

Halton may cut back on hazardous waste

Halton Region hopes to ban all small quantities of hazardous waste material such as household cleaning fluids and left over paint from being disposed in its solid waste and sewage waste system by 1992.

This goal was part of a recommendation passed by Regional Council last Wednesday calling for the planning and public department to develop a two-year educational and promotional program to reduce the amount of hazardous waste produced by households and similar sized quantities of hazardous waste generated by the commercial and industrial sectors.

The Region's acting director of waste management, Linda Freisen, was unable to give specific information about the content of the educational and promotional program because the department has only started to develop the plan.

Council also directed the public works department to determine the costs of the program and report to council in time for the 1991 budget deliberations starting in late December.

The educational program results from a report written by Burlington Regional Councillor Walter Mulkewich in which he says "household hazardous wastes are every bit as damaging to the environment as their industrial counterparts." He also points out that presently there is no legislative framework governing the management and disposal of household hazardous waste in Ontario.

Halton Region plans to petition the provincial government to establish such a framework to help reduce the amount of hazardous waste produced across the province. The Region also wants the province to develop more effective ways of treating hazardous wastes and to require the producers and distributors of hazardous waste material to accept the return of hazardous waste for treatment.

The Region doesn't agree it should have to pay the total cost of the disposal of hazardous waste.

said the manager of waste reduction, Albert Shames. The Region wants the producers to take some responsibility for disposing the waste because of the high cost of establishing the necessary kinds of disposal programs, he said. That could come in the form of financial compensation to the Region for disposal of the waste, or the requirement that the producers of hazardous waste accept waste material for exchange, he explained. That means a battery could be sold only if an old battery was handed back, Mr. Shames said.

The budget for the hazardous waste depot in Milton is \$250,000 this year, said Mr. Shames. And "we're only scratching the surface."

He explained that of the approximately 90,000 households in Halton, only about 4,500 people use the depot. Mr. Shames didn't have figures for Halton Hills. There is also a depot open on the first Saturday of every month in Burlington.

The refuse and reduction coordinator for Halton Hills, Paul Sargent said he has had discussions with the Region to establish a once a month depot in Halton Hills. But nothing definite has yet been determined, said Mr. Sargent.

Larger quantities of disposal waste produced in Halton goes to a special disposal facility in Sarnia, said Ms. Freisen.

She said the town is currently sending out a hazardous waste pamphlet to all households in the Region explaining the various types of household hazardous waste products.

The pamphlet also suggests alternative products that can be used in the house which are non-

hazardous. For example, instead of several cleaning solutions available on the market people could use baking powder or vinegar and "a lot of elbow grease," said Ms. Freisen.

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Seniors for the *Future*
The envelope please

By FLORENCE WILKINSON

Who are the 'seniors'? There are varying ideas about this, both among those who belong to the group, and those outside. Among the seniors there is one group who belong to the O.B.E. If you have never heard of that group let me tell you how I discovered it. Just after my older sister passed her 65th birthday, I arrived on the scene, having just had all my clothes stolen. She was pleased to be able to buy me a coat out of her "very own money". When I passed my 65th birthday I received a brown envelope enclosed with my birthday card, on which was written "Welcome to the O.B.E." In the context of her letter I discovered what that meant. "Order of the Brown Envelope" and she was welcoming me to the group that receives the Old Age Security cheque.

However, more and more, the age of 65 years is not considered the dividing line between pre-seniors and seniors. Many groups are recognizing 60 years as the age for receiving benefits which go with being a senior. To be a member of any group recognized by New Horizons, 55 years is the dividing line in ages. This includes Georgetown and District Seniors Association.

Georgetown and District Seniors Association is an association which is working toward a building space that will serve the needs of any and all seniors' groups in the future. We could steal a line from insurance companies and remind 20-year-olds that they may retire at 55 years and now is the time to prepare. Any donation, small or big, by an individual or a corporation, toward the building will be gratefully received. Donations are a person 55 years and over brings membership also.

Another group which has help at 877-3235.

from New Horizons is Halton Seniors TV Productions. This group had its beginnings with an idea of John Ollivier which was shared with Jeff Bitton. Jeff got the idea rolling. The first program was aired on Feb. 4, 1988. Since then there has been a lot of development. The program is an hour long; is produced monthly, and the same program is aired on the first and third Wednesday evening of the month at 7:00 p.m. on the local cable channel. This is one group which is looking forward to use of a building for seniors, and hopes that it is a reality soon.

