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Three-hour debate Halton stays with GTA

By BEN DUMMETT
 The Herald

Halton Region will continue to participate in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) waste initiative, Regional Council decided after a three-hour debate Wednesday.

That means Halton will offer the use of part of its newly found Milton landfill to other GTA members. They are Metropolitan Toronto, and the Regions of Peel, Durham and York. The Milton landfill is scheduled to open in late 1992 or early 1993.

But it's primarily the disposal aspect of the GTA's Solid Waste Interim Steering Committee (SWISC) that members of local environment group Protect Our Water Environmental Resources (POWER) argued Wednesday why Halton should discontinue its involvement in SWISC.

SWISC's first priority is landfill and not diversion of waste, argued POWER spokesman John Minns. He pointed to the fact that SWISC defines its mandate as finding landfill sites as the first priority. But it lists the implementation of a 3 Rs program - reduction, reuse and recycling, as the seventh priority out of a total of nine, he said. Mr. Minns used a SWISC document to prove his point.

SWISC defines its mandate in two parts. The first is to find a short-term solution to the GTA "garbage crisis" with the focus on landfills. GTA members have to make available landfill space to the other members and the GTA will decide if it will be used. The short term lasts until 1996. The second part of the SWISC mandate is to find a long-term solution to the garbage problem. That means developing a 3 Rs action plan.

But Mr. Minns argued SWISC should only act as a facilitator of waste management information between the members. "It shouldn't be telling the municipalities what to do" and not using the negative crisis idea to justify their options, he said.

Chairman Peter Pomeroy, speaking in support of Halton's participation, highlighted that seven years ago Halton was "looking for a hole in the ground" to dump its garbage. "It's a bit of de-javu, isn't it?"

"I don't like the SWISC hierarchy," responded Mr. Minns. But Mr. Minns did compliment the Region, saying that Halton will only accept another municipality's garbage if the municipality first enters into a reciprocal agreement with the Region.

Although the only public opposition at Wednesday's meeting came from the Halton Hills based POWER group, the town's

Regional representatives all voted in favor of Halton's continued participation in SWISC. Halton Hills Regional Councillor Joe Hewitt argued continued participation for the time being will ensure that Halton has a say in any decision made by SWISC. This position was also supported by Mayor Russ Miller, Marilyn Serjeanston, Rick Bonnette and Pam Johnston.

But Coun. Hewitt said the key is that if the Region supports continued participation, "we're not locked in." That would only happen once Halton signed a legal document with the other members, he said.

Chairman Pomeroy confirmed this and stressed no legal document would be signed until Halton approved the arrangement.

"It would be at great peril to the Region to enter into a legal agreement because the partners are not equal," said the chairman.

"Metro produces most of the GTA garbage and contributes the least to recycling," he said. But at the same time, it's easy to criticize Toronto, added the chairman.

POWER member Len Landry agreed with the chairman the GTA is an unequal partnership. But unlike the chairman, he saw that as reason for Halton not to be part of the SWISC initiative.

Only when Metro can match Halton in terms of the 3 Rs, should Halton consider becoming a member of the GTA, he said. Currently Toronto recycles four per cent of its waste while Halton recycles 20 per cent of its waste.

But the councillors who supported participation said the reason that Halton is ahead of Toronto is not because of foresight. It's because Halton was facing its own garbage crisis in the 1970s and had to take action, supporters said.

Pay equity will cost town almost \$800,000 over the next five years

In accordance with provincial legislation, Halton Hills Council approved Monday a pay equity program that will be implemented over the next five years.

The program will cost almost \$800,000 over the five years, town treasurer Ray King said. Mr. King predicts that the yearly cost to phase in the plan will be about \$12,000 to adjust town staff salaries and \$90,000 to adjust the salaries of the town library staff. But the library board still has to approve the proposed salary adjustments, said Mr. King.

Tax increases are expected to account for some of the yearly increases but not the total amounts, according to Mr. King.

But he said it is currently impossible to determine how much of the cost of the plan the taxpayer will have to cover. Salaries would have to be adjusted in the coming years despite the pay equity program, said Mr. King.

The compensation program will account for both union and non-union town employees.

The salary adjustments will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 1990.

All adjustment is done as follows - The town has defined 18 job categories and each job category is comprised of five different levels. The town will compare the job

levels of each category so that the salaries of employees with the same level in different categories can be adjusted to reflect each other. In order to arrive at the salaries for each job class the town

surveyed seven surrounding municipalities, said Mr. King.

The survey revealed that comparatively the salaries for equivalent job rates were lower in Halton Hills.

Halton Hills pulls together to help Harmony's recovery

Citizens of Halton Hills will be pulling together at "A Picnic For Harmony" on Sunday, July 1 from 3 to 7 p.m. at Cedarvale Park in Georgetown.

Harmony Bull was critically injured in a late May car accident. She is recovering at Sunnybrook Medical Centre. Organizers welcome the surrounding community to have fun at the afternoon picnic while supporting Harmony.

Organizers thank generous advance support and welcome volunteer efforts to help make the picnic a success. Organizers urge citizens to join the day's events and to witness the community

coming together to play a positive part in Harmony's recovery.

For further information, call Barbara C. Skok at Membership Services, 877-0771.

Also, Norval nightspot Club 2000 will hold a special fundraiser Sunday night, July 1 for Harmony.

Club 2000 manager John Fisher said the club will increase its regular \$6 fee for the all-ages, alcohol-free dance by \$1 and the extra money will go towards the Harmony Bull trust fund. Club 2000 will also donate 10 per cent of the proceeds from the night to the fund, said Mr. Fisher.

Glen Williams will honor Canada Sunday

Sunday, July 1, 1990, marks Canada's 123rd birthday as a nation. It also marks the 15th successive year that the Glen Williams Town Hall has sponsored Canada Day celebrations. It was 1976 when the Town Hall closed Main Street and threw a big party for the people of the village. The Hall Board considered it the best way possible to thank the villagers and their many friends. They had a lot to be thankful for. Many volunteers had spent countless hours restoring, even rebuilding, parts of the old Town Hall.

Erected in 1871, the Glen Williams Town Hall had become run-down and in need of major repairs. The board even entertained a motion to tear down the hall. Although it was easily defeated, the board rented it to the overburdened Glen school. This move caused the deterioration to

quicken. In December, 1974, a citizens' committee was formed to restore the building. The 1976 Canada Day celebrations marked the fruition of their labours.

The event was held on Main Street for many years. It moved to the park in 1982, returning to Main Street the next year. Since the disbanding of the beer garden in 1989, it has returned to the park.

The Canada Day committee has always strived to provide a family oriented day of fun at minimal cost. This includes fun for all ages - from Senior's teas, to BMX bike racing to children's paint tables to dancing on the street at night.

The community has always joined the Town Hall Board in their endeavour. All the village churches and organizations have had booths at various times. Other local groups have had displays or offered their help in other ways to

the Canada Day Committee.

The parade at noon has always been a looked-for feature of Canada Day in Glen Williams. Every year there is a bright and entertaining collection of bands, Beavers, Brownies and big floats from different groups. The politicians and Citizen of the Year ride in fancy motor-cars while baton are twirled, somersaults are turned, and clowns distribute candies and smiles.

Some features of Canada Day may change from year to year. But the ideal of family fun with neighbours and friends has remained constant over the past 15 years. Become part of history - join the villagers of historic Glen Williams as they celebrate Canada Day on Sunday, July 1st from the parade at noon to the family barbecue and sing-a-long at dusk.

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