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Home Newspaper of Halton Hills — Established 1866

HALTON HILLS, ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1988

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Consultant says:

Drinking water not in jeopardy

Even if all the leachate produced at the proposed Acton quarry landfill was dumped into the Georgetown water supply at once, the drinking water quality would still be within government guidelines, a consultant for the dump proponents says.

Vern Dixon, a hydrogeologist hired by Reclamation Systems Inc., told the Proposed Acton Quarry Landfill Study Group and about 20 onlookers last Tuesday that Acton and Georgetown residents need not fear contamination of their drinking water from a landfill site.

Contingency systems will prevent any leachate from leaking into the water supply, said Mr. Dixon.

Halton Hills draws its water from the Amabel aquifer, which is a series of huge underground rivers running through a permeable layer of rock called the Amabel Formation.

Local residents are worried that leachate poisoning could contaminate the entire town's water supply and force a multi-million dollar hook-up to water from Lake Ontario.

Leachate is an acidic liquid which forms in garbage dumps by rain-water percolating through the dump. Landfill sites commonly have leachate collection systems to deal with the toxic fluid.

The quarrying operation will remove the entire Amabel rock formation down to a thin layer of dolostone called the Reynales Formation, said Mr. Dixon.

Below that is the Cabot head, a highly impermeable and thick layer of shale which will prevent water from escaping the landfill site.

In fact, the pressure in that layer is so great that water may actually be forced upwards through the bedrock, said Mr. Dixon.

Heading towards the Niagara Escarpment, on the west side all the land slants slowly towards the west, said Mr. Dixon.

On the east side of the escarpment the water tends to flow towards Georgetown, he said.

Water flows into the quarry from all sides, said Mr. Dixon.

"That inward flow is a very important phenomenon."

Leachate will be collected from different areas throughout the quarry and funneled through an on-site sewage treatment plant before being discharged into the Black Creek, said Mr. Dixon.

Fresh water will also be collected but kept apart from the leachate.

The discharge point into Black Creek is likely to be downstream from the current Acton sewage plant.

Because there would be excess capacity in the new sewage plant, some of the pressure would be taken off the older plant now operating in Acton, said Mr. Dixon. The new plant would allow expansion of Acton because of the increased sewage treatment capacity, he added.

The garbage collected in the dump

will be shielded from the Amabel rock by a 10-foot thick clay confining wall backed up by a gravel wall, said engineer Michael Pullen.

The leachate levels and the freshwater levels can be controlled, he said. Should leachate escape under the confining wall, the level of fresh water can be increased to pressure the leachate back into the quarry, said Mr. Pullen.

The only confining wall in existence like the one proposed for the quarry is located in Franklin, Wisconsin, said Mr. Pullen. That company jealously protects its technology so it's difficult to say how well it works, he said.

Another contingency plan calls for strategically placed "purge wells". The purge wells would pump the leachate out of the ground if it escaped the quarry site, said Eco Logic consulting firm's Julian Daffern.

Mr. Dixon admitted the Third Line residents will lose their water at some time.

But they will lose their water due to the quarrying operation, not because of the landfill site, said Ms. Daffern.

The quarrying will effectively move the water table, she said.

But that water can be restored by a variety of ways, including hooking up to the Acton servicing system, he said.

Study group member Harvey Kirk questioned Mr. Pullen on the potential effects of blasting from the quarry across the street. United Aggregates will be quarrying across the street with transportation via a tunnel under the road.

Blasting might damage the leachate collection pipes or the confining wall, said Mr. Kirk.

The study group also asked what will happen to about 30 acres of land which had already been rehabilitated into farmland.

The land had been rehabilitated well and used as farmland in the past but recent activity has made that land unworkable, said Mr. Kirk.

Indusmin, the original owners of the quarry had filed a rehabilitation plan for the quarry but if United Aggregates wants to change that plan they will have to apply to the province for modifications, said Ted Harvey of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Committee Chairman Bill Johnson said modifying the rehabilitation plan means the company will "change the rules of the game."

United Aggregates has done pumping tests on the site to determine ground water flow, said Mr. Dixon.

Some 64 bore holes and wells have been dug at 32 locations on the site for groundwater flow testing.

The L-shaped dump will have a 20 to 25 year lifespan based on waste acceptance of one million tonnes a year, said Mr. Pullen.

Once a dump is filled the top of the land will be elevated six metres above the road.



New Orleans Cuisine

Dressed in the Dixieland style, Lynda Hill and Andrea Skanes dished up some southern cooking during a New Orleans dinner Saturday night at the Halton Hills Library and Cultural Centre Gallery. Dinner menu selections included Jambalaya-seasoned rice filled with shrimp and ham, Beef Creole, Bourbon Potatoes and Creole string beans and cabbage.

