

Regional Councillor backs provincial government plan

Halton Region should support the Ontario provincial government's suggestion for mandatory returning of empty liquor and wine bottles to Liquor Control Board outlets, says Milton

Regional Councillor Bill Johnson. Coun. Johnson made his comment Wednesday during a Regional Planning and Public Works Committee meeting. He was responding to a call by the

Ontario Multi-Material Recycling Incorporated group (OMMRI) to reject the idea.

OMMRI is comprised of over 300 companies including newspapers, grocery distributors, product manufacturers and packaging suppliers and distributors.

Coun. Johnson argued OMMRI's position is based on self-interest rather than concern for the environment.

The group's membership is comprised of businesses that profit from packaging and bottling, said Mr. Johnson.

The membership will be inconvenienced by utilizing and storing recyclables, he told committee.

In a letter introduced at Wednesday's meeting, OMMRI states a mandatory deposit system for liquor and wine bottles would jeopardize the blue box program and possibly reduce jobs in this area. Currently wine and liquor bottles can be deposited in blue boxes.

OMMRI defines itself as a non-profit organization which is currently committed to voluntary financial support over five years of \$45 million to fund waste management initiatives in Ontario.

The removing of wine and liquor bottles from the blue box program would result in a 25 per cent reduction in revenue for Ontario Municipalities, states the letter.

This could force municipalities to reduce or eliminate their respective blue box programs, concluded OMMRI.

Coun. Johnson told committee that millions of bottles and cans are being dumped on roadsides in the province despite the blue box program.

At the same time, "it's not often you see returnable beer bottles or cans littering the roadways," he said. Brewers Retail outlets have a deposit system in place.

Burlington Regional Coun. Pat McLaughlin said before Halton takes a position, it should get the province's reasons for introducing the wine and liquor mandatory deposit system.

North-Halton MPP Noel Duignan, contacted Wednesday night, said he doesn't know much about the project, but he supports it. He doesn't think the program would jeopardize the blue box program.



Lending a hand

Les Mellish (left) and Al Martin, members of St. Andrew's United Church, are just two of the many people involved in tearing down the building's old sanctuary, which is over 25 years old. Much of the work is done on the weekends, but some is continued during the week by a few of the church's retired members, such as Mellish and Martin. (Herald photo)

Quarry rampage

Halton Regional Police say unknown culprits caused over \$40,000 damage to two large rock trucks by smashing them into each other at J.C. Duff Limited quarry in Limehouse, overnight Monday.

Police say the two suspects entered the Duff quarry at 5th Line in Limehouse and began operating two Terrex (large rock) trucks, driving them into the quarry where they smashed them into each other.

One of the trucks received severe frontal damage, say police. This truck also became stuck in the gravel so both culprits hopped into the other truck and drove it to the top of a gravel hill. Here, both culprits jumped out as the truck went over the hill and almost rolled over.

The truck was severely damaged on the right side and left running in gear like the abandoned truck. Both trucks are worth \$100,000.

Police have no suspects but are continuing to investigate the incident.



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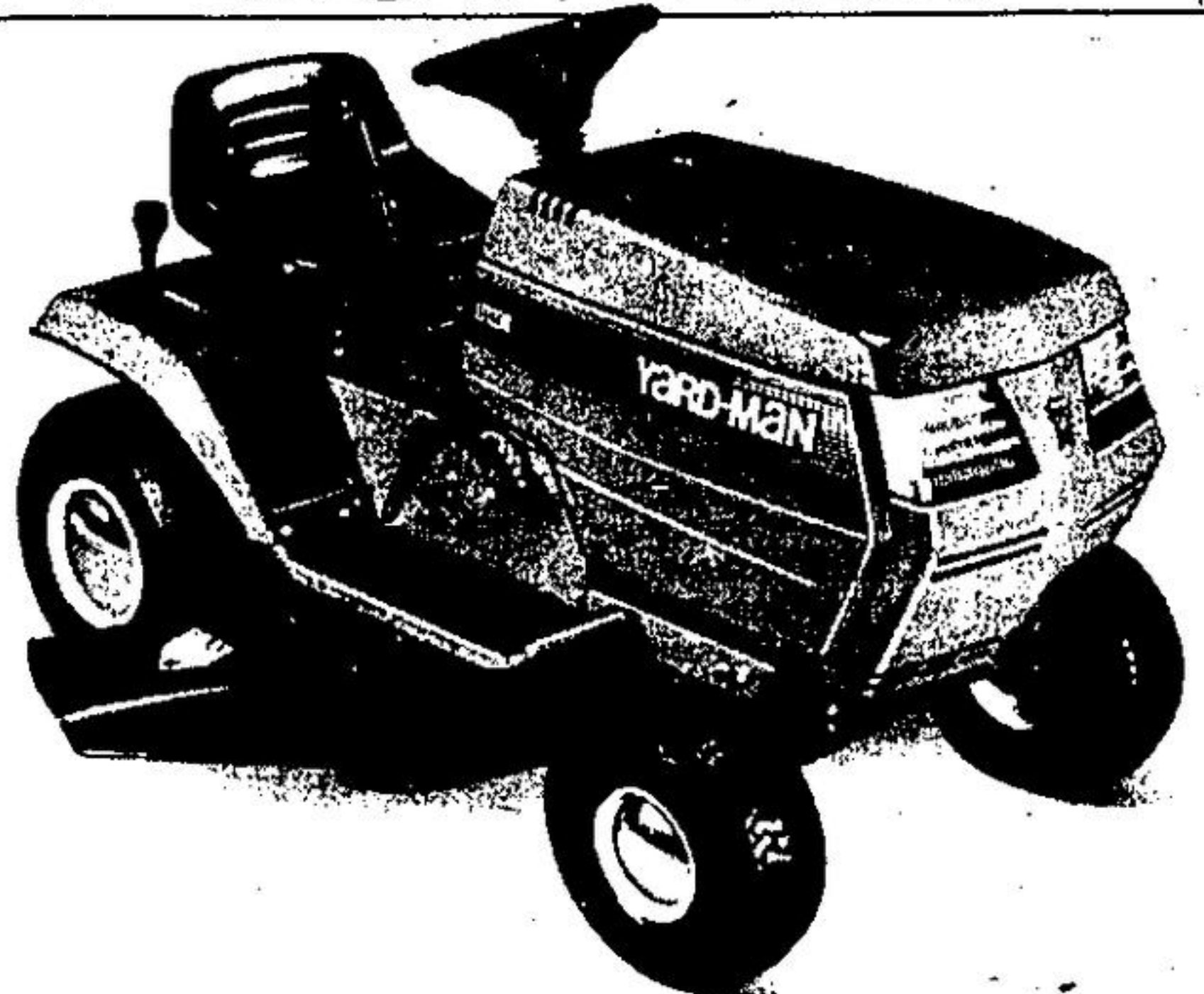
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