Remember that Seniors Awareness Week is June 10-16. Look for announcements of anything in which you might participate during that week.

The fund raising committee, with Siena Van Hoekelan as chairperson, has several projects coming up. There is a draw coming up on an afghan donated by Bridget Syme. The tickets are selling at \$1 each and the draw will take place during the fall fair.

The seniors will have a table at the July 1 celebrations in Glen Williams and will look after treats such as chocolate chip cookies, rice krispie squares and fruit drinks.

In the fall, the seniors organization will have a craft table at the Holy Cross Bazaar on Nov. 3. Consider including crafts such as knitting, crocheting, sewing, Christmas decorations, woodworking or any craft which you enjoy in your summer schedule and donate them to our craft table.

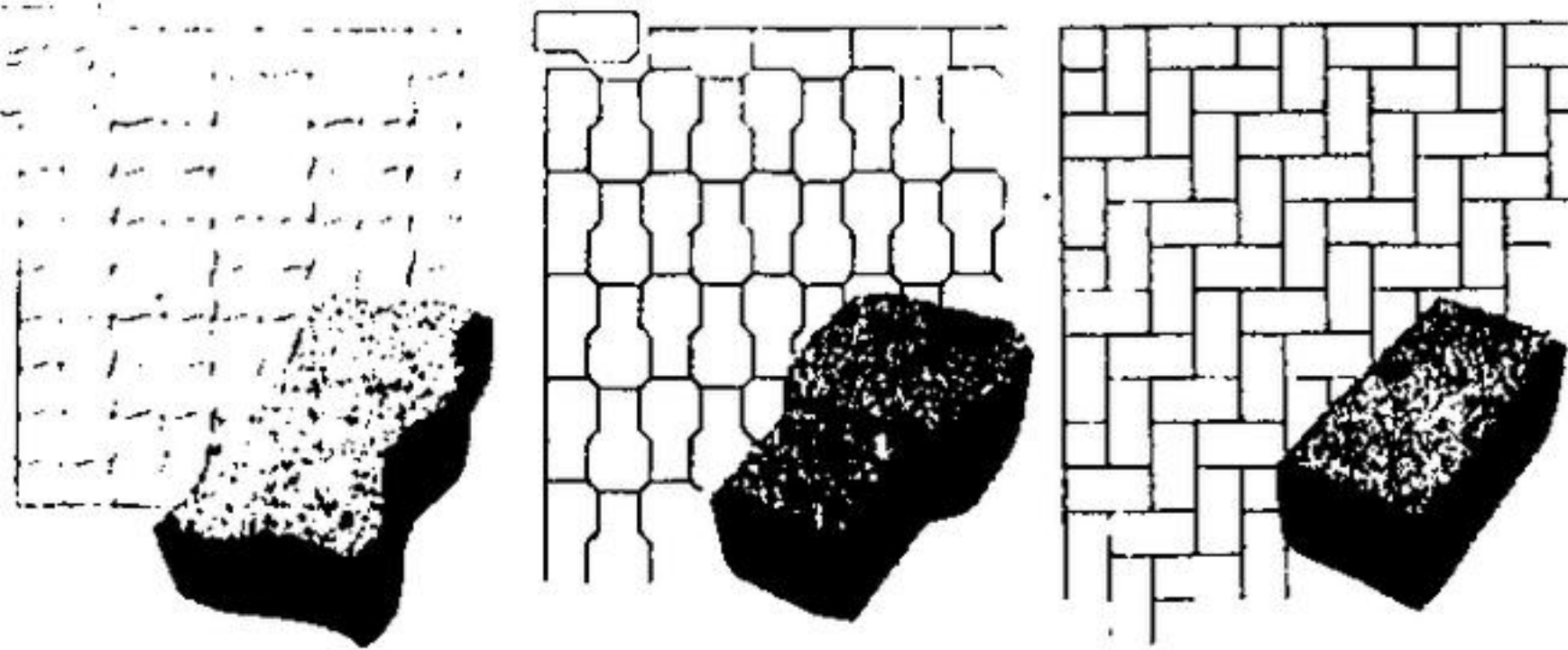
The last project that we would like you to become involved in is saving Miracle Mart tapes. We need \$300,000 to make \$1,000 and are a long way from meeting that target. When you have saved your tapes, phone Siena Van Hoekelan at 877-3235.

Seniors for the Future will be a regular column in The Herald Outlook, written for the seniors by the seniors.

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