'Almost double'

Simon, and town reach deal

The town has come to an agreement on severance pay with former Administrative-Clerk Joe Simon.

Mr. Simon was fired from his \$38,000 a year job on November 23 last year after just 15 months on the job.

The town offered him \$15,000 in severance pay and \$6,500 a relocation assistance, but Mr. Simon has recently accepted a package equivalent to "about double that", according to Mayor Russ Miller.

He could not say what the exact settlement will cost the town.

The settlement works out to the approximate equivalent the town would have paid Mr. Simon in salary, had he not been fired, said Mayor Miller.

"With that job being vacant since Nov. 23 it hasn't cost us anything," he said.

The only difference has been a vacant position and Treasurer Ray King has filled the position of Acting Administrator very well, he added.

Mr. King and acting Clerk Delmar French recently received temporary salary increases from the town for the extra workload they've taken on, while the position remains vacant.

The raises, \$250 a week for Mr. King and \$150 a week for Mr. French, will remain in effect only until a new Administrator-Clerk is hired.

Mayor Miller expects the position to be filled sometime this summer.

Most miss less than 15 per cent of meetings

Council graded on attendance

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Staff

Attendance figures for Halton Hills' 13 councillors show that only three councillors have missed more than 15 per cent of their meetings.

The figures are split up into attendance at Halton Region for the town's five regional councillors, including the mayor, and attendance at town council meetings.

Regional Councillor John McDonald, who also sits on Halton's Health and Social Services Committee tops the absentee list for 1987 and 1988.

Between regular Regional council meetings and committee meetings Ward 3 Coun. McDonald has missed 31 of 68 meetings, meaning he is absent from 46 per cent of Regional meetings.

Mayor Russ Miller sits on the Administration and Finance Committee at Halton. Between those committee meetings and regular council meetings Mayor Miller has missed 25 of 73 meetings or 34 per cent.

Ward 1 Coun. Rick Bonnette sat on the Planning and Public Works Committee until January when he switched with Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson to sit on the Health and Social Services Committee at Halton Region.

Coun. Bonnette has missed 11 of 78 meetings for an absentee rate of 14 per cent.

Ward 2 Coun. Pam Sheldon sits on the Planning and Public Works Committee at Halton Region. She has missed 11 of 82 meetings averaging a 13.4 per cent absentee rate.

Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson, who now sits on the Planning and Public Works Committee, has the lowest absentee rate of all Halton Hills Regional councillors at 8.3 per cent.

Coun. Serjeantson, who represents Ward 4, missed only six meetings of the 72 scheduled at Halton Region last year.

Coun. McDonald also leads all other councillors in missed town council meetings, in 1987 and 1988.

There were 65 council and general committee meetings held between January of 1987 and April 18 of this year and Coun. McDonald missed 21 in total, meaning he was absent from more than 32 per cent of the meetings.

Mayor Russ Miller missed 20 council meetings or almost 31 per cent in the last year-and-a-half.

Ward 2 Councillor Peter Norton is the only other councillor to miss more than 15 per cent of the meetings held in 1987 and 1988. Coun. Norton missed 17 meetings or 26 per cent.

The rest of the councillors missed less than ten meetings. Ward 2 Coun. Joe Hewitt missed nine meetings or 13.8 per cent, Coun. Pam Sheldon and Coun. Rick Bonnette each missed eight meetings or 12.3 per cent.

Ward 3 Coun. Pam Johnston missed seven meetings or 10.8 per cent, Ward 3 Coun. Betty Fisher missed six meetings or nine per cent, Ward 1 (Acton) Councillors Gerald Rennie and Norm Elliott each missed five meetings or eight per cent, Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson missed four meetings or six per cent, Ward 4 Coun. Al Cook missed only three meetings or five per cent.

The councillor with the most prolific attendance record is Ward 4 Councillor Ili Bowman who missed just one meeting or 1.5 per cent in the last 16 months.

Mayor Russ Miller said he is kept a busy man with the many functions in town which demand the attendance of the Mayor.

Mayor Miller said other Monday night functions when council meetings are held require his attendance so he missed several town council meetings.

As for Regional council meetings, Mayor Miller said he was plagued by a recurring health problem last year which laid him up in the hospital for a total of 50 days.

The mayor had three operations last year requiring hospitalization.

"It was just a bad year (last

year)," Mayor Miller said.

Coun. McDonald, who moved to Milton last September, said his work commitments in the last year have been "overwhelming."

"The fact that I moved to Milton has absolutely nothing to do with my attendance," said Coun. McDonald.

