

# Town to study used appliance centre proposal

As a way of reducing waste, the town may some day get a centre that would collect and if necessary fix anything from broken kettles to egg cartons for donation or resale.

Town council asked staff to prepare a report on the feasibility of such a centre after hearing a presentation by Diane van de Valk, the project manager of Waste Not - a proposed non-profit waste reduction centre, at Monday night's general committee meeting.

Ms. van de Valk told councillors at Monday night's meeting when people learn that kettles don't belong in the garbage, they will start to "use common sense" and take advantage of a waste reduction centre like Waste Not.

Education is one of the centre's three goals. Ms. van de Valk told councillors. It's important that people know recycling is only the third option in the waste management hierarchy while reduction and re-use are the first two, she said.

The centre's other two goals are to have the centre be self-sustaining in three years and to develop outlets for all re-usable and recyclable items generated in Halton Hills.

The centre would be run similar to the way the Salvation Army and Goodwill stores operate. The items for sale would be repairable or reuseable items, said Ms. van de Valk.

She suggested that the centre could be located at the Speyside school or the Georgetown Mill.

But Coun. Cook suggested the people of Speyside would be "yelling and screaming" if they saw appliances piled on top of each other at the school.

Ms. van de Valk said it was within the interest of the centre to keep it as tidy as possible or so that people would want to visit the centre.

The centre's viability depends on the town contributing about \$17,000

over a three-year period to meet start-up costs, said Ms. van de Valk. The centre would be completely self-sustaining after the three-year period, she said.

Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson supported the idea saying, "It's nice to see someone offer a solution

without asking for \$750,000 for a pilot project."

Ms. van de Valk is asking the town to spend about \$6,700 to modify the blue box program so that appliances would be included in the program. She is also asking the town to spend \$11,000 to pick up

the material.

Ms. van de Valk is also asking the town to establish a Waste Not depot at the Leferink transfer station in Georgetown, where people can drop off items.

The centre would look to seniors to volunteer their services to

repair the donated goods, she said.

Ms. van de Valk used her grandfather and uncle, who are both approaching retirement, as examples of the many seniors in town who might lack hobbies and would be interested in contributing to the centre.



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