

Playing with fire

Juggler Corin Raymond of Georgetown plays with fire during the Eighth Annual Local Talent Night at the John Elliott Theatre Thursday. The event, put on by the town's parks and recreation department, featured 18 acts including tap dancers, piano players, organists, square dancers, and singers. (Herald photo).

High school students to view AIDS video

Students at Georgetown District High School and Acton High School will get the chance to see an AIDS awareness and education film during their lunch hour this Friday.

The films are being shown as part of AIDS awareness week, Oct. 16-22 across the province. The Halton Regional Health Department will be presenting the recently completed film "The New Facts of Life" to Georgetown high school students. Acton High School students will be shown the "Letter From Brian."

Health department and Georgetown high school nurse Ann French said students viewing "The New Facts of Life" will see explicit information on the transmission and prevention of AIDS. The film also makes clear that unless proper precaution is taken, anyone can be inflicted by the disease, she said.

The film is presented in a magazine-type format by students who articulate its message in a

frank and direct way.

The Halton Board of Education co-ordinator of Physical and Health Education Sue Amos approves of the film's explicit nature.

There has been some controversy surrounding the film because in one scene students are shown explicitly how to use a condom.

But Ms. Amos explains that AIDS is a life and death issue and so the video better show how to use a condom properly.

The Halton board is one of the 350 education institutions that have ordered the film.

The nurse at Acton High School, Marilyn Silk, said the newest AIDS film wasn't chosen because she and the school's principal Ozzie Caldarelli have yet to see the film.

The Halton AIDS Advisory Committee plans a poster campaign and other events during the week, all for the purpose of educating the public about the disease and how to deliver care to those directly or indirectly affected by AIDS.

Over 200 people protest GTA at Queen's Park

By BEN DUMMETT Herald Staff

Halton Hills residents along with people from as far away as St. Catharines chanted "No GTA" and "Save the Environment" during an hour-long demonstration protesting the provincial government's handling of the Greater Toronto Area garbage problem at Queen's Park Saturday.

About 250 people listened to speakers from Halton Hills' environmental group Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER), the Pickering-Ajax Citizens Together (PACT) group and the Vaughan Committee of Associations to Restore Environmental Safety (CARES) denounce the waste management body, called the Greater Toronto Area committee.

The GTA is a five-region committee, comprised of regional chairmen, with a mandate to search for solutions to Southern Ontario's landfill crisis.

"The GTA is treating the symptoms and not the disease and if only the symptoms are treated, the patient dies," POWER spokesman John Minns told the placard- carrying demonstrators.

Jim Wiseman of PACT could barely finish his speech in which he said, "The GTA takes away your rights to be involved (in the decision making process) and puts it in the backroom," before demonstrators broke out into their rally cry, "No GTA, No GTA..."

"We've heard the cry of the heart, David, David are you listening? We have to find an alternative way because we are destroying our earth," Mr. Wiseman said of the different groups' apparent desperation.

POWER representative Barbara Halsall was pleased with the turnout but said it was disappointing no provincially-elected officials turned out to hear the groups' pleas.

The GTA is an unelected body composed of the five regional chairmen from Halton, Peel, Durham, York and Metro. Each region has to name a contingency landfill site as a condition of entry into the GTA.

John Minns told the rally the GTA is "undemocratic and unaccountable." In a proclamation sponsored by the three organizing environmental groups he said no level of government has passed legislation establishing this body.

The three other parts of the proclamation read out during the rally are: governments should be held accountable to ensure garbage reduction; and they should emphasize reusable products, more recycling and recovering. The proclamation is to be sent to Premier David Peterson.

POWER's Ruth French says in initiating the GTA the province isn't serious about waste reduction. The GTA uses the Environmental Protection Act instead of the Environmental Assessment Act to assess a proposed landfill site's viability, she said. The older EP act doesn't require the GTA to consider alternative sites or alternative waste management methods, she said. The GTA uses the less thorough EP act because the current garbage crisis means the GTA doesn't have enough time to use the EA act, she

But Ms. French argues it would have enough time if it concentrated on garbage reduction. If less garbage was produced, the province wouldn't have to "fast-track" the environmental process, she said.

