

Community

Planner suggests NEC shortsighted in developing amendment

By BENDUMMETT
The Herald

The Niagara Escarpment Commission was shortsighted in developing an amendment to protect the escarpment from the installation of landfills without first consulting with private com-

panies, involved in waste management, suggested planner Tom Smart during a hearing Thursday at the Halton Hills Civic Centre.

Mr. Smart, a senior planner with Mill O'Dell Planning Associates in St. Catharines told

the hearing he approached the Niagara Escarpment Commission during the development stages of Amendment 52 and said he would act on his own behalf as a liaison between the Commission and private industry to help the NEC write the amendment.

Saying the NEC rejected his offer, Mr. Smart predicted if his offer had been accepted "the result would have been a far superior amendment."

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. Smart was called as a witness by Richard Hazard the lawyer representing Reclamations Systems Incorporated. RSI is the proponent behind the Acton dump proposal.

NEC Senior Planner Marion Plaunt said, during a hearing break, Mr. Smart did make an offer to help in the drafting of the amendment but it didn't make sense to accept the offer.

"It's not normal practice to have private firms help prepare public policy especially when the public policy doesn't permit what (the private companies) want permitted," said Ms. Plaunt.

Mr. Smart said the amendment doesn't adequately address disposal facilities other than landfills.

Mr. Smart said the amendment's focus on landfills instead of on the differences between disposal facilities, unfairly groups all types of waste disposal and other waste management facilities together. In this way, if the amendment is approved, said Mr. Smart, some types of disposal facilities will unjustifiably be banned, he said.

Ms. Plaunt said the amendment bans new waste disposal sites but it allows small recycling and compost facilities to be established beside already established landfill sites.

Ms. Plaunt said if the disposal facility amounted to nothing more than a small square box, the commission would use "common sense" in determining if the amendment applied in that case.

The hearing continues tomorrow (Thursday) at the Town Civic Centre.

Health Department assigns therapist to North Halton

A reported increase in the number of Halton Hills and Milton children who are developmentally handicapped or who could potentially become mentally or physically handicapped has warranted Halton Region locating two therapists at the Regional Health Department Office on Main St. in Georgetown.

One therapist works with individuals aged two to 21 while the other helps infants from birth to two-years-old. The therapists work under the Region's Behavior Management program and the Parent Infant program respectively, said the program's coordinator, Katherine Dracup, during an interview Friday.

Although each of the programs have been offered since the 1970's, only over the past year have the number of cases from North Halton justified a therapist for each program working permanently in the North Halton area. In the past, a therapist based in Burlington would make periodic trips to North Halton, she said.

There are currently 30 children in the Behavior Management program throughout Halton and one third of this number is based in North Halton, said Ms. Dracup. There are 19 children out of a total of 62 in the Parent Infant program living in North Halton.

Ms. Dracup didn't have figures for the past years readily available but she said current numbers for North Halton represent significant increases over previous years.

She attributed the increased numbers to population growth and the fact that a number of

young families are moving into the Halton Hills and Milton area.

The Behavior Management Program works with children who are cognitively or developmentally handicapped and display behavior problems, said Ms. Dracup. Children who fall under this category include Down Syndrome or autistic children who are excessively aggressive or lack social or sexual skills, she said.

"The goal is to teach children how to become active members of the community," said Ms. Dracup. That means teaching the children how to understand traffic lights, or the importance of staying in the backyard and not playing on the road.

The therapist also works with the children's parents to teach them strategy on how to recognize and control aggression in their children, explained Ms. Dracup.

Children in the Parent Infant Program are those born mentally or physically handicapped and those who are born severely premature, she said. These children are recognized as a high risk group because they are susceptible to becoming mentally or physically handicapped, said Ms. Dracup.

The program's focus is to identify a handicap or potential handicap early and take steps to eliminate or reduce the severity of the handicap, she said.

For this reason, the therapist goes into the home and teaches parents skills necessary to improve their child's early physical and mental development, explained Ms. Dracup.



Halton Dairy Princess visits

Halton Dairy Princess Jennifer Livock described, with the help of "Clover" the cow and some milker claws, the travel of milk from "farm to table," to children at the Hornby Nursery School. Jennifer has been visiting schools across the country and is available to speak to any public interest groups. She

can be booked through Dairy Princess Co-ordinator Gwen Brander at 877-1505. Pictured above (left to right) Christy Nurse, Jennifer Will, Dairy Princess Jennifer Livock, Neil Pickett (peeking) and Christy Guenther. (Photo submitted)



