

# Quarry landfill proposal receives designation

The proposal to build a landfill site in the Acton quarry by Reclamation Systems Inc. (RSI) has been officially designated under the Environmental Assessment Act by the province.

Halton North MPP Walt Elliot said the EA designation was approved by cabinet over two weeks ago.

"Everything's been finalized," said Mr. Elliot Monday.

"Now they know there's a fight on." The designation means RSI has submitted all the necessary draft documents to formalize their application, he said.

RSI wants to place a landfill in the quarry capable of handling 20

million tonnes of waste over 20 years. The citizens group POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) has been fighting the landfill site for almost two years. POWER says putting a dump in the quarry would endanger the water supply of almost 100,000 people in Halton Hills and Milton because toxic leachate produced at the dump could leak into the aquifer which runs underneath the site.

The dump would handle waste from surrounding municipalities possibly including Metro Toronto.

The RSI proposal will be the first private application to go through the stringent regulations of the EA act. Previously, private proposals

were designated under the less stringent Environmental Protection Act.

Late last year, members of the proposed Acton quarry landfill study group, many of whom were POWER members, walked out of public information hearings demanding the EA designation and intervenor funding from the province so they could hire consultants to study the technical aspects of the proposal.

The official EA designation has always been expected, said Mr. Elliot.

But the government couldn't designate the proposal until all the draft documents had been submitted, he said.

Ministry of Environment workers are now poring over the draft documents, he said.

Jillian Daffern, the public liaison officer for Eco Logic Laboratories, the consulting firm handling the public consultation process for RSI, said the EA designation "makes no difference."

"We had always expected that it would be designated under the EA Act," she said.

Consultants are now preparing the second and possibly final draft documents, she said. Those documents will be approved by RSI, then sent on to the MOE within two weeks, she said.

Once the second set of draft documents are submitted, the

public will get another chance to study them, she said.

Eco Logic wants to hold more public consultation hearings but the firm hasn't yet decided on the format, said Ms. Daffern.

POWER co-chairperson Ruth French said the group was worried that the proposal might slip away from the Environmental Assessment designation.

The group had requested intervenor funding earlier in the process so they can hire consultants, she said. Normally intervenor funding is provided by the province after a consolidated hearing board date is set to examine the proposal.

There has been no response yet from the province.

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## Kicking it up with heart

Work That Body health club at the corner of Mountainview Road and Guelph Street held two aerobaths to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation Wednesday. Work That Body owner Laurie Burns said over 200 people took part in the two

three-hour sessions. Organizers predicted they would raise over \$15,000 from the event. A similar event held two years ago raised more than \$10,000. (Herald photo)

## Day-care expansion gets go-ahead

Halton Region approved an amendment to its official plan Wednesday allowing a Georgetown resident to expand her day-care centre at 83 Main St. North.

The proposal provoked an extensive debate at Halton Hills council last summer. Lucy Quaglia currently operates a day-care centre for five children in the house. However, in order to expand the facility to handle 16 children, an amendment to Halton's official plan is needed.

At a public meeting last summer, one resident and the town's engineering department objected to the proposal citing traffic concerns. The engineering department and the resident said cars stopping to drop off and pick up children would create a hazardous situation on a relatively busy section of Main Street.

Mrs. Quaglia and several users of the centre argued that the service is desperately needed in Halton Hills and that the location

could be made safe through changes on the property.

The town's site plan committee has approved the proposal which ensures that all drop-offs and pickups will be done on private property, said Halton's planning commissioner Rash Mohammed.

Neither the town's engineering department, nor the neighboring resident has formally objected to the official plan amendment, he said.

## Pools issue remains at virtual standstill

The original agreements between the town of Halton Hills and the Halton Board of Education covering the two school pools in town have arbitration clauses which allow either party to ask to renegotiate the agreements, Halton's superintendent of business services, Jerry Jenkins, says.

The Halton Board of Education is seeking cost sharing agreements with Halton Hills, Oakville and Burlington for the maintenance of the two school pools located in each of the municipalities.

The board says it's costing them more than \$1 million a year for maintenance on the six school pools.

But Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller said last week the agreements between the town and the board dictate the board must pay for the maintenance of the pools for the life of the pools. The town says the life of the pools is established at 20 years.

The Georgetown pool agreement runs out in 1996. McKenzie-Smith pool in Acton was built in the early 1970s.

The arbitration clauses can't be used by the board to force the town's hand into a cost sharing agreement, said Mr. Jenkins.

The board had attempted to take the matter to arbitration but the town of Halton Hills and the board could not agree on what issues

should be arbitrated, said Mr. Jenkins.

So the board is seeking a court definition of the life of a pool, he said.

The definition of a life of a pool was not established in the original agreement but rather in a leasing agreement, said Mr. Jenkins. He could not comment on the leasing agreement because its contents will be decided in the courts.

Georgetown and area trustee Dick Howitt said Tuesday legal suits could be avoided if the town and the board could agree on the definition of the life of a pool.

The board voted last week to investigate the feasibility of closing all school pools in Halton. Following that vote, Mayor Russ Miller said the town could sue the board to keep the two pools in Halton Hills open.

Mr. Howitt would not say if he would favor letting the issue go that far.

The board contends that Halton Hills residents use the pool 60 to 70 per cent of the time, while the schools only use the pools 30 to 40 per cent of the time. On that basis the town should help pay maintenance costs, he said.

One pool in Aldershot in Burlington already has a cost sharing agreement with that city, he said.

"All we're saying is we think the cost should be shared in such a way that it's reflecting the use," he said.

## Shopping plaza proposal

A local developer wants to build a 20,000 sq.-ft. shopping plaza next to Georgetown Honda on Highway 7.

Brazil Investments has applied to amend the Halton Hills Official Plan to allow the shopping plaza. The current zoning on the land prohibits large supermarkets and department stores and the official

plan amendment will allow such uses as trust companies or finance companies, business and professional offices, convenience stores, dry cleaners, laundromats, retail stores, hardware shops and restaurants.

Town staff will report back to council with a recommendation on the application.

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