



In order to make their point, members of the soft drink industry brought along a tin can, a glass bottle, a clear plastic bottle and a stack of newspapers to the official kickoff for Halton Hills Blue Box Recycling Program at the Cultural Centre Tuesday. But the show and

tell exhibits were a bit livelier than your normal objects. Here, the tin can hams it up for the camera while the bottle watches in the background. The soft drink industry is kicking in \$20 million over four years to help municipalities develop recycling programs.

Outlook on Halton Hills

Water study for Glen Williams

By Brian MacLeod

In the next few months, Halton Region will investigate more than 150 wells in Glen Williams and the ensuing report could have a profound effect on how residents there get their water.

The \$30,000 study will be jointly funded by the province, Halton Region and the town of Halton Hills.

The study is expected to begin early in the new year and recommendations will be presented to Halton Region in three to six months, said George Woodburn, Halton's director of engineering services.

Halton is just getting its feet wet by exploring water quantity problems of rural residents, said Mr. Woodburn.

"It's the kind of stuff that the Region has not gotten involved with in the past."

The Region usually concentrates on water quality problems, which, it says, is in its jurisdiction.

Halton is following the complicated environmental assessment process to conduct the study because it would normally follow a section under the Local Improvements Act. That act requires a petition signed by at least 50 per cent of the residents holding at least two-thirds of the total assessment in the town.

Residents had attempted to collect such a petition twice before, but some homeowners were scared off because of fears they may have

to pay \$3,000 or \$4,000 in frontage charges, should the study recommend the hamlet hook up to town water, said Mr. Woodburn.

The study will examine solutions such as connecting the entire community of Glen Williams into Georgetown's water supply, building "communal" wells for all or large parts of the community, building shared wells for smaller problem areas, or attempting to rehabilitate some wells, said Mr. Woodburn.

However, there are some concerns about hooking up Glen Williams to Georgetown's water supply. Pumping municipal water into an area where houses are serviced by septic tanks is one concept which needs further study, said Mr. Woodburn.

For some Wildwood Road residents, the study is too little, too late.

Alex and Beverly McKee, who have fought a public battle for a municipal water hook-up, ever since their well went dry in May, are angry that they will have to pay for their water hook-up.

The McKees, who have been hooked up to a nearby fire hydrant since early June, asked the town and Halton Region to live up to a subdivision agreement which guarantees them water should their well go dry during construction of nearby Meagan subdivision.

Mr. McKee, said she was given guarantees from Halton and the town that her water would be restored, should her well go dry, and she was told she was "over-

reacting" by Halton official when she asked for a written guarantee.

Both Halton and the town have refused to pay for their hook-up, or to attempt to force the developer to pay.

"I did everything the system told us to do," said Mr. McKee, noting they attended public meetings on the subdivision.

"I don't think anybody should have to go through what we went through again," she said of her battle with municipal politicians.

Photo Art '89

The Halton Hills Camera Club is preparing for Photo Art '89, and all residents of the community are invited to enter the photography competition.

Entry forms are available at Georgetown Public Library, as well as local camera shops and other businesses. Deadline for entries is Feb. 18 at 5 p.m.

Shedding light

The Region of Peel Museum is hosting a special exhibit which features more than 50 sets and sculptures.

The exhibit is entitled Let There Be Light - The Origins of Festivals Around the World, and is being featured until Feb. 3 at the museum, which is located in the Peel Heritage Complex, 9 Wellington St. East, Brampton. For further information, call 451-9896.

We're in the blue box generation

If you use your new plastic blue box you will be helping Halton Hills recycle more than 780 tonnes of recyclable materials in 1989.

If you use your blue box you will be helping Halton Hills save a total of 9,600 trees in 1989.

If you use your blue box you will help save more than 1 1/2 tonnes of iron ore plus the energy equivalent to almost three barrels of oil for every tonne of steel cans you help recycle.

If you use your blue box you will be one of those helping to channel more than 15 per cent of Halton's waste stream away from a landfill in 1989.

The blue plastic boxes appeared on the doorsteps of almost every urban resident in Halton Hills on Dec. 19.

Halton Hills is the last municipality in the Region to get into the blue box recycling program, although this municipality was the first to get into the recycling field in Halton when it kicked off the Divide and Conquer program in 1978.

Milton, Burlington and Oakville, all of which are using the blue boxes, are each recycling about 15 per cent of their total waste stream. Now that Halton Hills has come onboard, the town expects to up its current eight-per-cent recycling figure to the milestone 15-per-cent range.

At the official kickoff for the blue box program at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre Jan. 3, Halton North MPP Walt Elliot said 30 per cent, not simply 15 per cent, is a goal within reach for the entire Region.

A close examination of those figures shows Halton Region is well ahead of its compatriots in the rest of the province. By the end of 1988 there were 1.3 million households using the blue box program in Ontario - up from just 180,000 households at the end of 1985. But even with all those blue boxes, Ontario is recycling only four per cent of the municipal waste stream. As Mr. Elliot said at the official kickoff, "What a lost

opportunity that statistic represents."

