

Outlook on Halton Hills

Council grapples with equitable garbage pickup

Providing equal garbage collection to residences and businesses in Halton Hills is proving to be difficult.

Currently all residences in the urban areas of Halton Hills have a garbage pickup service provided by the town but not all businesses have the same service.

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce says businesses pay urban service taxes just like residents and they want the same garbage pickup service.

The town has instructed Engineering Director Bob Austin to come up with solutions to the problem and report back to council but Mr. Austin says it will be a long and detailed process and no report will be before council until at least February.

The Georgetown Chamber of Com-

merce is suggesting garbage containers which could be emptied mechanically by trucks as one solution for both business and residential areas.

"The existing policy is discriminatory as all commercial properties pay for collection but only some receive the service," a letter by Chamber Director Walt Dixon says.

"We know that this will be an additional expense but we feel that the town cannot continue to treat taxpayers differently."

The chamber doesn't want piles of garbage left on the street in front of businesses, said Mr. Dixon.

"This leaves a container-type service as one alternative."

That system is in use for residential and business pickup in parts of the United States with success, he said.

He urged the town to look for "new and innovative ideas" for garbage collection.

The town plans to work with the Chambers of Commerce in Acton and Georgetown to come up with a solution.

"Other municipalities do provide equal service (to residents and businesses), said Ward 2 Councillor Pam Sheldon.

But in one case a municipality simply contracts out the entire garbage collection service, replied Mr. Austin.

Ward 3 Coun. Betty Fisher doesn't like the prospect of placing garbage

collection containers in residential neighborhoods.

Such containers can attract rats and make it difficult for some people to lug their garbage to the community container, she said.

And the town doesn't have the equipment to handle garbage pickup containers, added Ward 4 Coun. Al Cook.

Coun. Sheldon also objected to placing the containers in residential areas but she said they may be appropriate for commercial areas.

Mayor Russ Miller pushed for rural areas to be considered for garbage collection study.

And Ward 2 Coun. Joe Hewitt wants Glen Williams, Stewarttown and Norval included in the study.

Coun. Hewitt also urged his colleagues to search for consultants to see what kind of expert advice is available for the garbage collection problem.

A motion by Coun. Hewitt to instruct staff to look for consultants was defeated.



Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Ellison (right) of Georgetown inspect a steam-powered tractor from Renfrew along with Shawville, Quebec native Edison Brown at the Steam Era show in Milton last weekend. Mr. Ellison has been a long-time participant in the annual steam extravaganza and while entering no engines of his own this year he was visible throughout the 1988 show, lending his expertise and commentary. (Herald photo)

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