

Council fed up with dump issue

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

Reclamations Systems Incorporated go away.

That's the message Halton Hills Council sent to the Milton Waste Management firm which is behind the Acton dump proposal Monday. The dump is being proposed for the Acton quarry site south of Highway 25 on the Niagara Escarpment.

Councillors also expressed hope the local community would send the same message to North-Halton MPP Noel Duignan and the province's Environment Minister, Ruth Grier.

Council was responding to a recent story on RSI's application by the province's Environmental Approval Branch that indicates the proposal is ready to move on to the next step under the province's Environmental Assessment Act. The next stage is for the application to go before a hearing if Ms. Grier so decides. If the minister finds the application lacking she could require RSI to do further studies, before a hearing is held.

Town Mayor Russ Miller echoed the sentiments of all councillors when he said the minister shouldn't even consider the application. Instead, Ms. Grier should outright reject it, he stressed.

When several councillors including Acton Councillors Gerald Rennie and Rick Bonnette, asked if Council could approve a recommendation asking Ms. Grier to disregard the Environmental Assessment process and reject the application, Town Administrator-Clerk Dan Costea said the Town's lawyers oppose this action.

Councillors oppose the application just as they have since it was first proposed three years ago, because they feel a dump would contaminate Acton and Georgetown's water supply.

Council passed a watered-down version of the preferred recommendation.

The resolution stated RSI should conduct further work on its application before it goes to a hearing because Town lawyers believe RSI has not properly

followed the Environmental Assessment Act criteria.

As well, the Town hydrogeological consultants say leachate would escape from a dump in the Acton quarry. Leachate is a poisonous liquid formed when rain water percolates through waste in a dump.

According to the Environmental Approval Branch report, a dump could be built on the quarry after extensive engineering had been done on the site.

Both mayor Miller and Coun. Pam Johnston suggested the province may have a hidden agenda by letting the RSI proposal continue through the process.

The two pointed to the province's recent announcement that Halton wouldn't be a recipient of Greater Toronto garbage in the long term.

But because the province's announcement didn't highlight the short term, Mayor Miller suggested the province will approve the RSI proposal so it can be used as a GTA interim garbage dump.

Several Councillors also predicted the RSI proposal could bankrupt the Town if it isn't stopped soon. Coun. Marilyn Serjeanston said the Town has already spent \$250,000 to date just to monitor the application's progress under the Environmental Assessment Act.

She estimated it will cost the Town at least one million dollars to fight the application if it goes to a hearing.

Reform Party meeting

The Reform Party of Halton-Peel will be holding an Open House for the public, May 8, 7:30 p.m. at Cedar Springs Motel on Hwy. 7 (between Georgetown and Acton).

Some budget items disappointing: Duignan

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Mr. Duignan said he is disappointed NDP Treasurer Floyd Laughren didn't cut expenditures to run the legislative building and the government's own executive offices. As well, Mr. Duignan said he would have preferred if a three to four per cent wage increase gap had been placed on civil servants' salaries.

The federal government's recent budget capped federal civil

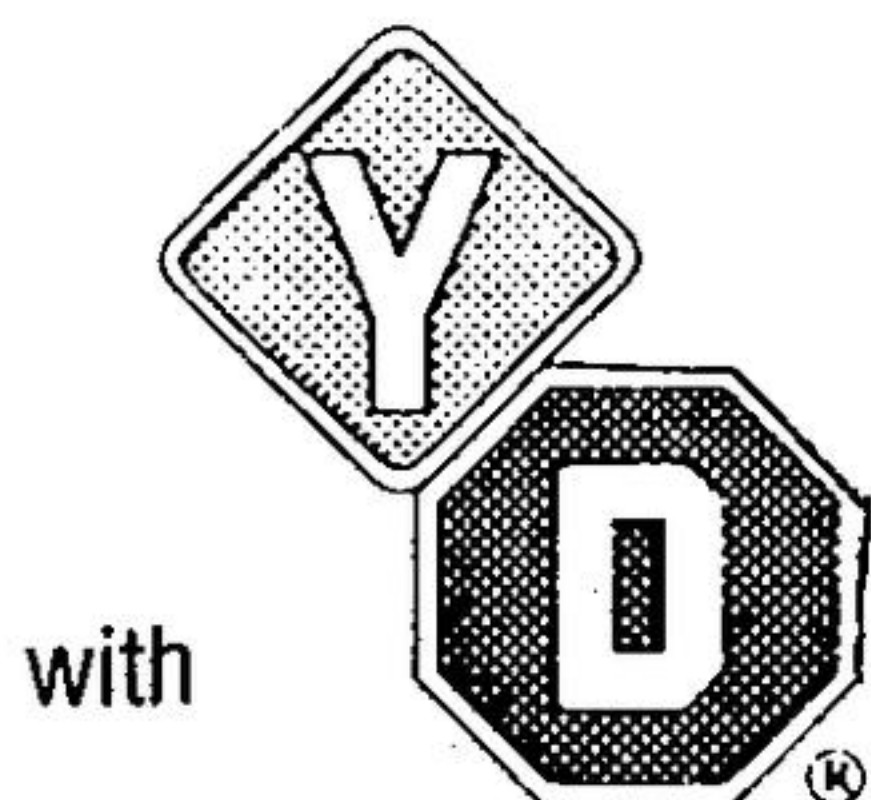
servant salaries at three per cent.

Asked by provincial civil servants weren't capped, Mr. Duignan said he didn't know.

Mr. Duignan also said he wished there had been no tax increases but since there were, he supports the increases going to gasoline, tobacco and alcohol. People can decide whether or not to purchase any of these items, said Mr. Duignan.



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Firefighters busy

Halton Hills firefighters had a busy weekend putting out car fires, garbage bin fires and grass fires.

The first call came in at 11:31 a.m. Friday morning when a fuse box caught on fire at Merlin Scientific Limited on Armstrong Avenue in Georgetown. Firefighters say the fuses overheated and caused a fire but there was no damage.

Firefighters were called by police for their next call Friday at 10:17 p.m. to extinguish a small bonfire at 8th Line south of 15 Sideroad. The fire was quickly extinguished with no damage.

Four minutes later, firefighters were called to extinguish a garbage bin fire that had been deliberately set. Again, there was no damage and the fire was quickly doused.

The same night, at 11:41 p.m., a car engine started on fire on Ewing Street in Georgetown. Firefighters say the fire may have started from a leak in the rubber gas line near the rear engine manifold. Damage to the 1987 Chevrolet Nova is estimated at \$200.

Due to unsafe conditions,

firefighters had to retreat from a party off Alexander Street in Glen Williams Saturday night. Firefighters were called to extinguish a fire that had been set in an abandoned vehicle but partygoers pelted the firemen with beer bottles so the men left the scene before extinguishing the flames. Firefighters were there for just under an hour after midnight.

Earlier that day, firefighters extinguished a grass fire on Lot 23, Concession 10 which had started after the property owner was burning evergreen cuttings. Firefighters say almost two acres went up in flames but there was no other damage.

Also on Saturday, firefighters were called to wash gas and antifreeze from the Fallbrook Trail after a single vehicle accident occurred at 4:36 p.m.

There was only one call Sunday which was to 17 Sideroad and 10th Line where firefighters were asked to be prepared to respond in case a man was trapped inside a car. Police called firefighters after learning there was a car accident but nobody was trapped in the vehicle.

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