

All landfills will leak hearing told

All landfills leak or will leak eventually, said a Waterloo Hydrogeologist, Wilf Ruland, Wednesday during the hearing on the Niagara Escarpment Commission's proposed Amendment 52 at the Halton Hills Civic Centre.

In response to questions from Hamilton's Steeley Quarry Products Incorporated, lawyer John Tidball, about leakage from landfills, Mr. Ruland said it's his opinion leakage from a landfill is an inevitability but landfills built on a thick clay base minimize any leakage.

The Niagara Escarpment, the

majority of which is comprised of fractured bedrock, would be an undesirable place to locate a landfill, he said.

Amendment 52 calls for applicants wanting to establish a waste disposal facility on the escarpment to first obtain an amendment to the Niagara Escarpment Plan. Currently an amendment isn't always required.

The issue of leakage is important with respect to a proposed dump site being approved on the escarpment or in another area because of the substance that leaks from landfills. The

substance is called leachate, a poisonous liquid formed when rainwater percolates through waste in a dump.

Mr. Tidball also questioned Mr. Ruland on his interpretation of the province's Environment Assessment Act as it pertains to the approval of dumps.

Mr. Ruland explained that the province, in determining if a proposed landfill would be acceptable, considers that effect the landfill would have on the water running underneath the dump.

The landfill proponent must show to what extent the groundwater is a source of drinking water for area residents in the present and the future, he said.

The proponent also must show how much leachate would be expected to escape from the dump and enter the groundwater. If the amount of leachate predicted to enter the groundwater was more than the limits set by the province, a landfill would be unacceptable where proposed, said Mr. Ruland.

Mr. Tidball said that landfill

proponents can get around this criteria by buying enough land surrounding the proposed landfill site so that the contaminants in any leachate escaping from the landfill will be nullified by the time the leachate reaches groundwater beyond the land owned by the landfill proponent.

Mr. Tidball asked Mr. Ruland if the escarpment was in any way different from other lands so that this method of leachate containment could be applied to the Niagara Escarpment.

Mr. Ruland said he didn't see any difference in the Escarpment and other lands that would prevent this method from being applied.

NEC Senior Planner Marion Plaunt said during a break in the hearing that the NEC considers the escarpment lands to be special compared to other lands. That means the leachate containment method suggested by Mr. Tidball may not apply in the case of the escarpment, she said.

The hearing continues today (Friday).

Deadline April 30, 1991

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Council approves developers fees

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

Halton Hills Regional councillors Wednesday voted with the majority of Halton Regional council and approved a \$1.10 per square foot development charge fee to construct commercial and industrial buildings in Halton.

The cost to developers to build in Halton was previously 85 cents per square foot for non-residential buildings.

In voting for the \$1.10 fee, local Regional representatives, Town Mayor Russ Miller and Councillors Joe Hewitt, Rick Bonnette and Marilyn Serjeanston, helped to defeat a motion by Burlington Regional Councillor Tony Whitworth to set the fee at \$1.35 per square foot. Halton Hills Regional Coun. Pam Johnston was not present at the time of the vote.

Halton charges developers a fee for non-residential construction to help pay for services such as roads and sewage systems that need to accompany development projects.

Approval of the \$1.10 per

square foot fee means that 39 per cent of the Region's cost to pay for services accompanying any new development will be covered by developers.

The remaining 61 per cent of the cost for servicing will be collected through the general tax rate. It will cost Halton residents \$7 million over a year to cover the cost of servicing for development, according to a staff report.

If Regional council had approved the \$1.35 per square foot fee then 50 per cent of the Region's cost to pay for services accompanying development would have been covered. That would have meant development in Halton would cost taxpayers an extra \$6 million per year.

During the debate leading up to the vote on the fee increase, Coun. Bonnette said increasing the fee beyond \$1.10 would be detrimental to Acton's already depressed economy.

"Only one major industry has moved into Acton in the last three years," Coun. Bonnette said.

Mayor Russ Miller said the \$1.10 fee represented responsible action on the part of the Region.

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The Acton Lions Club is again looking for the "Citizen of the Year", someone who has given unselfishly to the Community.

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The Lions Club wants help from you in picking our most deserving citizen or group for 1990. Nominations are now being received for Acton's Citizen of the Year.

Please mail nominations with supporting resume, post-marked no later than April 30th, 1991, to: Acton Lions Club, Citizen of the Year, P.O. Box 28, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2M2.

The winner(s) of the award will be made known in May at a dinner to be held at the Acton Legion on Friday, May 24th, 1991. The public is invited to attend this special evening. Tickets are available from Lions Club members.