

Regional council overturns committee recommendation

Halton Regional council recently overturned a recommendation made by its administration and finance committee to nominate the planned Milton dump as a condition for Halton remaining in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

But the GTA isn't "too uptight" about council's decision, said Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy.

Friday, Feb. 23 marked the deadline for each member of the GTA - the regions of Halton, Peel, Durham, Metropolitan Toronto

and York - to have offered the GTA's Solid Waste Interim Steering Committee a landfill site that could be used by the other members.

The Region's administration and finance committee had recommended that the Milton site be expanded by 250,000 tonnes for GTA use, but at the recent meeting, Regional council voted to defer making a decision.

Councillors, however, did not decide when a decision should be made.

After meeting with SWISC members Feb. 23, Mr. Pomeroy said they didn't get "too excited" about the Region's decision because "we (the Region) have a good working relationship with the committee."

Chairman Pomeroy who supports the Milton dump as a SWISC short-term contingency site, said the issue will once again go before council sometime next month.

"No further debate is necessary," he said. "Council should either make a commitment or get out of it."

But at the recent meeting a majority of councillors argued that the Region should first decide if it is part of the GTA before nominating the Milton site.

Regional Councillor Walter Mulkevic summed up the position of most councillors when he said that the Region has only agreed to participate in the GTA process as an observer.

"But this council has never agreed to the solution," he said. "It's presumptuous that council commit part of its landfill site to the GTA when it has been approved for Halton's use only," Coun. Mulkevic said.

All four Regional councillors from Halton Hills - Mayor Russ Miller, Rick Bonnette, Joe Hewitt and Marilyn Serjeantson - were in the minority having opposed the deferral.

Coun. Serjeantson said after the meeting that the provincial government could legislate Halton to take a certain amount of the GTA's garbage. To protect its own interests the Region should participate in the process.

Coun. Hewitt argued during the debate that the Milton nomination should be considered separate from any long-term GTA solution.

The GTA solution involves two parts. The short-term solution calls for members to nominate a contingency landfill site to meet the current garbage crisis in the Greater Toronto Area. These contingency sites are available for joint use until 1996.

The long-term solution states that in 1996 the GTA will introduce a comprehensive garbage management plan.

The Region's chief administrative officer, Peter Fleming, said that a commitment to the short-term solution doesn't mean commitment to the long-term solu-

tion. Chairman Pomeroy said at the meeting that if council opposed the

GTA's long-term solution he would no longer support Halton's participation in the GTA.

Phone changes now in effect

It started Thursday and every time a person forgets, it will happen again. "We're sorry. You must dial a one or zero plus the area code before the number you were dialing. Will you please hang up and try your call again. This is a recording."

Bell Canada now requires that all long distance calls made within the 416 area must be preceded with the 416 digits.

In other words, a long distance phone call to Toronto from Halton Hills would be placed thusly: 1-416-505-2345.

Bell Canada officials announced the change Jan. 15, effective March 1.

Bell officials said long distance costs will not change because of the new system. The only costs to customers is changing phone numbers in automated systems.

Bob Campbell, Bell's general manager for network planning, said the change is needed because Bell is running out of area exchanges. In order to create new telephone numbers, Bell plans to start including the numbers 1 and 0 in the first three numbers of new exchanges.

The change is expected to increase the number of available phone numbers by 20 per cent. However, it also means the system will change so that the 416 digits are needed in long distance calls.

"Unless we make some changes now, families and businesses moving into this area won't be able to get telephone service," Mr. Campbell said. "Not because Bell doesn't have enough phone lines. We just don't have any more telephone numbers to assign."

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