

## Separate school board objects to proposed abortion law

The Halton Roman Catholic Board of Education plans to denounce the federal government's proposed abortion legislation if given the chance, says board chairman Donald Shrenk.

If the federal government holds public hearings on its abortion legislation, a board delegation will tell the Conservatives that "life is sacred and anything that takes away life (including abortion) is wrong," said Mr. Shrenk.

The delegation will be composed of trustees, teachers and students, he said.

The proposed legislation makes abortion a criminal offence that carries with it a two-year maximum prison sentence. But it also makes abortion a matter between a woman and her doctor. A woman can have an abortion at any time during her pregnancy if the doctor supports the woman's claim that her mental or physical health could be endangered by carrying the fetus to birth.

The board's superintendent of curriculum and education services, Lou Piovesan, presented trustees Tuesday night with an outline of what students in Halton's Catholic schools are taught about abortion to better prepare the trustees if they get a chance to make a presentation at a public hearing.

The students, regardless of their grade level, are taught the Catholic church's belief that human life from its beginning at conception to its end should be respected, Mr. Piovesan said.

But he also explained this message is taught differently depending on a student's age.

Until Grade 6, students don't study specific topics such as abortion. Their studies centre around the general theme that "everyone is precious," said Mr. Piovesan.

In Grades 7 and 8 students discuss such themes as "man being the creation of God" and "life is a gift and therefore must be

respected," he said.

Students in high school discuss such topics as abortion, sexual morality and human dignity. They are exposed to a variety of speakers including those from the clergy and the pro-life movement. But Mr. Piovesan says the students are also made aware of the opinions of the pro-choice side of the abortion debate.

The board has already passed a resolution formally protesting the government's proposed abortion legislation in late November.

This resolution reiterates a previous resolution stating the board's opposition to abortion it passed following the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling that Canada's current abortion legislation is unconstitutional.

The resolution states that the Supreme Court's decision "truly injures the whole of society." It goes on to say that "our national spirit is seriously wounded by this removal of any legal protection to the lives of the unborn."

## Metro can expropriate land, POWER claims

Citizens activist group POWER says although local politicians are not worried that Metro Toronto could use the Acton quarry as a landfill site, municipal and provincial laws allow Toronto to expropriate land outside Metro for its own use.

Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources member Rita Landry Tuesday said there is some "confusion" surrounding Metro's powers as one of the members of a five-region committee studying landfill options in Halton, Peel, York, Durham and Metro Regions.

"It's not something we've dreamt up," Mrs. Landry said of laws approved for Metro in 1964 and 1973 that would allow that region to "acquire and use land in any municipality."

"Metro has the power to expropriate," she said.

POWER reacted to Halton Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy's statement that the Acton quarry would not be named as a contingency site for the Greater Toronto Area initiative on landfill formed early this year.

Mr. Pomeroy said last week that the Milton Regional landfill site on Highway 25 still in the approval

process, is the only site Halton would name for landfill within the GTA.

But POWER is concerned that Reclamation Systems Inc., the group that has applied to the provincial government to use the 20-million tonne capacity Acton quarry as a landfill site, will deal directly with Metro and could end up with a "megasite" at Sideroad 22 and Fourth Line.

Metro Chairman Alan Tonks responded to POWER's claims by saying the group was trying to find "a roach under every rock."

Halton Chairman Peter Pomeroy said POWER is turning good news about the GTA proposal for a contingency site into bad news.

"It's not that we're jumping to conclusions," Mrs. Landry said. She said at one of the GTA waste information meetings, Mr. Pomeroy said Metro could use a site outside its boundaries for landfill.

Mrs. Landry said the issue could be cleared up at the GTA meeting scheduled for Jan. 11 in Milton's E.C. Drury High School.

## Wheelchair on Hwy. 7 sparks snow removal report

Halton Hills engineering staff will file a report on what sidewalks in town are cleared of ice and snow by the municipality, after a man was seen speeding down Highway 7 in Georgetown in an electric wheelchair.

