

Mandatory recycling may be way of the future

A recommendation to impose mandatory recycling in Halton by 1990 has sparked fears of setting up "garbage police" by some Regional councillors.

In a 4-3 vote, Halton's planning and public works committee passed a motion Wednesday effectively implementing mandatory recycling in Halton by Jan. 1.

The motion must be approved by Regional council today (Wednesday) to become official.

Under the proposal, recyclable glass jars and bottles, metal cans and clear plastic pop bottles will not be accepted at Halton's waste disposal facilities. That effectively forces residents to participate in the recycling program, says

Halton's public works commissioner Robert Moore.

"We're heading for a setting up of a garbage police," said Burlington Coun. Barry Quinn.

People are still confused about the blue box recycling program, he said. "I put my blue box out the other day with newspapers and tin cans and they took the newspapers and left a box full of tin cans."

Burlington's Rob Forbes wanted to wait for the results of the voluntary recycling blue box program before mandatory recycling is implemented. "It's better to give notice (of possible mandatory recycling) and be a little less aggressive," he said.

But Milton's Bill Johnson said

it's "imperative that the (recycling) program goes on."

"In fact, we're behind the times," he said.

"We are solidly behind recycling and the only way to do that is to make it mandatory," added Oakville's Liz Behrens.

Although waste disposal falls under the jurisdiction of Halton Region, area municipalities have the responsibility of collecting it. And it is the municipalities which will have to police the bylaw.

Under the proposal, waste collectors would keep an eye out for blue boxes outside residents' homes. If they don't see one often enough, they would not collect the garbage from that home.

However, the ultimate method of enforcement would be up to area municipalities.

There are two other municipalities in Ontario which have mandatory recycling. In Midland, if residents do not recycle, as indicated by the continued absence of a blue box, the town's bylaw enforcement officer "will encourage residents to participate in the recycling program." If they don't they are fined up to \$100.

In South West Oxford, if residents don't recycle, garbage collectors leave one bag behind with an orange label attached indicating violation of the bylaws.

In one municipality, Coun. Johnson said the police just took

the garbage bags back to the residents in their cruiser. It was that solution which spawned the cries of "garbage police."

The blue box recycling program has only recently been implemented by the town of Halton Hills, so no figures are available yet to measure its success. But residents have been recycling between seven and eight per cent under the Divide and Conquer program put in place in 1978. The blue box program has been operating in Halton's other three municipalities for some time. Oakville is recycling just under 19 per cent of its municipal waste stream, Burlington is recycling 18.4 per cent

[Cont'd on Page 2]

OPEN 10-10, 7 DAYS A WEEK
Canada's Largest Leather Store

the olde Hide House

49 EASTERN AVE., ACTON (519) 853-1031
It's Worth the Drive to Acton!

ACTON ONTARIO SALES LTD.

SPORTA FORD MERCURY

853-2030

Check out our free Lifetime Service Guarantee

Lifetime Service Guarantee

the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills
Established 1866

FREE DISTRIBUTION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1989

[32 PAGES]



What goes up...

Two-year-old Rhonda Kennedy (centre) found out skating can have its ups and downs when she and her sisters, Heather, 7, and Shannon, 4, made the rounds on the Glen Williams outdoor skating rink recently.

The rink was officially opened just over a week ago at the Glen Williams ball park. (Herald photo by Donna Kell)

Council takes aim at 'war games' plan

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Staff

A pair of Georgetown residents attempting to organize an "adventure/war games" operation on the Eighth Line have run into some stiff resistance from Halton Hills councillors.

The town voted Monday to ask the Niagara Escarpment Commission not to allow the owners to operate the games on a 20-acre piece of land on the east side of the Eighth Line north of Georgetown.

The decision came after a nearby resident, Patricia Stuart, submitted a 22-name petition asking that the war games operation be halted.

"This is not what we who live in the country seeking peace, quiet and solitude, want or expect," said Mrs. Stuart.

"We believe that war games is not the type of activity for which the community would want to be known."

Ray Coleman and Blair Robin purchased the operation in 1987. No games were run in 1988 because they were told they needed permission to run such a venture from the Niagara Escarpment Commission. Because the NEC has jurisdiction, the town cannot stop the games, only ask the NEC not to allow them.

In war games, or adventure games, teams attempt to capture the opposing team's flag. Players have guns which shoot pellets containing food coloring, to knock an opposing player out of the game.

Halton Region and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority had no objections to the games being played on the property. Halton Hills town staff said the games represent a minor recreational nature, since they were to be played by 36 people or less at a

maximum of 12 times a year during an eight-hour period during the day.

"This game is far less hazardous than other sports, such as hockey, football, baseball, golf or the like," said Mr. Coleman.

Asked by Coun. Norm Elliott if he understood why some people found the game "offensive," Mr. Coleman replied: "I think there's a misunderstanding about the game. It's almost an adult version of hide and seek."

"I find it hard to understand why people are upset. It's a game. There's no warmongers in our group."

Mrs. Stuart had a number of complaints about the game when it was run by different owners for several years. A clubhouse building was erected and fill placed in the fields without a permit from the NEC, she said.

"The history of these games is one of blatant disregard for legal regulations," she said.

Cars frequently park on CVCA property and create deep ruts in the mud, she said.

And players often gather outside the playing area afterwards, resulting in garbage and beer bottles strewn about the field, said Mrs. Stuart.

The 22 people who signed the petition are all affected by the noise from the guns, described by Mr. Coleman as a "muffled pop" sound.

She also complained about a possible fire hazard from a fire pit at the site used for barbecues.

"For us and for all the people who signed the petition this is a disruption of our weekends and a very significant one," she said.

"I find it a totally incompatible use," said Coun. Joe Hewitt.

[Cont'd on Page 4]

Wild West weekend
— See Page 16

Technically lacking
— See Page 22

Classy Scoundrel
— See Page 24