## Reaction mixed to NDP recycling plan

By BEN DUMMETT The Herald

Local reaction to the province's plan to make recycling mandatory for municipalities, businesses and institutions ranged from support to dissatisfaction.

Halton Hills Refuse Reduction Coordinator, Paul Sargent, said Monday Environment Minister Ruth Grier has recognized the blue box program is at capacity and therefore drastic measures are needed if the waste stream in Ontario is to be reduced by 25 per cent in 1995 and 50 per cent in the year 2000.

Mr. Sargent was especially supportive of the government's decision to increase funding for municipal composting programs. Based on the success of the Town's composting program, Mr. Sargent is applying to the province for funding to buy 1,000 compositors. Mr. Sargent distributed all 500 composters the Town ordered last year.

At the opposite end of the spectrum is Diane van de Valk, spokesperson for local environmental group Incineration Counteracts the Environment (I.C.E.).

The plan is focused too much on recycling and not enough on reuse and reduction initiatives, said Ms. van de Valk.

During the election campaign, the New Democratic Party outlined an environmental plan that was much more ambitious than the government's current position, she said. The government sold itself as keen environmentalists, said Ms. van de Valk, yet their waste reduction

targets of 25 per cent and 50 per cent are the same as those of the previous Liberal government.

Ms. Grier made the announcement about mandatory recycling during a speech she gave last Thursday in Belleville.

The mandatory program requires all municipalities except for the smallest to have mandatory recycling programs. The goal is to have 90 per cent of the province's households, including farms, apartments and cottages recycling by 1995. As well, retail stores and other businesses must participate in waste separation. Finally, users of packaging are required to reduce the amount of packaging they use by 20 per cent by the end of 1993.

Barbara Halsall, President of local environmental group Protect Our Water Environmental Resources, (POWER), is cautiously optimistic about the plan.

"I'm encouraged to see that something is finally being done," said Ms. Halsall. But she thinks the reduction targets should have been higher.

If the 25 and 50 per cent targets are reached there is a good possibility people will become complacent, permitting the garbage problem to persist, explained Ms. Halsall.

Ms. Halsail also thought that mixed plastics and other waste items currently not allowed in blue boxes should now be permitted. As well, the province should have introduced a plan requiring all households to do some sort of composting or a variation of this process.



Making their way down Mill Street in Acton on Sunday afternoon were members of the Acton Boy

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Scouts and Girl Guides who waved their flags and smiled to Acton residents watching the parade.

## Fire Calls Truck catches fire

Halton Hills firefighters responded to one fire call this past week on Saturday when a 1983 Mazda truck caught fire while travelling on Guelph Street. The fire started at 9:40 a.m. and was quickly extinguished by firefighters who estimated the damage at \$1,000. The fire started in the engine area and firefighters are stating the cause of the fire was mechanical-electrical failure.



The Council of the Town of Halton Hills proclaims the month of March, 1991 as **RED CROSS MONTH** in the Town of Halton Hills.

## Board revises AIDS policy

Halton Board of Education trustees have passed a revised policy statement on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) saying the identity of a pupil or staff member infected must be kept confidential.

The policy, originally approved

## Police award

For upgrading the emergency preparedness of his media operation after a lone teenage gunman fired at students in General Brock High School, and working above and beyond the call of duty, Staff Inspector Kent Laidlaw of the Halton Regional Police has been awarded the 1990 Communicator of the Year Award.

Staff Inspector Laidlaw, of the Burlington Detachment, received the award at a special awards dinner Tuesday. The 51-year-old Staff Inspector, a 29-year veteran of the police service, received the award in recognition of communications excellence.

The upgrading of his unit's emergency preparedness was something he initiated after receiving hundreds of media calls from across the continent when several people were injured at General Brock High School after a gunman fired at students and staff in March of 1990. The incident drew international attention because of its disturbing parallel to the Montreal shooting at Ecole Polytechnique, say Halton Regional Police.

Staff Inspector Laidlaw has also conducted a crisis communication workshop for all public relations directors of Halton Hospitals, and organized a 'Safety Village', a privately funded educational training centre to teach road and traffic safety to young people.

in March, 1989, was reviewed by instructional services staff with input from Halton Region Health Department.

The trustees say the policy continues and only made minor context changes to the policy.

One of these context changes was to replace the phrase "recognizes that the identity of a pupil or staff member with HIV or AIDS should be protected" to "must be kept confidential."

Other policy statements include:

 recognizes that pupils affected with HIV, including AIDS have the right to attend regular classes

recognizes that a staff member infected with the HIV infection has the right to continue employment

tional physician will make the determination of whether or not a pupil or staff with HIV is fit or unfit to attend school based on an individual assessment and ongoing monitoring of the person's medical status and behavior characteristics

 alternate instruction for pupils excluded from school should be provided

 unless the Medical Officer of Health determines otherwise, pupils and staff who have family members with HIV infection may not be excluded from school

 where a staff member with HIV infection becomes too ill to work, full access to sick leave, long term disability and medical benefits should be ensured.

Dr. Robert Nosal, Halton's Medical Officer of Health said at a previous meeting of the board, there are 94 reported cases of HIV carriers in Halton. Of the 94, 41 cases have developed into AIDS. Ten of the 94 people with HIV are under the age of 25.



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