

P.O.W.E.R. questions chairman's claims

By **BENDUMMETT**
The Herald

Despite claims once again by Halton Regional chairman Peter Pomeroy at Wednesday's Regional planning and public works committee meeting, that Halton has yet to decide whether it is a full-fledged member of the Greater Toronto Area, local environmental group Protect Our Water Environment Resources (P.O.W.E.R.) says the Region is a full participant.

POWER spokesperson John Minns told committee members Wednesday the Region is incrementally losing control over its

waste management plan to the GTA Solid Waste Interim Steering Committee.

To solve what the province has called "a garbage crisis" in the greater Toronto area, SWISC was set up to find a long-term and short-term solution for the garbage problem. As part of the short-term solution SWISC members - the Regions of Halton, Durham, York, Peel and Metropolitan Toronto - are expected to offer a landfill site to the other members for garbage disposal. The long-term solution is a comprehensive waste management plan of which a 3 R's - reduce, re-use and recycle - action plan is a

major component.

Regional Council hasn't made a decision whether or not its landfill in Milton, which is expected to open in 1992, will be offered to the GTA as part of the SWISC short-term solution. But, according to Regional Chairman Pomeroy, since Halton is an uncommitted member of SWISC, the Region along with other members is still participating in the review of about 80 different ideas submitted from around the world as possible long-term waste reduction solutions.

Mr. Minns argued Halton's participation in this form means the GTA is deciding for Halton how to

handle Halton's garbage. The public, Mr. Minns told committee members, isn't being invited to help decide whether the Milton landfill should be offered to the GTA and which of the 80 long-term solutions would be viable for Halton.

He used the example that one of the submitted proposals calls for the installation of eight incinerators in Milton. In all likelihood, the people of Milton have no idea about this proposal, predicted Mr. Minns.

But chairman Pomeroy suggested this proposal along with many others are too outlandish to

be taken seriously. "Are you (Mr. Minns) aware there is one proposal calling for an island of garbage to be built in Lake Ontario?" asked Mr. Pomeroy.

John Minns appeared before committee members to urge them to allow for greater public participation in the GTA and whether Halton should be a participant.

Following Mr. Minns' presentation, the committee voted to hold a special planning and public works committee meeting involving all Regional councillors where the public would be encouraged to attend to participate in a debate on

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Bang-O-Rama festival to light up the sky

By **ALAN MACKIE**
The Herald

A backyard celebration that started roughly 17 years ago has grown from an operation needing only a few operators to an operation that needs about 90 volunteers, Norm Guthrie, chairman of the Bang-O-Rama festival, said.

The first celebration was in a Norval backyard and was a tribute to Victoria Day, Sandy Booth, vice-president of the Optimist Club said.

Bang-O-Rama slowly evolved into the present one-and-a-half-day celebration, Mr. Booth said. In its early stages, before it came to the Georgetown Fairgrounds, the Optimists combined with the Norval

Community Association to put on a festival, Mr. Guthrie said.

It became recognized as the Bang-O-Rama festival 14 years ago, once the celebration was large enough to be moved into Georgetown, Mr. Guthrie added.

As for the name, Mr. Booth said "Somebody dreamed it up."

Like last year, the festival is expected to be visited by between 8,000 to 12,000 people, depending on the weather, Mr. Guthrie said.

If sunny weather prevails, the Optimists expect about 12,000 people, but if it's "pouring down" the club expects only about 8,000 people, Mr. Guthrie said.

About five years ago there was a severe thunderstorm and the 13

volunteers who showed up at the Fairgrounds were forced to decide whether or not to cancel the show, Mr. Guthrie said. Mr. Guthrie had been listening to the Windsor weather reports and knew it was going to clear up. He said no one else really thought the show should continue but Mr. Guthrie went down to the end of Park Avenue and saw a large amount of people starting to show. After dropping prices and with a little luck with the weather clearing, the show

went on as scheduled. The ticket sales helped the club break even for that year's event.

The festival has actually been rained out only once, about 12 or 13 years ago. This was also the only year the Optimist Club lost money on the event, Mr. Booth said. "It's not meant to be a fund-raiser," Mr. Booth added. It is strictly a festival that allows the Optimist Club to give something back to the community, he said. Mr. Booth is, however, very optimistic about the

festival. "We will make money," he said, "or at least break even."

Approximately \$9,000 has been spent on fireworks for this year's production, Mr. Guthrie said.

This year's 90 volunteers started work on Friday. They will finish setting up before the event starts Sunday. Some of the volunteers will also be at the Fairground's to clean up on Tuesday, Mr. Guthrie added.

The organizers, however, had to

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Land severances gain approval

The Region's Land Division Committee, Tuesday, approved an application for three severances of the abandoned CN line property north of Glen Williams despite opposition by three nearby residents.

The eight mile strip of land is owned collectively by 34 landowners whose properties abut the land. Georgetown lawyer Bert Arnold made the application on behalf of the 34 landowners.

Mr. Arnold, who appeared before the Region's planning and public works committee Wednesday, said of the three people who opposed the severances only one showed up at the Tuesday night hearing in Milton. Mr. Arnold was representing the landowners at the LDC meeting.

The concerns centred on the issue of drainage in the area, possible traffic problems, and a predicted alteration to the land being used for recreation purposes.

Neither the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, the Niagara Escarpment Commission or the

town of Halton Hills had indicated objections to the severances. The Region had also expressed no opposition to the severances as long as the land wasn't developed. Mr. Arnold confirmed none of the landowners had plans to develop the property.

Mr. Arnold appeared before the planning and public works committee Wednesday to ask the committee to reduce the Regional fee charged to the landowners to process their applications for the severances from a total amount of about \$12,000 to about \$3,500. The fee covers the cost to the Region of processing the applications which totalled 21.

But Mr. Arnold argued the fees should be reduced because the applications were identical. After little discussion, committee members decided to reduce the staff recommended fee by 50 per cent, to about \$6,000 in total. The recommendation will go before Regional council next Wednesday for final approval.



Artist exhibits her work

Shawn Langdon (left) shares a smile with artist Linda Donais last weekend as the pair discuss art in general and Miss Donais' work in particular. Miss Donais held an exhibit and sale of her work last Friday and Saturday at the Campbell House Gallery on

Main Street, Georgetown. The talented young Georgetown artist will be holding another exhibition and sale of her work July 30 to Aug. 18 at the Georgetown Cultural Centre Gallery. (Herald photo by Colin Gibson)

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as a big winner**

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