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Great Lakes Science Centre in the works

Halton Region Planning and Public Works Committee decided Wednesday \$50,000 should be spent in the pursuit of having a Halton-based Great Lakes Science Centre built.

The money, if given final approval at next week's Regional Council meeting, will be used by the Region to lobby the federal and provincial government's to fund the mega-project.

Halton Regional Chairman, Peter Pomeroy, who has been a driving force behind the centre's construction, told committee if Halton shows its commitment, then the federal and provincial governments will be more likely to follow suit.

Committee members agreed the project will only become a reality with substantial monies from the two other levels of government.

According to a staff report, the \$50,000 will be used to hire consultants, who will offer ongoing technical advice to the Region concerning the project.

The centre will act as a public resource and education centre focusing on the importance of the Great Lakes system and what can be done to clean it up.

Calling the project "exciting," Oakville Regional Councillor Janet Mitchell said the centre would be a great tourism attraction.

Regional government has already spent \$48,000 on a



Pete Pomeroy

feasibility study concerning the project.

The federal government funded the remaining \$52,000 cost of the feasibility study, said Halton Planner Ho Wong following the meeting.

Unlike Chairman Pomeroy and Coun. Janet Mitchell, not all committee members are as enthusiastic about Halton shelling out \$50,000 for consultants.

Halton Hills Regional, Coun. Joe Hewitt said he couldn't support the \$50,000 allocation until the federal and provincial governments had given assurances they would provide more money.

The councillor expressed concern the Region would end up funding the project alone.

Garbage crisis is ongoing

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

The province's strategy on how to solve the Greater Toronto Area, (GTA) garbage crisis shows politicians "running the show are short on knowledge," said Oakville Regional Councillor Janet Mitchell Wednesday.

Coun. Mitchell made her comments when the province's waste management strategy was presented to the Regional Planning and Public Works Committee.

The strategy calls for the following: an acceleration of waste reduction and diversion programs; accelerating the search for long-term landfills; and emergency expansion of Peel's Britannia Road and Metropolitan Toronto's Keele Valley landfill sites.

"The provincial report is short on action and long on monitoring," said Coun. Mitchell.

The councillor expressed concerns the province will force individual municipalities to deal with the garbage situation because of the report's emphasis on the provincial monitoring of the garbage situation in the GTA. She went on to predict not only will the province force municipalities to solve the garbage crisis, it won't provide them with any financial assistance.

Art Leitch of Halton Region Public Works Commission agreed with Coun. Mitchell, saying the report lacks specifics, and "that's what we (the Region) are waiting for."

Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy said the report offers no solution on how GTA municipalities are to reduce their respective wastestreams by 25 per cent in 1996 and 50 per cent by the year 2000, both provincially mandated goals.

He predicted the 50 per cent goal will be almost impossible to reach for Halton or any other GTA municipality.

Acknowledging the unlikely of the 50 per cent goal being attained by the end of the decade, Halton Hills Regional Coun. Joe Hewitt wanted to know the chance of Halton's landfill in Milton being used by other municipalities.

Mr. Leitch said, the province has indicated Halton's dump, which is scheduled to open in November, 1992, will only be used for Halton-generated garbage.

An Inside Look

Police Beat.....	2
Features.....	3 & 11
Legion Lines.....	4
Region Briefs.....	5
Environment.....	6
Religion.....	8
Steamer Emerson.....	9
Editorial.....	10
Poet's Corner.....	10
Rayside.....	10
Weir's World.....	10
Peoples Forum.....	10
Carlo Testa.....	11
Community Focus.....	12
Sports.....	13-15
Entertainment.....	16
Youth Page.....	17
Classified.....	18-20
Classified.....	22-23
Hotline.....	21



Engulfed in flames

Halton Hills firefighters wait for the hoses to be hooked up to water while they watch as flames, a couple of metres long, shoot out from the windows of this century-old brick home Tuesday afternoon on Concession 6 in Erin Township, just three lots past the Erin-Halton Town Line. The home was recently purchased by ReMax Real Estate representative Mike Adams of Georgetown who said he had almost completed renovating the home. Mr. Adams, his wife and two children had planned to move into the

home Aug. 9 since his present home in Georgetown has been sold. The renovated home was empty of furnishings and people when the blaze started. Halton Hills firefighters could do little to save the house which was engulfed in flames when they arrived after passing motorists saw smoke and called the fire department. They estimate damage at \$150,000 and are unsure what caused the fire. Hillsburgh firefighters are investigating. (Herald photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)

Recent rain welcomed by farmers

The rain that fell on Halton Hills and the rest of the Region last weekend was "timely" for area farmers, said Mark Janiec, Soil and Crop Supervisor with the province's Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Halton Branch, during an interview Tuesday.

If the rain hadn't fallen and dry weather had continued uninterrupted for another two to three weeks, then area farmers' crops would have been harmed, he explained.

As it is, the hot weather combined with timely rainfalls has meant crops are growing ahead of schedule, said Mr. Janiec.

Under normal circumstances the corn crop, for example, is at waist-level height at this time of the summer. But this year it is already at shoulder height, he pointed out.

According to Mr. Janiec, there are approximately 700 farmers in Halton Region of which 200 depend solely on farming for their livelihood. The major crops grown in Halton include corn, soybeans, spring grains, such as oats and barley, hay and alfalfa.

Mr. Janiec said there has only been a half to two-thirds the amount of rainfall this year compared to last year. However, soil in the area has been able to retain moisture very well, he said.

If there is a crop that may suffer from the relatively dry weather, then it is the second cutting of hay. The hot weather has meant very little hay has grown between the first cut, which happened during the first week of June, said Mr. Janiec. That means there won't be much hay to cut come the second cut which is scheduled for mid-July, explained Mr. Janiec.

Georgetown based farmer Kenda Nurse said Mr. Janiec's assessment of the situation is "right on target."

She predicted the second cut of hay on her farm will be a lot less than under normal circumstances.

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