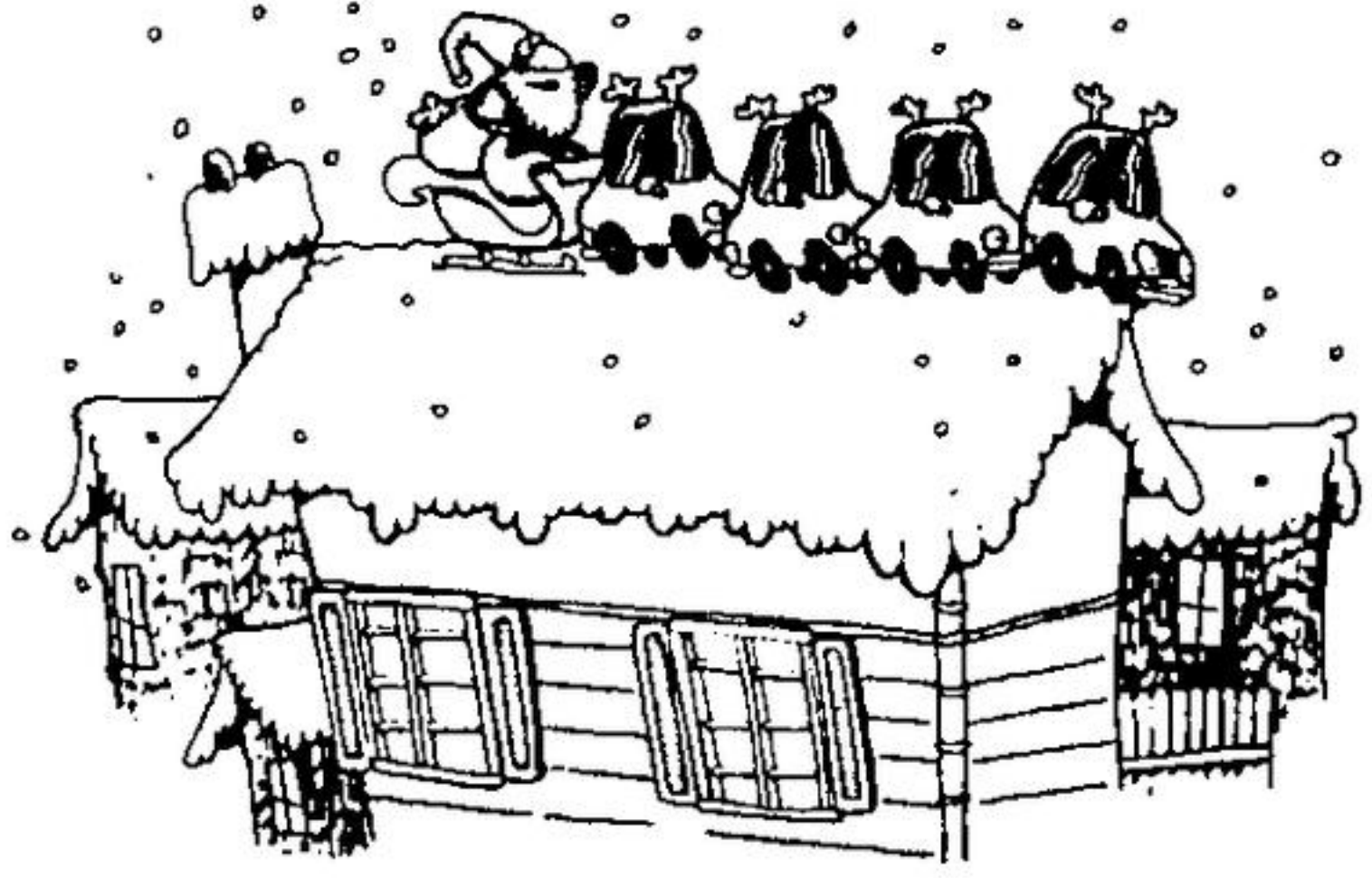
Georgetown Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson said sidewalks were not cleared from Highway 7 from Mountainview Road to Delrex Boulevard. She asked the town's engineering department to prepare a report outlining which

sidewalks are town responsibility.

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller agreed that a report would be a good idea. Clearing of ice and snow "wasn't done this morning from Pennington (Crescent) to Mountainview (Road)," the mayor said Monday.

Town engineer Ted Drewlo was "unaware" of a man travelling along Highway 7 in a wheelchair, but said he would look into the town's assigned snow-clearing areas.

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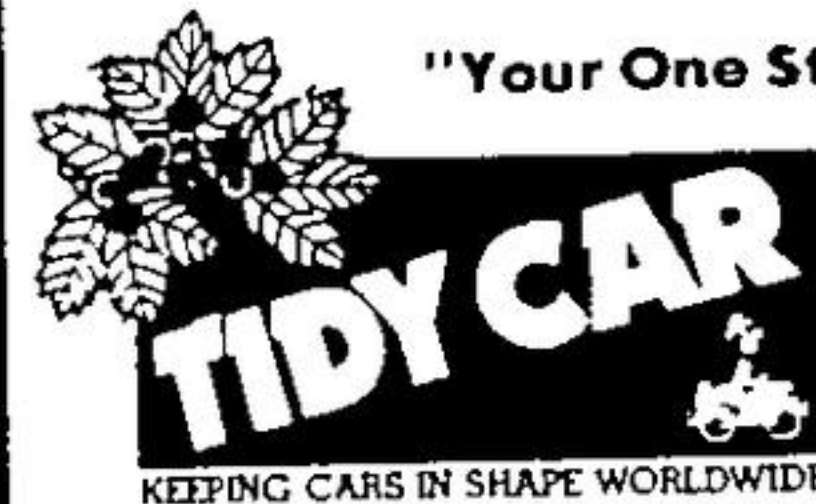


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