When Coun. McDonald was acclaimed to his position in 1985 he was the personnel industrial manager for Benson and Hedges in Brampton. But his company has since merged with Rothman's and the ensuing hundreds of layoffs have kept him busy, he said.

Since the merger Coun. McDonald said he has been putting in work days of between 14 and 16 hours.

His firm's head office in Montreal was closed down along with layoffs totalling over 800 people at other plants, said Coun. McDonald.

The ensuing complications with pensions and benefits and dealing with union employees has resulted in many night meetings, said Coun. McDonald.

His staff has been reduced from 14

to two people, he said.

"It's absolutely overwhelming," he said.

"It's been the worst year of my life. If I had known the level of responsibility (I would acquire) I clearly wouldn't have run again."

Coun. Peter Norton is the manager of Givner Carpets in Brampton. He moved to the new job in November from the Bay at Bramalea City Centre.

Business hours at the retail store run from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., said Coun. Norton.

"In retail if somebody walks into the store at 8:55 p.m. you can't just close the door on them," he said.

There is only one other full time employee at his new store which means the councillor is kept busier than he was with his old job at the Bay.

When housing picks up, the carpet business gets busy, said Coun. Norton.

He expects to be running for town council in Ward 2 again in the November municipal elections.

In the hills

McKee to speak

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce will be holding its Annual General Meeting May 17 at the North Halton Golf Club. The Chamber has been very active this past year and the enthusiasm of the Board of Directors is expected to continue into the upcoming year.

Annual memberships are valid during the calendar year when purchased. A member who pays his fees annually shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the corporation unless his membership fee was paid in full at least thirty days prior to the date of the meeting.

Annual members wishing to qualify as voting members at the annual general meeting must pay their membership fee no later than May 24, 1988.

Plant sale

The Bishop Reding Secondary School Parents Association will conduct their first annual Plant Sale at two sites on Saturday, May 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A wide variety of box plants, hanging baskets, and patio pots will be available, supplied by Van Empels Greenhouses-Nursery Ltd. Costs range from \$1 for a box of annual bedding plants, to \$1.50 for geraniums and dracaena in four-inch pots, and hanging baskets and patio pots for \$10 each.

The sales will take place at Holy Cross School parking lot in Georgetown, and Holy Rosary Church parking lot in Milton.

Proceeds go towards the scholarship fund and other student needs.

Clinics

Immunization clinics by the Halton Regional Health Department are now being held the first Wednesday of each month at the Burlington office, 460 Brant St., from 3:30-7 p.m.

Clinics are also being held the second Tuesday of each month alternating between the Georgetown office at 63 Main St. South, and the Milton office, 251 Main Street, also from 3:30-7 p.m.

For an appointment, call the Health Department office in Halton Hills at 877-2238.

Hospital meeting

The annual general meeting of the Georgetown and District



Alex McKee

Police track hold-up men

Two men armed with a sawed-off rifle forced customers to lie on the floor while they robbed the Halton Community Credit Union in Acton May 5.

Halton Regional Police say the bandits entered the credit union at 273 Queen Street about 1 p.m. and said "This is a hold up." The robbers then told about eight customers and the tellers to lie on the floor.

One robber held the people on the floor at gunpoint while the second searched the credit union for cash. The bandits got away on foot with

an undetermined amount of money, police say.

One man was described as five feet ten inches to six feet tall, weighing between 160 and 180 pounds between the ages of 30 and 35, with dark, curly, medium length hair.

The second man was described as between five feet five inches and five feet seven inches, weighing approximately 140 pounds, in his mid twenties with long reddish hair.

Police have no suspects at the moment but the investigation is continuing.

Local tax burden mounts

Halton Hills residents are being forced to take an increasing share of the tax burden.

Councillor Norm Elliott said Monday that the 1987 financial report released by the town reveals that the ratio of residential to industrial assessment in town is increasing.

That means a larger chunk of the town's tax dollars are coming from

residents instead of industries.

That fact "leaps right off the page," said Coun. Elliott.

"The burden on the residents is becoming more onerous."

Mayor Russ Miller hopes the recent rezoning of 100 acres of land for industrial purposes on the Highway 401 corridor will encourage business to locate in Halton Hills.



Family Fill-up

Mark and Geoff Freeman gave their dad, Dan, some moral support on Monday night at Holy Cross church as he donated a pint of blood at the Red Cross blood donor clinic. Mr. Freeman, making his 24th dona-

tion, was one of 292 people who attended the clinic. Red Cross officials said Tuesday there was 272 units of blood collected and 20 deferrals. The clinic's goal had been established at 325 units. (Herald photo)