the Ministry is not prepared to make a commitment to EFW. Mr. Pomeroy had written Environment Minister James Bradley asking for a commitment to EFW by the province but the "response really didn't answer the question we asked of them."

The minister "doesn't object to EFW as a possible solution" to waste management problems as

long as any applicants go through the environmental assessment process, said Mr. Pomeroy.

The EA process is blamed for the lengthy delays and expensive search for a landfill site in Halton.

Councillors were prepared to delay the first phase of their search for an EFW plant in Halton - the evaluation of options and public consultation - until the province indicates a clear commitment to the idea.



Poster winner

Kevin Lumb received a 32 piece pastel set and paper as a boost to keep up his talents. Kevin was the winner of the Red Cross Poster Contest initiated by Rosanne Monaster, the vice chairman of the Red Cross, in February. Posters submitted by approximately 135 Grade three, four and five students were displayed at the Georgetown Children's Library.

Only after a stern warning from Administrative Clerk John Fleming that failure to follow through on EFW would "seriously jeopardize" the consolidation hearings looking into the landfill issue did councillors approve the EFW plans.

At the consolidation hearings, Halton has argued it is looking at alternatives to landfill including a full-scale commitment to EFW. The environmental assessment process demands investigation into alternatives to landfill and Halton's commitment to EFW helps fulfill that obligation. If the Region backs off on EFW now, said Mr. Fleming, opponents of the proposed landfill site in Burlington could claim Halton is not serious about seeking alternatives.

Halton is now caught between going ahead with EFW in the muddy waters of the EA process and holding back which could jeopardize the landfill hearings, said Oakville Coun. Kevin Flynn. "That's not much of a choice."

"We're on the merry go round again," said Burlington's Joan Little.

The potential length and cost of EA hearings on energy from waste means Halton is being asked to "sign a blank cheque," she said.

Halton Hills Coun. Pam Sheldon objected to what she said were different rules for private companies and municipalities.

The MOE said private applications seeking approval for a dumpsite in Acton may not have to explore alternatives too deeply because they have constraints which municipalities don't have, said Coun. Sheldon.

"What is the rationale for the tax-

payers to spend millions more to find a solution when private corporations, whose only motive is profit, do not have to?" said Coun. Sheldon.

Despite the province's lack of commitment to EFW Mr. Fleming urged Halton to keep "soldiering on" and push for a commitment.

West of The Moon

By B.R. CORNWELL
Halton Hills Public Libraries

West of the Moon, by Jonathan Nasaw.

Oscar Wilde is supposed to have said, "It takes a heart of stone to read the death of Little Nell without laughing." Lachrymose death-bed scenes abounded in Victorian literature reflecting the frequency of early childhood death in the era before medical marvels.

Nowadays the death of a child is regarded as an unforgivable error on someone's, (possibly God's) part. The literary world tends to provide non-fiction accounts of the courage and struggles of stricken children and their families. While such accounts may be heart-wrenching or inspirational they are rarely written with literary grace and, unlike novels provide for no catharsis of the spirit.

In West of the Moon, Danny Dawson, aged five and wearing a Giants baseball cap to disguise the baldness of his chemo-theraped, pate, escapes with his mother Anne, from the un-tender treatments of Protestant Mercy hospital. With the assistance of their friend, male nurse Tom Straw they head for Dr. Krebs' hospice in California's red-wood country.

There the hospice staff help Danny and his mother learn how to die.

Within a lyrical narrative Jonathan Nasaw conveys the premise and possibilities of the hospice movement and in scene, after scene carries the reader along the path of coping and acceptance.

In the chapter where the hospice orderly, Wally, shows Danny the wondrous moment of being both east of the setting sun and west of the rising moon, Danny gets down to basics:

"Wally," said Danny without preamble, "do all the patients who come here die?"

Wally considered, rummaging through his homilies. "Dr. Krebs says nobody knows the future. But mostly, that's what a hospice is for... Dr. Krebs says it's like we were working in an airport and all the patients are just passengers from this country to that"... Danny asked if Wally knew what happened after you die. "I know what Wavy Gravy says," said Wally. Wavy Gravy was a clown who worked with dying children and ran a summer camp in Mendocino.

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