

Community

Proposed NEC amendment unnecessary—says planner

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

A proposed Niagara Escarpment Commission Amendment to ban landfills on the escarpment is unnecessary given current provincial environmental legislation, said David Schram, a planner for the Toronto-based waste management consultant firm Procter Redfern, during a hearing at the Halton Hills Civic Centre Wednesday.

The amendment, if approved, said Mr. Schram, will add nothing to the environmental protection process, "but time and money."

If Amendment 52 is approved, applicants wanting to establish a

waste disposal facility on the escarpment would first be required to obtain an amendment to the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

Mr. Schram said the amendment is unnecessary because the province's existing Environmental Assessment Act will ensure that no landfill or other large scale waste management facility is permitted to be built if it would be harmful to the environment.

Mr. Schram bases his argument on his belief there are areas on the escarpment that are possibly suitable for industry. As proof, he pointed to the existence of quarry operated sites, presently located on the escarpment.

Mr. Schram explained the En-

vironmental Assessment Act is sufficient legislation to ensure landfills are not installed in environmentally sensitive areas because a landfill proponent is required to show a proposed landfill site won't have negative environmental, social or public health impacts, on the surrounding area.

In this sense, if Amendment 52 was approved, and a landfill proponent wanted to put a landfill on the escarpment, the proponent would have to submit the application to an Environmental Assessment and then obtain an amendment to the Niagara Escarpment Plan. That means the proponent would have to prove the ade-

quacy of a landfill for the escarpment twice, said Mr. Schram.

Under this situation, the costs would discourage landfill proponents from ever considering the escarpment as a possible location for a landfill when that location may be the one best suited for a landfill, he said.

It has always been the NEC position that the escarpment, as a

unique environmental area, should in principle never be considered as a location for landfills. Landfills contradict the Niagara Escarpment Plan because they fail to contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of the escarpment, says the NEC.

The hearing continues Friday (today) at the Halton Hills Civic Centre.

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the program was introduced to youngsters (at front) Sandy Ketis and her brother Robert Ketis. On hand to promote the program were, back row, left to right, Halton Regional Police Constable Dave Hannah, Town of Halton Hills Mayor, Russ Miller, Louis Martin, Acton Canadian Tire Store Dealer and Acton Village Constable, Bill Riddle. (Photo submitted)

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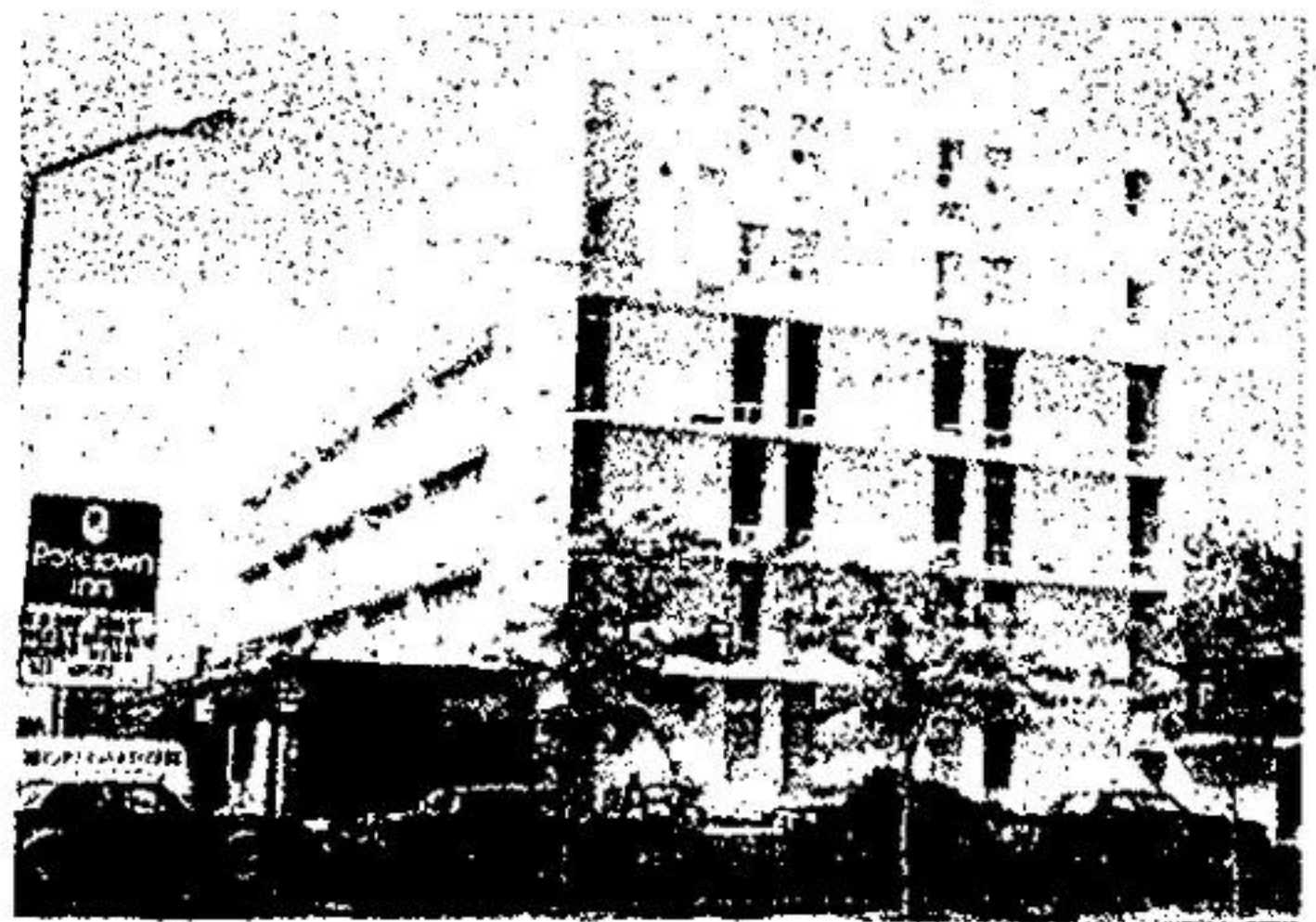


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