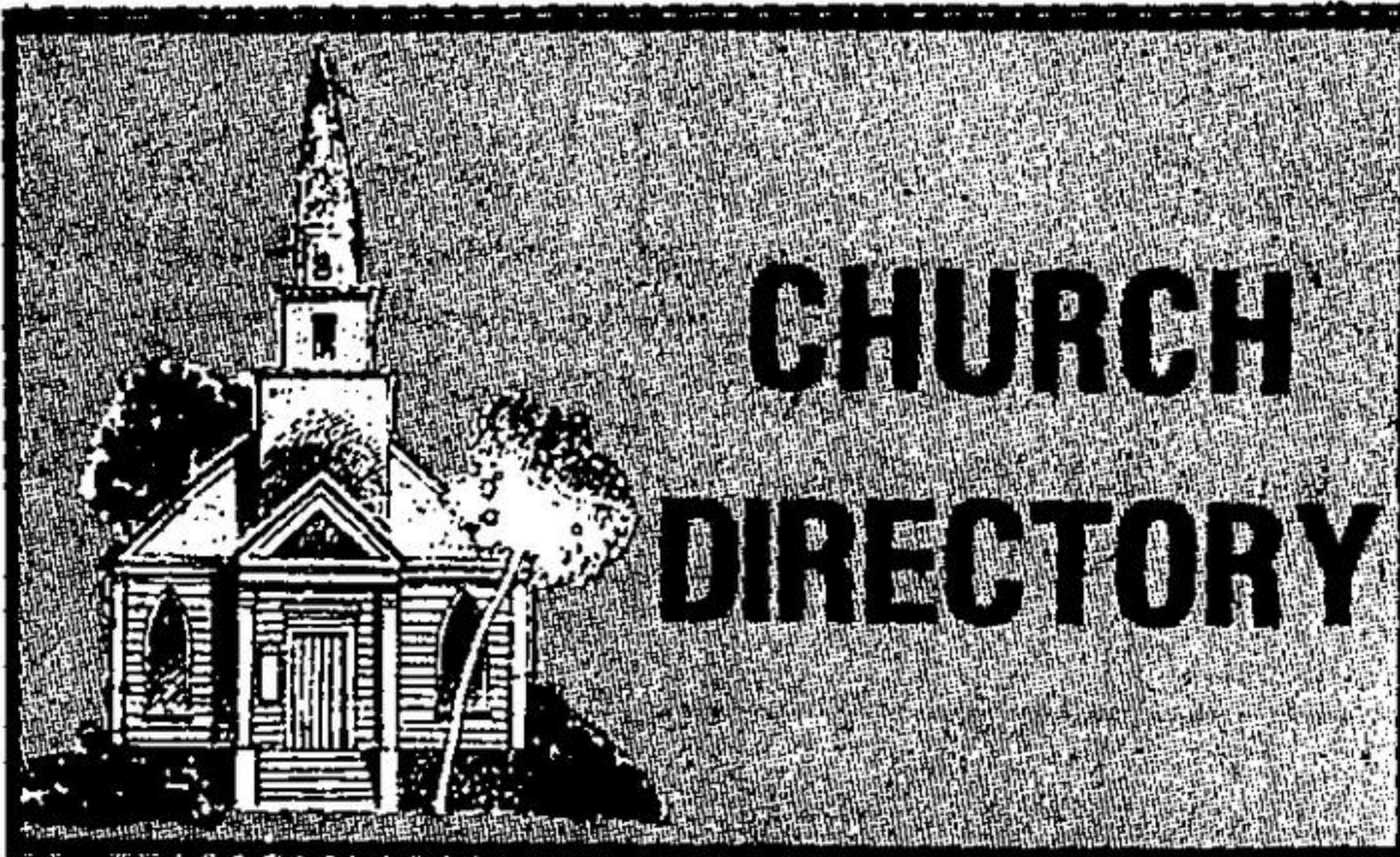
The aim of the Ontario government is to recycle 15 per cent of the municipal waste stream in the coming years, he said.

And by giving the soft drink industry a kick in the pants with new legislation in 1988, private enterprise is contributing significantly to the province's recycling effort. That year, the Liberal government passed the Beverage Container Regulation forcing the soft drink industry to take responsibility for the fate of its containers. In response, the industry helped set up the Ontario Multi-Material Recycling Inc., a co-operative effort by soft drink manufacturers to assist municipalities in financing their recycling programs. OMMRI

is providing \$20 million between 1987 and 1990 to help recycling. In Halton Region, that means residents had an extra \$500,000 to purchase blue boxes, publish flyers on how to use them, promote the program and help start up the new recycling facility in Oakville at the end of 1988.

And later this year, Halton Region expects to deliver two \$90,000 trucks to Halton Hills' doorstep to use for the expected increase in recyclable materials.

Recycling is the best alternative to landfilling and it will help Halton out of its current crises, Mayor Russ Miller said at the kickoff. "We don't want to see landfilling be the gigantic operation that it has been in the past."



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