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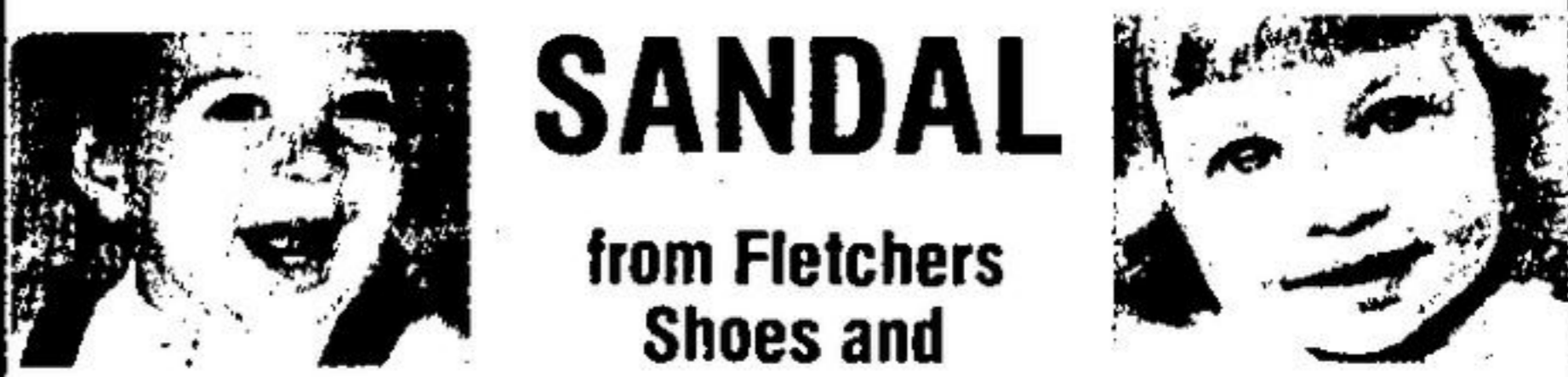
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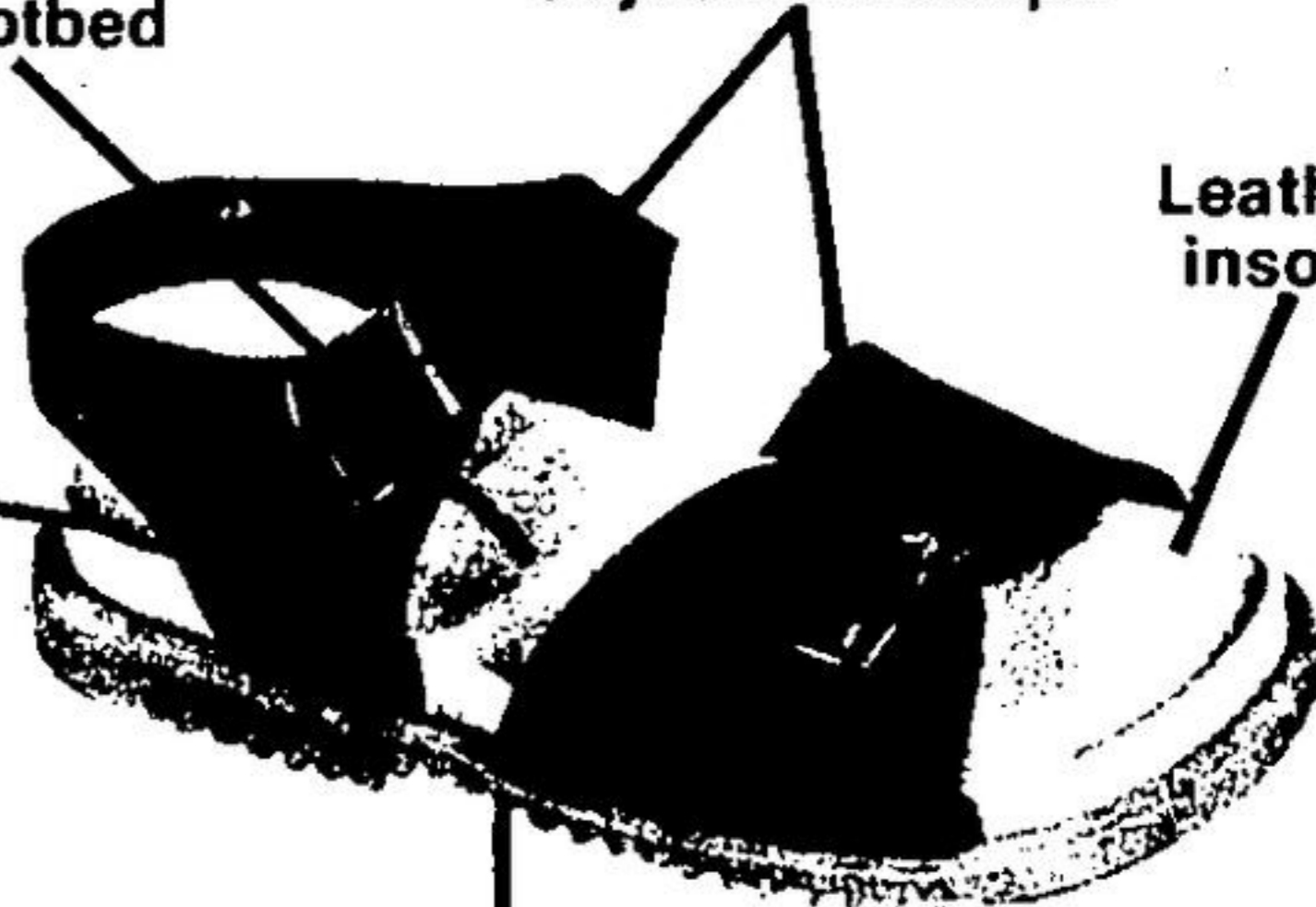
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