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Town takes a stand against GTA

By DONNA KELL
Herald Staff

Halton Hills councillors Monday endorsed a letter from the citizens group POWER to the ministry of the environment that says the five-region Greater Toronto Area initiative on landfill is "undemocratic" and "unaccountable" to the people.

Halton is a member of the five-region committee which includes Metro Toronto, Durham, York and Peel regions. The group banded

together earlier this year to find long term solution to waste management in the Toronto area. Each region on the GTA is represented by the Regional Chairman.

Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER) representative Barbara Halsall asked the town for "unanimous support" in opposing the GTA and its methods.

POWER formed two years ago to fight a private proposal to put a

landfill site in the Acton quarry.

Mrs. Halsall said involvement in the GTA "gives the impression that somehow this magic wand will come along and the garbage will disappear."

"We must not take the garbage issue out of the hands of the Regional authorities," Mrs. Halsall said of the GTA, which includes ministry representation. POWER plans to present information on landfill to the Halton Region that will "make them an

example nationwide."

Eight of the 12 town councillors spoke against parts of the POWER proclamation that said the GTA is "unnecessary" and that the province is using the landfill crisis as a pretext to speed up the process of studying sites approved for landfill.

Four councillors opposed to those two POWER recommendations represent Halton Hills at Halton Regional council.

Coun. Rick Bonnette said he

would not support the GTA at the Regional council, then oppose it in Halton Hills. "I'm not going to speak out of both sides of my mouth," he said.

Town and Regional Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson initially spoke in favor of staying in the GTA, then voted to support POWER's opposition to the five-region committee.

"I don't feel that I'm talking out of both sides of my mouth," Coun. Serjeantson said. She said she supports the GTA at the Regional meetings, but "we don't want a garbage dump at the Acton site."

Coun. Norm Elliott said he had "difficulty" supporting POWER's proclamation because it says the garbage crisis across Ontario is being "orchestrated." After the vote to endorse POWER's proclamation, Mr. Elliott said the town should tell Halton Region it is opposed to involvement in the GTA.

"It is incumbent upon the council," he said, to ask Halton Region to withdraw from the GTA. "What's happened here is very troublesome."

"If we don't support being involved in the GTA, let's get it out, get it clear."

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Be a big brother

We want a big brother, a group of North Halton little brothers told anyone who would listen Saturday. The group walked up and down the streets of Georgetown, Acton and Milton on a "Big Brother" drive that took place the same day in neighboring Peel Region. Placards and

balloons helped gain them notice as they trudged up and down the main street in the cool fall air. Those who want little brothers can call 847-7267. (Herald photo by Donna Kell)

Tax groceries

Lower tax to 7.9 per cent Turner says

By DONNA KELL
Herald Staff

The federal government's proposed nine-per-cent sales tax on retail goods and services could be lowered to 7.9 per cent if groceries were taxed, Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner said Monday.

Mr. Turner said this is one of the items on an unofficial report filed with federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson this week as members of parliament return to Ottawa's House of Commons after the summer. Mr. Turner is a member of a small committee of MPs asked by the finance minister to review the proposed tax scheme, scheduled for 1990.

The proposed nine-per-cent levy would apply to all goods and service except medical bills, prescription drugs and groceries. Mr. Turner said taxing groceries could drop the GST by 1.1 per cent lowering the tax to 7.9 per cent.

Halton Hills residents asked for a lower sales tax at the public meetings held in Acton and Norval. "I told people during my town hall

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