

Energy from waste talks

Region moves along with EFW plan

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Staff

Regional councillors got their feet wet May 18 on its commitment to energy from waste.

The alternative was to back off from EFW altogether or jump right into the pool.

Halton approved a total of \$427,000, mostly in consultants fees, to begin "Phase I" of the energy from waste process. Phase I is a move to hire consultants to study EFW and hold public information meetings.

In doing so Halton turned down a motion by Milton's Bill Johnson and Burlington's Walter Mulkeiwich to eliminate the consultants' studies from the process and call for proposals for an EFW plant immediately.

In a recorded vote all four of Halton Hills Regional councillors present at the meeting - Mayor Russ Miller, Rick Bonnette, Marilyn Serjeantson and Pam Sheldon - voted in favor of the resolution to hire the consultants for Phase I.

Councillors hired the consultants after they were told by Halton's Chief Administrative Officer John Fleming that they must go ahead with Energy from Waste.

Halton is now arguing its case in front of the consolidated hearings board as a part of the environmental assessment process search for a new landfill site. Part of Halton's argument is that a commitment to EFW is part of the Region's long term waste management solution.

Halton plans to build an EFW plant by 1996, and burn 50 per cent of the Region's garbage for 18 of the 20 years once the new dump is in operation.

Failure to go ahead with EFW would "seriously jeopardize" Halton's case at the hearings, said Mr. Fleming.

It was not the first time Mr. Fleming had issued the warning that a "do nothing" approach could be disastrous to regional councillors, who threatened to derail EFW.

Burlington Mayor Roly Bird, who has waged a bitter campaign against a proposed landfill in Aldershot and against extensive use of consultants, wanted to put the issue off until next year so a new council could make the ultimate decision on EFW.

"This council does not have the will to deal with an exercise like this," said Mayor Bird.

Hiring consultants to conduct the public education process - necessary to fulfill the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act - will allow them to "feast on the taxpayers," he added.

"Halton is giving \$120,000 to a firm (Institute of Environmental Research Inc.) which would do it for a lesser amount and do a better job," he said.

He called the proposal "a walk in the quicksand."

He termed the idea for a proposal call for an EFW plant immediately "going for the jugular instead of being out in the capillaries."

Halton has already asked Environment Minister James Bradley for a commitment to EFW from the province but the non-committal reply was termed a "disgrace" by Coun. Pam Sheldon.

Coun. Sheldon wanted to defer the decision on EFW for a month until councillors could meet with Mr. Bradley, but her motion lost a 12-9 vote after Mayor Bird said the only thing Mr. Bradley would do is "give

you that Queen's Park smile."

Coun. Mulkeiwich urged councillors to support the immediate proposal call - even without a client - in order to speed up Halton's sixth attempt at initiating energy from waste.

"How many times are we going to try before we... exercise the political will power to go out and do it?" asked Coun. Mulkeiwich.

There is EFW technology that has "proven to be safe," he said.

There are firms in Halton ready to build an EFW plant but "up until now no one has believed that the Region is ready," he added.

Coun. Mulkeiwich disputed Halton's commitment to EFW saying the Region has "never committed itself to anything other than landfill."

Mayor Miller said he is "committed to energy from waste."

The mayor said he would support both of the proposals - to hire the

consultants and to call for a plant immediately - should either one fall.

Oakville Coun. Liz Behrens, who gave a long and impassioned plea in favor of EFW, referred to putting a plant in the "boondocks" which she later said could be on the industrial corridors of either Highway 401 or Highway 403.

Milton's Bill Johnson, an ardent supporter of EFW, said Halton must get into EFW before other regions. "It's getting very competitive. We may be beat out of the business before long," he said.

Mr. Johnson said he would support putting an EFW plant in the industrial area of Milton.

Councillors are worried that going through the EA process with EFW, as Halton did with landfill, will cost millions of dollars.

Phase I, hiring consultants for the public education process, is just the beginning of the road, said Burlington's Joan Little.

"What follows Phase I is Phase 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and blank cheques," she said.

Miller ready to accept inevitability of EFW

An energy from waste plant in Halton Hills?

That prospect seems a lot more possible now that Halton Region has taken the first steps to implement its EFW long term plan.

Milton Councillor Bill Johnston said Wednesday he'd support building an EFW plant in the industrial section of Milton.

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller is also in favor of EFW.

The suggestion that an EFW plant be built on the industrial corridors of Highway 401 or Highway 403 means the possibility of a waste burning plant looms in Halton Hills.

Mayor Miller who is against the landfill proposal in Acton, said he would not fight an EFW plant in town with the same vigor.

"I'm convinced environmentally

it is better to be burning garbage than to be burying it," said Mayor Miller.

Modern technology still cannot ensure 100 per cent safety but it "can come close," he said.

By burning garbage it is easier to monitor the pollutants than after it has been buried 200 feet in the ground, said the Mayor.

He acknowledged the public might be opposed to an EFW plant and he will not encourage such a facility in town.

"I'm not going to be saying that I'm going to be standing out there with open arms hollering for somebody to come and build an energy from waste plant," he said.

But it would be nice to be able to dispose of waste much cheaper than today's skyrocketing costs, he added.

In the hills

Check first

Ontario's consumer ministry today warned homeowners to check for the location of gas lines before digging on their property.

The warning comes in the wake of a serious explosion and fire on May 10 that injured three people and gutted a home in Toronto's east end. Investigation revealed that neither the homeowner, nor the operator of a backhoe which cut the line, had checked for underground natural gas line locations.

For failing to ascertain the location of a pipeline, or for interfering with a pipeline without authorization, homeowners and contractors can be charged under the Ontario Energy Act, which provides for a maximum fine of \$10,000 or a year in jail, or any combination of the two.

