

# Fire chief wants province to study town's facilities

By DONNA KELL  
Herald Staff

Halton Hills could bring in the Ontario Fire Marshall's office to conduct a survey on all of the town's fire fighting needs, including where a third fire station should be located.

The town's general committee read a report last week from Halton Hills Fire Chief Bill Cunningham asking for "outside" help in meeting growing and current needs.

The town has not had a fire study done since its inception in 1974.

"I feel it is time that an outside

agency or consultant have a look at the overall capability of the fire department," Chief Cunningham said in his report.

Town councillors voted to recommend the fire survey to town council for next Monday's meeting. They will also recommend that a committee chosen by Mayor Russ Miller and formed of Chief Cunningham and town administrator Dan Costea join the fire marshal during the survey.

Whether or not a potential location for a fire site for south Georgetown will be on municipal land at Eighth Line and Sideroad

10 remains to be seen.

"It is currently a designated site for the fire station. We don't know whether it's going to change as a result of the survey," said deputy fire chief Bob Hyde.

The town presently has two fire stations, one located in Acton and one located on Maple Avenue in Georgetown. But in addition to assessing current needs of the two stations, the fire survey group would look at training techniques being used, and water supply for fire fighting equipment. The survey will also consider traffic conditions that could affect fire

fighting.

The town will not have to pick up the cost of the fire study, said Chief Cunningham. Full costs will be paid by the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

The last fire study conducted in the town took place in Acton in 1972. Prior to that, Georgetown was studied in 1967 and Esquesing was studied in 1968.

But despite requests, Halton Hills as a town, has never been studied. A request was made in 1973, shortly before the town was

formed, said Chief Cunningham.

"It would appear from the files that the request from the new Halton Hills council did not materialize. It would also appear that there has not been a request made by either staff or council to have a survey done in the 15 years since Halton Hills' inception."

Chief Cunningham says the issue of fire surveys "has a lot of merit," and "the Fire Marshall's office conducts approximately 25 surveys of municipalities each year and are well trained in this field."

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## Public should know if GTA committee names Acton quarry

By DONNA KELL  
Herald Staff

Halton Region should supply information from the meeting of the five-region group spearheading Metro's search for a landfill site - a search that could consider the Acton quarry - said POWER member John Minns last week.

Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources, the group opposed to a potential landfill site at the Acton quarry operated by United Aggregates Ltd., says the public should know if and when the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) committee, with members from York, Peel, Durham, Metropolitan Toronto, and Halton, puts the Acton quarry on a GTA list.

As part of the GTA process, each Region is to choose its potential landfill site to service Metropolitan Toronto.

Local business consortium Reclamation Systems Incorporated (RSI) recently filed a landfill site application with the provincial government, suggesting the Acton quarry on Sideroad 22 near Third Line as a site.

Mr. Minns said the Acton site "might, or could, or would be looked at" by the GTA. And he said that Halton would have little power in dealing with Metropolitan Toronto in the GTA. It would be "an elephant and mouse syndrome," he said.

"The Acton quarry has been mentioned as a component of the GTA."

But Burlington Coun. Walter Mulkeiwich said no Region in the GTA has approved the five-member committee "wholeheartedly."

"Durham is the only Region to pick a site so far," he said.

And, "in Halton's case, we've stopped short."

POWER said if Halton chooses

Acton as a GTA site, the environmental assessment process could be "fast-tracked" to speed up a decision.

But Burlington Coun. Pat McLaughlin said, "there is nothing in the (GTA) report to indicate that the GTA committee will be short-changing the environmental assessment act. I would suggest you let us do the job and get on with it," he said. Coun. McLaughlin represents Halton at the GTA along with Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy and chief administrator John Fleming.

Milton Coun. Bill Johnson said he was "worried about the whole GTA process."

"It's amazing what the government can do in the provincial interest," he said.

There were some at the Regional council table who said fast-tracking would be necessary to quicken the landfill search process. Coun. Rob Forbes of Burlington said the GTA would not find a site "in this century" unless the environmental process is fast-tracked.

If a full environmental assessment is done for each potential landfill site, a decision will "never" be made for the Greater Toronto Area, Coun. Forbes said.

Chairman Peter Pomeroy agreed with Coun. Forbes and said the GTA is "doing very well, thank you very much."

Mr. Pomeroy said speeding up a landfill decision "is in the (GTA) proposal."

"You may well have to accept garbage in the Milton site or the Acton site unless someone deals with this," he warned Regional councillors.

But Coun. McLaughlin said as long as he is in the GTA process, "I will make sure that the environmental assessment process is followed."



### Jazzing it up

Students of Georgetown District High School brought their musical talents together on stage June 6 for a Music Night. The GDHS wind ensemble, concert choir, stage band, jazz choir and youth band took turns entertaining a full house. The show featured

almost 100 performers from vocalists to percussionists to tuba players. Here, soloist Adam Broughton sings his rendition of Since I Fell For You, accompanied by Alex Walker on the alto saxophone. (Herald photos)

## Town rejects board's plea for money

Halton Hills could be the third municipality to reject a Halton Board of Education request to send tax levy payments to the board before June 30.

The board is asking for almost \$350,000 to pay for the difference between the \$3.6 million, the town would have paid if the board of education budget was settled before March 31 and the present amount owing which is \$3.25 million.

The board was late in approving its 1989 budget due to a slowdown in receiving annual government

grants.

While the next Halton Hills installment is due June 30, under the Education Act, the Halton board can re-arrange the payment patterns of a Region if it receives two-thirds support. Milton and Oakville have already rejected the board's proposal to collect the tax levies early.

"Under the act it sets out very clearly when payments are made," said Halton Hills treasurer Ray King.

Mr. King said Oakville and Milton rejected the board's re-

quest, Halton Hills should do the same.

An early payment to the board would reduce interest the town would otherwise collect on the \$350,000.

Although Acton Coun. Norm Elliott agreed with a proposal to reject the board's request, he said he wanted the town to give the board a reply that had "more substance to it than, I guess, just a show of strength."

Town council will decide next week if it will refuse the early payment to the board of education.

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