

# Community

## Region committee in disagreement

Not all members of the Region's Planning and Public Works Committee Wednesday, agreed with the suggestion, the private sector should someday be responsible for collecting and disposing household hazardous waste, (HHW).

It's only a matter of time, said Burlington Regional councillor Walter Mulkewich, before it becomes too costly for the Region to collect and dispose this type of waste. "The expense should be dropped from the budget, it can't take it," the councillor emphasized.

Another Burlington Regional Councillor, Patrick McLaughlin, countered by saying this scenario could present a safety hazard to the public. If every store selling batteries - old batteries constitute a form of hazardous waste - had to collect those it sold and then dispose of them, the batteries could possibly be disposed of incorrectly resulting in the public being harmed in some way, explained Coun. McLaughlin.

This is not to suggest manufacturers and distributors of the products shouldn't play a greater role in their collection and disposal but the Region should participate enough to maintain control over the program, he said.

The debate on HHW arose out of a staff recommendation to the committee that Burlington-based Laidlaw Environmental Services be contracted to collect and

dispose HHW in Halton in 1991. The company has held the contract since 1988 when the Region's HHW collection program began.

Following the debate, committee members recommended Halton Region renew the \$572,000 year-long contract with Laidlaw. The recommendation will go before Regional Council this Wednesday for final approval.

According to a Regional staff report the HHW program was introduced for the following reasons:

- minimize the disposal of small quantities of hazardous waste at Halton's waste disposal facilities,
- minimize discharge of hazardous waste to Halton's sewer system,
- promote public environmental awareness regarding household hazardous waste.

Under the program, Laidlaw, during 12 collection days throughout the year, is expected to collect and dispose of approximately 120,000 litres of HHW, the report indicates.

Laidlaw will dispose 77,000

The company has held the contract of this total at the firm's Burlington depot while the remainder will be disposed of at its Milton depot. The Burlington depot receives HHW collected from Halton south and the Milton depot receives HHW from Halton north.

During Wednesday's meeting, Halton's acting Commissioner of Public Works, Bruce Kitchen, told committee members staff has had preliminary discussions with the province about forcing manufacturers and distributors to take more responsibility in the collection and disposal of HHW. Provincial legislation however, needs to be passed for it to ever happen, said Mr. Kitchen.

Halton Chairman Peter Pomeroy said the province's Minister of Environment, Ruth Grier, Monday, reiterated previous statements that legislation will be introduced to dealing with this matter. "I'm encouraged by her comments," said Chairman Pomeroy, "but we'll know for sure when it happens."

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## Hewitt endorsed

Halton's Planning and Public Works Committee recommended Wednesday that Halton Hills Regional Councillor Joe Hewitt sit on the Region's Building Expansion Committee and Court Revision Committee for 1991.

The recommendation will go before Regional council for final approval this Wednesday.

The building expansion committee reviews proposals concerning the ongoing expansion of the Regional Headquarters in Oakville. The committee then makes recommendations for council's consideration. The Court of Revision Committee rules on any suggested revisions to those Regional works proposed under a local municipality's improvement act.

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