

Trees are the lungs of the planet

By BARBARA HALLSALL

One of our downtown small businesses pointed out to me the amount of paper that a bank sends for disposal. All of us must become aware of how much fine paper we use, especially now that we have access to photocopiers. Let's avoid getting extra copies and use the back side for phone notes.

Now some readers are probably thinking that forests are a renewable resource. While that is true we have not managed our forests well and have not replaced trees as quickly as we have cut them. Trees are the lungs of the planet. Every tonne of paper sent to recycling: saves 19 full-grown



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trees, saves three cubic yards of landfill space, requires 64 per cent less energy to process, and produces 60 per cent less air and water pollution.

The Ministry of the Environment has developed "Project Paper" to assist in the collection and recycling of fine paper for offices. A guidebook gives a description of the hardware that the Ministry can make available (desk top holders, metal floor bins and burlap bags), as well as background information on how to set up a program in your company/organization.

Financial benefits may result from both the sale of the paper for recycling, as well as the reduced disposal costs. Don't wait for your company management to initiate change. Change can come from the bottom up. The initial investment is small and a continuing program is a steady source of revenue.

A cooperative effort of several small offices or participation in a larger recovery project in the immediate area may permit smaller establishments to realize the benefits of a large scale office paper recovery program.

The Halton Hills Chamber of

Commerce might consider having a speaker from the MOE to inform our local businesses about the assistance the ministry can provide.

Anyone wanting information should contact:

Waste Management Branch
Ministry of the Environment
40 St. Clair Ave. West
5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M4V 1P5
Telephone: 416-323-5142
Linda Stoikos

You can make a difference!

Council allows land severance

Halton Region Council no longer stands in the way of Acton resident Harold Denny and his desire to continue to operate his 50-acre tree farm in Milton.

Mr. Denny, who appeared before council Wednesday, argued he would have to sell the farm located on the east side of the Sixth Line south of Highway 7 if he wasn't allowed to sever a part of the property to build a residence for necessary farm help.

Council overturned a staff recommendation that the planning department appeal an earlier decision by the Land Division Committee, (LDC), allowing the severance to the Ontario Municipal Board, (OMB).

Mr. Denny, who is an insurance broker in Acton, said he planned to retire to the tree farm and work it full time. But he could only do this with help from his daughter and son-in-law.

That would only be possible if they lived on the property, Mr. Denny told council. Without the land severance, Mr. Denny said, he would be "forced" to sell the land probably to a developer who would in turn probably develop the entire farm.

Mr. Denny also argued in favor of the severance because the land in question is a "derelict" piece of property. Building on that piece of property would be "no threat to any agriculture." Finally, he argued the Region would be wasting taxpayers' money if it appealed the LDC decision.

"Why should the LDC make a decision and spend taxpayers money to do it when the Region can just wipe it, (the decision) out with a stroke of a pen."

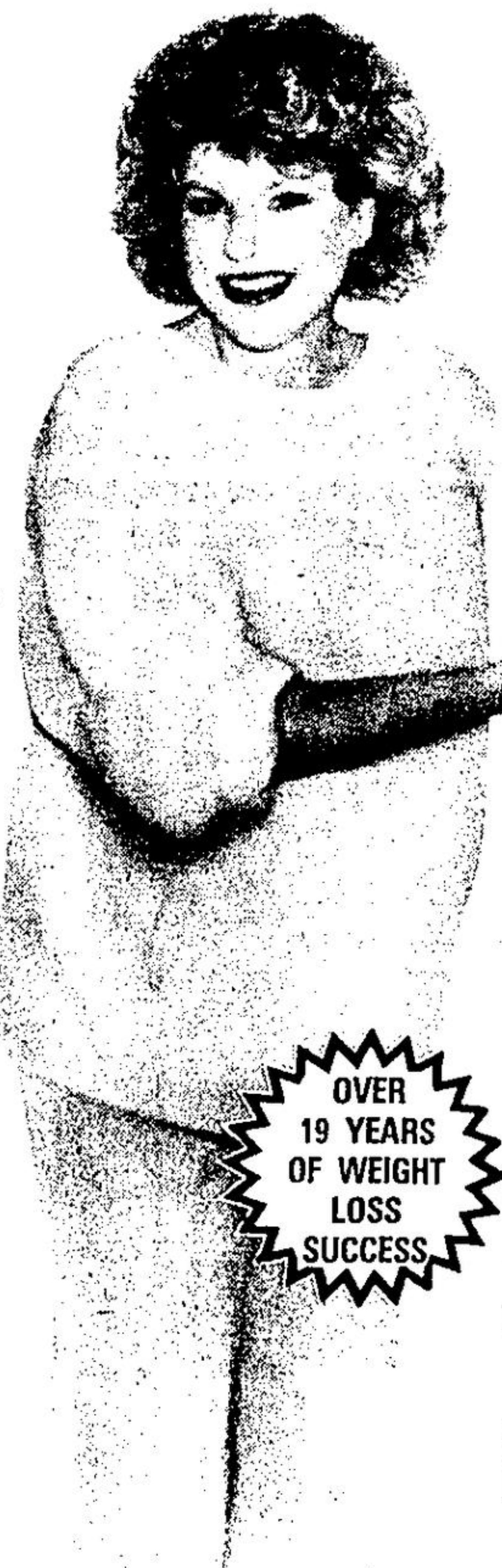
Regional staff argued, in a report put before council, against the severance because it didn't consider Mr. Denny a "bonna fide" farmer, in accordance with the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee's definition of a commercially viable farmer. As well, staff argued denying Mr. Denny the severance would not prevent him from continuing the tree farm.

Mr. Denny received support from all Halton Hills Regional councillors present for the vote. They included Rick Bonnette, Joe Hewitt, Mayor Russ Miller and Marilyn Serjeanston. Pam Johnston was not present when the vote was taken.

All agreed that Mr. Denny would only want this one severance, and that he was "sincerely" committed to operating a tree farm on the rest of the property.

Burlington Councillor Ralph Scholtens was the most vocal of the few councillors who opposed the severance. The councillor expressed concern that the LDC supported the severance because Mr. Denny had paid his "dues." Coun. Scholtens called this rationale "infuriating." He speculated if this is the basis on which the LDC made decisions, "there are plenty of farmers who could ask for all sorts of severances."

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