

Groups must join to protect Environment -GEM

By BEN DUMMETT
Herald Staff

A united front is necessary to successfully pressure the federal and provincial governments to pass more effective environmentally protective legislation, environmental groups decided at the most recent Great Environmental Merger. The "Enviro-Watch" Conference (G.E.M.) was held in Norval's Riviera Centre this past weekend.

Rita Landry, chairperson for Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER), the conference's host, described this strategy saying,

"snow flakes don't have much of an effect, but beware of the avalanche."

Of the conference, Ms. Landry said it was a success with over 200 people attending the event to listen to a variety of speakers including Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner, Halton Hills Councillor Robert Heaton, representatives from Environment Canada and the Attorney General's Office, the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE) and the Bruce Trail Association. Ms. Landry said attendance was up approximately 150 people from the first GEM conference, Feb. 18.

Since large corporations are a major source of today's pollution problems and because they deal strictly in terms of the "bottom line" Ms. Landry said, groups attending the conference decided the corporations should be taxed accordingly as a way of paying for environmental clean-up costs and encouraging them to reduce their pollution emissions.

Another aspect discussed during the conference was education, Ms. Landry said. "We learned that if a product doesn't fall under the four Rs - reduction, recycling, reuse and recovering - it shouldn't be made."

Ms. Landry also said discussion centred on the general public's unawareness of the current pollution problem. She explained not many people realize that even if a landfill quarry site is not limestone, it still leaks. Limestone is a porous material making limestone quarries environmentally hazardous, she said.

"Why do you think all landfill sites require a leachate collector?" Ms. Landry asked rhetorically.

Leachate is the sludge material that is the end product of rain filtering through garbage.

She also warned that landfill

sites across the United States are nearing their capacity resulting in the Americans looking to Canada to provide alternatives. If this situation arises, Ms. Landry said the Niagara Escarpment would be a prime location because of the area's large number of quarries.

Pollution problems will not be curbed until the decision makers stop looking at the short term costs, Ms. Landry said.

"You can close one eye and hold a quarter up to the other only seeing the quarter or you can hold the quarter at a distance and see more than just the money."

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Dome builders' tender rejected by Halton Region

A late tender has left SkyDome builders Ellis-Don Limited out in the cold on a bid for Halton Region's \$30 million expansion project.

Ellis-Don, considered the largest construction company in Canada, could lose the bid to expand Halton Region's administrative offices and the new Halton Regional Police buildings, by default.

The only two remaining bidders on the proposed expansion would be the Cooper Corporation Limited and Jackson Lewis Company along with Cunningham-Limp.

Halton Regional councillors met for an emergency session at last week's administration and finance meeting at the Regional headquarters. There was some controversy over whether or not the Ellis-Don employee carrying the company's \$100,000-proposal arrived at the Regional offices by a 2 p.m. Tuesday deadline.

"This is a difficult problem you have in front of you today," said Chief Executive Officer John Fleming.

Mr. Fleming, who saw Ellis-Don employee Randal Froebelius in the Regional hallway Tuesday carrying the construction proposal, said, "I really can't say whether he was in the building by 2 o'clock."

The designer of the construction proposal for the Regional centre spoke with Regional councillors, asking them to consider Ellis-Don's proposal. Burlington resident and designer Colin Gillie, said it was unclear whether or not Mr. Froebelius, who was first tied up in highway traffic on Highway 403 and was then apparently misdirected while searching for the Regional room where tenders

were due at 2 p.m. Tuesday, said regardless of whether or not the proposals were all in, it was not a "cut and dry" case of giving a financial figure to the Region.

The three proposals "are like comparing apples and oranges," Mr. Gillie said. He said that even if Ellis-Don had access to information inside the other proposals, there would be no last-minute changes that could make the package more competitive.

"There was no intent to take advantage of everyone else's proposal," he said.

But Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy stuck by the Region's guns and asked Mr. Gillie how such a large company could break the rules.

"Why in the name of good common sense... would you leave an office that's 40 minutes from this location and leave yourself a 10-minute grace-period," he asked Mr. Froebelius and Mr. Gillie.

"Why would a company of your size let this happen?"

While Mr. Gillie conceded that Ellis-Don was "ashamed" the proposal was stamped past the deadline, he said, "the Region itself was considerably late" in inviting proposals.

Of the 14 proposals originally indicated, only three were asked to submit tenders. The short-list was designed to save companies from undergoing an expensive proposal.

Bill Montgomery, vice-president of Cooper Construction Limited, one of the two companies bidding on the contract, said a late proposal "goes at the very heart of the sanctity of bidding."

"We knew precisely where to be-

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Classy Cars

This 1959 Corvette is just one of the attractions, as is the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce's "Biggest Ice Cream Bar," featured at Sunday's Classics Against Cancer auto show held at Cedarvale Park from 1-4 p.m. Surrounding the car are (centre) Sean

McNally, (left) Gerry Kentner and Jane Hoddinott and (right) Lori Kentner and Susan McNally. All proceeds raised through the ice cream bar will go to the Canadian Cancer Society. (Herald photo)

Calvert-Dale homes builder dies while on vacation in B.C.

A popular Halton Hills builder and president of Calvert-Dale Homes' office in Stewarttown died last week of a heart attack while vacationing in British Columbia.

Robert Letreille, 57, of Brampton, was involved with developing projects in Georgetown behind the Georgetown Marketplace and re-developed buildings in downtown Georgetown. He died June 13 while vacationing with his wife in Chilliwack.

"Bob was a good entrepreneur, he'd done a lot in Georgetown," said Mr. Letreille's friend and business associate Dan Timmons of Century 21 realty where the

builder had an office.

"He really liked the old core area. His plans were to do a lot of re-developing on Main Street."

Mr. Letreille was responsible for the reconstruction of the building that houses McCarthy's Olde Tea Room on Main Street and did some renovations at Church Street and Main Street in Georgetown.

But he was probably most noted for the development of 56 single-family homes in Georgetown on a piece of land that allowed the building of 128 townhouses. Mr. Letreille wanted to retain the character of Georgetown, said Mr. Timmons.

On a more personal level, "Bob was very well-liked by anybody he met. He's the type of person you only meet once in a lifetime," said Mr. Timmons.

"He had so many friends," said Kelly Chapman, who worked with Mr. Letreille at Century 21. "It's so sad around here."

Mr. Letreille is a native of Ottawa who has been building in Halton Hills for seven years. He leaves behind three children and his wife, Elizabeth.

Mr. Timmons says Mr. Letreille's son will likely continue his father's building business.

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