Legion lines

CAR CLUB: Winners in the weekly draw held Thursday were 081 Rita Doerenback, 254 Mary Doan, 190 Tom Elliott, 151 Carol and Ralph Bosma, 120 Diane Parker, 356 Retta Morgan.

Book bargains

Halton Hills Public Libraries will be selling used books at incredibly low prices. Anyone interested can come to the Acton Library at 17 River St. on June 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The books are also available at the Georgetown Library at 9 Church St. on June 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Don't miss the bargains. For more information, contact the Acton Library at 853-0301, or the Georgetown Library at 873-2681.

Student check-in

Any Acton students who require Social Insurance Numbers and cannot make it to the Canada Employment Centre in Georgetown can visit the Acton Social Services and Information Centre on Willow Street. A representative will be available on Wednesdays from 4-5 p.m. starting June 1. All that is required of the students is their birth certificate and one other piece of identification such as a driver's license, library card, or school report card. Apply early so you can begin your summer job search.

Open house

The community, staff and students are invited to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Limehouse School on Sunday, June 5.

An Open House is planned from 1-5 p.m., and official welcoming ceremonies are scheduled for 3 p.m.

Computer kids

The Association for Bright Children presents "Computers in the Future" Tuesday, May 31, at 8 p.m. in the Resource Centre, Georgetown District High School. George McCrae, Co-ordinator of Computer Education for the Halton Board of Education will give a short presentation on the rationale, objectives and long term plans for computer education in the elementary school. Bring your questions and comments as a discussion period will follow the presentation. For further information, contact Lyn Appgar at 877-5901.

Sleepy time

"Sleepytime" is returning to both the Acton and Georgetown

libraries, Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. This half hour of stories, fingerplays and rhymes requires no registration an dis recommended for children ages 3-6. (Parents too!)

Sleepytime begins in Georgetown June 1 and in Acton June 15. For more information please contact the Children's Department. (Acton) 853-0301 or Georgetown 873-2681.

Evergreen sale

The Union Presbyterian Church Evergreen Sale will be held at the church on June 2 at 6 p.m.

The church is located on Sideroad 22, just west of Winston Churchill Boulevard. Refreshments are available.

Solar cars

The sun's rays will electrify two solar cars into action on Saturday, May 22 in the 4th Annual Great Canadian Solar Race, at Ontario's Place's Lookout Point.

The solar powered cars, designed by university students, will race for prizes while demonstrating the principles of active solar electrical conversion.

Fish could take precedent over urban expansion with MNR initiative

Halton Region is worried that new initiatives by the Ministry of Natural Resources might protect fish in local streams at the expense of urban growth.

The Ministry is drafting a long term fisheries management plan to upgrade the quality of streams in the Cambridge District (of which Halton Hills is a part). But Regional planners are worried that the MNR will tell the Ministry of Environment to tighten up the guidelines on streams like Black Creek and Silver Creek so much that it could influence how much effluent could be produced from the Georgetown and Acton sewage treatment plants.

If that happens urban growth in town could be held back, said Halton's Director of Policy Research Ho Wong.

Because those guideline suggestions would come from another provincial ministry the MOE might be more inclined to listen to them, said Mr. Wong.

Regional councillors want the MNR to take projected urban growth into account before introducing those restrictions.

Public Works Commissioner Robert Moore said the report reflected a "fish at the expense of people" attitude.

He wants the MNR to "consider all matters not just unilateral environmental."

Halton could not increase the quality of the streams to meet tougher standards, he said.

Halton Hills Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson, who sits on the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, said the new plan by the MNR may be unnecessary because conservation authorities are already doing the job of fish management.

Because previous councils refused to move on EFW it's costing Halton \$650,000 a month more to dispose of its waste than landfilling, he said.

Once councillors voted in favor of hiring the consultants to follow the EA process Coun. Mulkeiwich asked for a vote on the immediate proposal call saying the two initiatives could run parallel to each other.

But Chairman Pomeroy refused to call a vote on the motion claiming it is "contrary" to the route Halton has just taken.

Coun. Mulkeiwich then "challenged" Mr. Pomeroy's ruling but the ensuing vote lost.

doem't think it's a choice between fish and people. "If streams aren't acceptable to fish then people beware," he said.

Milton's Bill Johnson said some MNR concerns aren't relevant in Halton because the Region's rivers are in good shape.

Halton's Director of Engineering Services George Woodburn said the proposed restrictions wouldn't affect expansion of the Georgetown sewage treatment plant because that has already been approved.

However, should the tougher guidelines be approved, there may be a phase-in period for sewage plants to comply, he said.

"Our concern is a lot of decisions (with respect to urban growth and boundaries) have been made over the years and these decisions go hand in hand (with environmental concerns)."

Mr. Woodburn said Halton Region "is not aware of any problem" of contaminants in Black Creek or Silver Creek now.

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Problem of speeding cars cause for residents' concern

By BETTY SOJKA
Herald Special

BALLINAFAD-There is a growing concern in the community about the increasing traffic and speeders. Suggestions have been made to ask for a yellow flashing light for the main intersection in the village and also to reduce speed limits on the sideroads.

Mother's Day was extra special at the United Church because of two christenings. Little Christina Van Klink and Carrie Tooke were christened.

At the U.C.W.'s meeting for May, Martha Lewis was a guest speaker. She brought her slide pictures showing her family's trip to Iceland. She gave an interesting commentary

and much was learned. The U.C.W. ladies served the Girl Guides at their banquet this week. The remaining clothing and books not sold last Saturday at the U.C.W.'s Annual Garage and Rummage Sale were donated to the Salvation Army. The sale was a great success.

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