

Outlook on Halton Hills



Brownies at Marineland

As a special treat, the 1st Pineview Brownie Pack took a trip to Marineland, where they enjoyed the wonderful sights the theme park has to offer. Here, the group takes

a breather in the shade, as they make the rounds to the various attractions. (Photo submitted)

Region urged to stop 'infighting'

Municipalities won't be able to appear before an Environmental Assessment board even if a proposed garbage dump is in their area, if a recommendation by Halton Region is accepted by the province.

Regional councillors endorsed a report by Halton's lawyer Thomas Ledderer July 20 recommending that area municipalities be banned from appearing at the hearings.

The Regional Act, set down by the province to govern powers of the regions in 1973, said waste disposal is entirely in the hands of regions, said Mr. Ledderer.

As such, municipalities should make their pitch at Regional council, and not at the hearing board, he said.

"There's got to be a basic notion of responsible government," said Mr. Ledderer. "At some point the government has got to be responsible for its actions and that means regional government (in the issue of waste disposal)."

"You have to take responsibility and not push it off in that fashion," he said in reference to infighting between regions and area municipalities about locations of landfill sites.

The issue surfaced after Halton asked Mr. Ledderer for recommendations to change the cumbersome Environmental Assessment process.

Halton has named a site in Burlington as its preferred site for a landfill with a site in Milton a close second.

Both the City of Burlington and the Town of Milton are appearing before the Consolidated Hearing Board to fight a dump in their locations.

The result is that the Region and area municipalities are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to fight each other.

The decision taken by Halton July 20 recommends that the province revamp the EA process so that expensive infighting in that fashion is eliminated.

"No one can consider these activities in a Regional context," said Mr. Ledderer. "It's not a good use of time or money."

Most councillors agree that representatives of each municipality will fight to keep the dump out of their area, regardless of where in the Region is scientifically the best location.

But not every councillor agreed with taking away municipalities' right to appear at the hearing, which also takes away their right for an appeal of the board's decision.

Burlington Coun. Ted MacDonald said a Region can, by majority vote, force a landfill site to be placed in a less politically sensitive area, rather than the most suitable location.

Burlington Coun. Joan Little was also steadfastly against eliminating the right to appear before the board.

"If you want to take away that right, be my guest but I don't want to be a part of it," she said.

Halton Hills Coun. Pam Sheldon liked the idea but only after it was amended to include only public applications for a landfill. Area municipalities would still be able to appear before the board to fight private proposals under the recom-

mendations.

Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson opposed the recommendation because she said private applicants can claim landfill sites are for public use. If that claim is successfully argued before the courts then regions could find themselves banned from hearings on private applications, she said.

Water still scarce

Water is still a precious commodity in Halton Hills.

Despite the recent rains Halton Region is still enforcing mandatory lawn watering restrictions, said Halton's Manager of Plant Operations Vince Suffoletta.

The mandatory restrictions were put in place three weeks ago after three weeks of voluntary restrictions.

That means residents who live in homes with even address numbers may only water their lawns on even numbered calendar days and likewise with odd number street addresses.

Warning issued

Halton Regional Police have issued a warning to Halton Hills residents not to sample inhalers or tablets which were contained in a purse lost recently.

Police say a woman left a white purse at the Petro Canada gas station at the corner of Mountainview Road and Guelph Street at noon July 21.

The purse contains three inhalers for asthma sufferers and a quantity of tablets also used by people suffering from asthma.

The inhalers and the tablets could seriously harm someone who does not have asthma, police say.

Anyone who finds the purse can call the police at 878-5511 or bring it into the police station next to Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena on Guelph Street.

The measure is still just a precaution but Mr. Suffoletta is worried that August, which is the month underwater aquifer levels are traditionally the lowest, may test the system even more because of the dry months of June and July.

Already two Halton residents have been charged with illegally watering their lawns. The penalty for such an offence has just been increased to \$2,000.

An Acton man has also had his water service "padlocked" by the Region for allegedly selling a truckload of water to a Toronto man.

Water levels are improving in North Halton's reservoirs, said Mr. Suffoletta.

Halton likes to make sure the water levels at reservoirs can be maintained at at least 40 per cent capacity, said Mr. Suffoletta.

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