

## Niagara Escarpment recognized by UN despite local protests

**By ROB SAVAGE**  
Thomson News Service  
**MILTON** - Despite protests from small bands of activists, a ceremony praising the Niagara Escarpment as a well-protected natural environment went ahead as planned Wednesday.



**David Peterson**

The Niagara Escarpment was dedicated by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) to be a biosphere reserve, described as an area with "ecologically significant landscapes adjoined by areas of human use."

UNESCO's Director-General Federico Mayor made the official dedication. Ontario government officials attending the ceremony included Premier David Peterson and cabinet ministers John Sweeney and Jim Bradley.

"This is an international recognition of the foresight of so many of my predecessors and my colleagues and all of you," Peterson told the audience at Milton's Ontario Agricultural Museum.

However, not everyone offered such praise.

About 20 placard-waving protestors who surrounded the officials at the museum's entrance opposed the provincial government's environmental policies. They objected to issues such as the proposed landfills and quarries on a section of the escarpment in the Milton area.

Barbara Halsall, of the Halton Hills group POWER (Protect Our Water and environment

Resources), said many proposed landfill sites aren't needed.

She said in an interview at least 60 per cent of the items sent to landfills could be separated for recycling or reuse. Government officials, she said, must push for more environmentally sound waste management policies.

"It's just a case of having the will to do it and taking some of the initiative."

Ms. Halsall said she was pleased to see the Niagara Escarpment recognized by UNESCO. She said the recognition may help block the development of the landfills and quarries.

"That (the UNESCO dedication) can only be positive."

The proposed landfills and quarries are among 86 suggestions being considered by the Solid Waste Interim Steering Committee (SWISC).

The SWISC group represents the five regions in the Greater Toronto Area (Metro Toronto, Halton, Peel, York and Durham), whose existing landfills are reaching capacity. The regions produce about five million tonnes of garbage annually.

The proposed alternatives are currently under review. Any solutions SWISC pursues are subject to an environmental assessment.

Mr. Peterson told reporters the Niagara Escarpment's environmental assets would likely be "strengthened" in the near future. An official plan for the escarpment will be reviewed this year.

"This is one of the great natural assets we have in our province," Mr. Peterson said.

The Niagara Escarpment runs 725 km. from Queenston to Tobermory. It has natural areas that contain more than 300 bird species,

50 mammals and much other wildlife.

Efforts to protect the area have been continuing for the past 20 years. Land use for the area was regulated in the Niagara Escarpment Plan of 1985.

Mr. Sweeney said the escarpment is a good example of how the environment can be protected.

"It can be said that environmental protection is an art. It is not a science," Mr. Sweeney said. "Surely, there is no better model for our artists' palate than the Niagara Escarpment."

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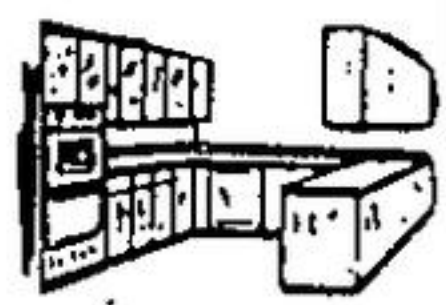


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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING WARD 4/McFARLANE DRIVE/GUELPH STREET



Council for the Town of Halton Hills will conduct a Public Meeting to examine and discuss a proposed 159 unit residential plan of condominium.

The subject property is located at 20 McFarlane Drive, east of Armstrong Avenue and north of Guelph Street in Georgetown.

Further information is available in the Planning Department.

ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE WELCOME

Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Date: Monday, April 23, 1990  
Location: Council Chambers, Civic Centre 1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills (Georgetown)

Ad No. 1238

## Red Cross prepares for emergencies

The Red Cross is preparing for unexpected emergencies and it is looking for help.

The Georgetown and District section of the Canadian Red Cross Society is currently preparing volunteers to establish and co-ordinate red cross services under the direction of the Regional Municipality of Halton Emergency Evacuation and Reception Plan.

The services that will be involved include registration and inquiries, food, shelter, management, maintenance, security, parking, notifying and co-ordinating other volunteer agencies.

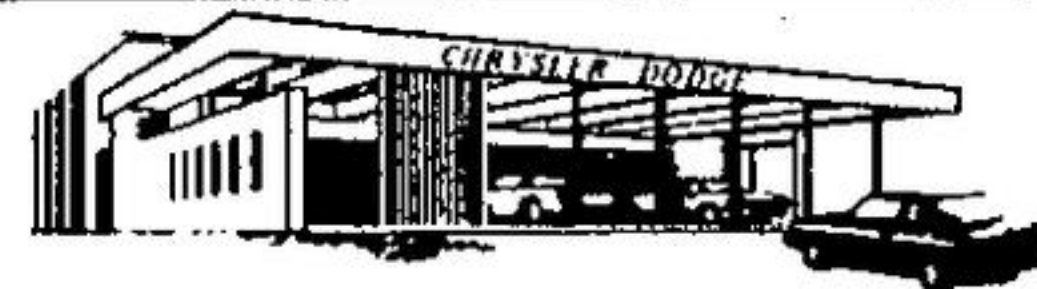
Through a nightly organized Emergency Response Service Plan people can be given shelter, food, clothing, medical attention, and separated family members can be brought together during a disaster situation, Red Cross of-

ficials say.

There will be a registration and an inquiry course for anyone interested in being called upon to help in a disaster situation or other emergency at 7 p.m. April 24. The course will last until 10 p.m. It's a crucial service offered by trained volunteers in the operation of an evacuation-reception centre, Red Cross officials say.

According to the Red Cross, it is very important that accurate and reliable information is gathered at the time of a person's entrance into an emergency shelter. All this information would help lead to the uniting of separated family members, the society said.

To register for the course, call the Red Cross office at 877-5233 (Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays), or call Cathie at 877-9291 by April 19. The course is free.



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