Protestors heard a councillor from East Hampton, N.Y. say his council has carried out studies showing waste reduction programs will allow the town of 17,000 to reduce its disposable waste by 85 per cent.

Pat Trunzo told the rally. "I

think it certainly can be done (in the greater Toronto area). Even if you get 75 per cent or 70 per cent I'm sure that's better than what, you have today."

He stressed, however, that waste reduction depends on people being responsible for their own garbage, and that means not transporting it to a location outside their area.

Ms. French agreed saying the GTA is flawed because it allows garbage produced in one region to be dumped in another. And if a region isn't responsible for its own garbage it will be discouraged from reducing its waste, she explained.

Steven Shrybman, a lawyer with the Canadian Environment Law Association, who was at the rally, explained several ways governments could reduce waste.

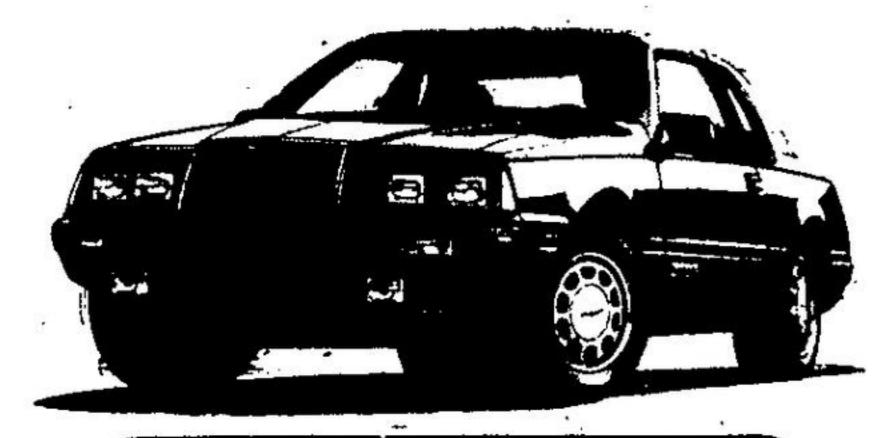
They could legislate that companies use a certain amount recycled material. They could tax non-recyclable packagings and offer rebates for packaging that is recyclable or immediately reusable, he said.

He said all pop and beer bottles should be refillable as is done in Prince Edward Island. Governments could also insist appliances carry a five-year warranty. Appliances are currently manufactured to break down in such a way that it is cheaper to buy a new one than to repair them. Companies create a constant demand for their products, he explained.

But Mr. Shrybman told the rally changes won't come about until the governments show some leadership. Money earned by waste management should be taxed, he said. As long as they are not and tipping fees (the cost of disposing waste at a landfill site) continually increase, private waste management firms will do nothing to promote waste reduction, he said.

"It's time to make politicians accountable to look for alternatives and if they won't, throw them out."

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Regional Council has CONTINUED the ban on hunting and the discharge of firearms within the Coulson Tract Agreement Forest. Described below are the periods of time when certain hunting and discharge of firearms activities are allowed in all other Halton Agreement Forests except the Coulson Tract.

Beginning October 15, 1989 through November 5, 1989 and from November 10, 1989 to December 31 inclusive ARCHERY HUNTING will be permitted. Archers may be in the Agreement Forests hunting deer and other small game if in season.

Beginning November 6, 1989 and continuing through November 11, 1989, SHOT GUN HUNTING will be permitted for deer and any other small game if in season. On these four days, archery hunting is NOT permitted in the Agreement Forest.

All users of the Agreement Forests are advised to exercise caution during the times that hunting is permitted.

David J. Varley Regional Clerk