

Ontario waste diversion plan is questioned

By BENDUMMETT
The Herald

Despite the success of Halton's blue box program and those throughout the province, it may not have been the best method to spearhead waste diversion in Ontario.

"There is a growing realization that we started at the wrong end of waste diversion (in the promotion of the blue box program), says Art Leitch, Halton Region's Public Works Commissioner.

He points out the Region's blue box program diverts approximately five per cent of the total waste stream at a yearly net of approximately \$2.5 million to administer.

Given all the money and energy that has gone into the blue box program in relation to the relatively small amount of waste diverted from the waste stream, it may have been wiser to implement waste reduction and reuse programs over the blue box program in the beginning, explained Mr. Leitch.

The commissioner's explanation carries more weight knowing environmentalists say in order of importance, the 3Rs are reduce then reuse and finally recycle.

Mr. Leitch, however, is quick to point out the blue box program has been very beneficial towards diverting potential garbage from the waste stream.

"Notwithstanding the concerns of the blue box program, there have been good things with it primarily in educating the general populace that we (the province) have a waste disposal problem," said Mr. Leitch.

"The program has allowed people to participate in the solution every time they use their blue

box," he explained. There is an 85 to 90 per cent participation rate when a blue box program is started, which has been "invaluable" to solving the garbage problem. So much so, Mr. Leitch said, the overwhelming support for the program outweighs its faults.

Mr. Leitch said if the program could be started over again, he would have collected organic and garden waste instead of newspaper, cans and glass.

It's organic and garden waste that is dangerous in landfill, not glass, newspaper and cans, he said. Organic material (vegetable scraps) and garden waste rot in a landfill, turning into leachate - a poisonous liquid formed when rainwater percolates through a landfill.

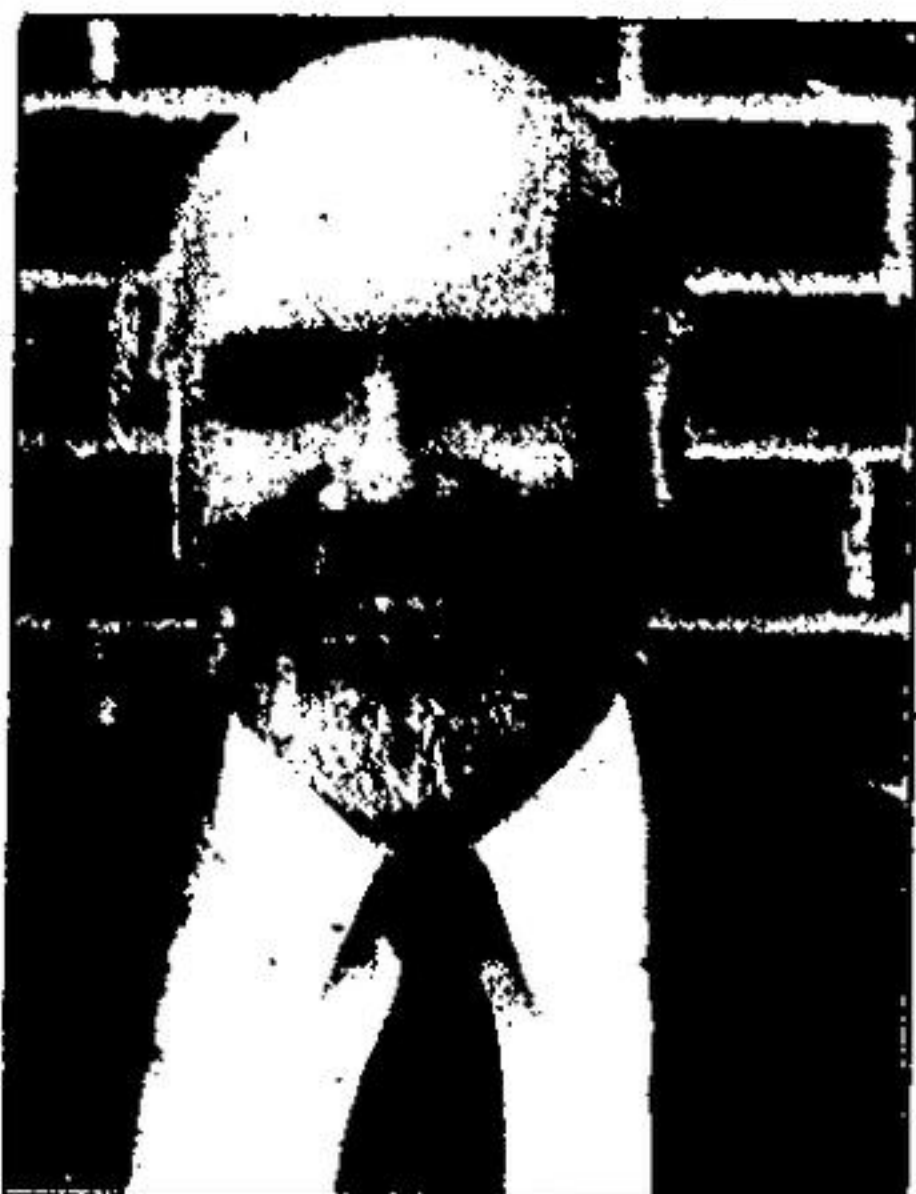
"Glass just sits there (in the landfill)," explained Mr. Leitch.

Organic and garden waste is diverted from the waste stream through composters, which convert the material into fertilizer.

The composter program in Halton is in its infancy stages, agreed Mr. Leitch, but he said he wants it to be fully implemented throughout the Region by November, 1992. The program is necessary so that the organic and garden waste doesn't end up in Halton's new landfill in Milton, scheduled to open by November, 1992.

Looking into the future, the Region will also need to implement effective waste reduction programs, said Mr. Leitch.

According to the commissioner, there are three different types of programs from which to choose and it will ultimately be up to the general public through their political representatives, to



Art Leitch

decide, which if any, will be acceptable.

The Region can either introduce education programs promoting waste reduction, pass municipal legislation limiting the amount of garbage people can put out for pick-up each week, or charge people for every bag of garbage they want collected.

The public isn't likely to balk at public education programs being implemented but there is a good chance they could voice opposition to either of the other two options, he predicted.

Asked if either of these two methods will be implemented, Mr. Leitch said he didn't have the answer; it will be a political decision.

Halton Hills Engineer Ted Drewlow doesn't agree legisla-

tion or a user pay fee system is the way to go to promote waste reduction.

The user pay system of legislation is just another way of promoting deception. People will just find other ways to get rid of their garbage other than putting it on their curbside for pickup. He suggested if people are only permitted to put out a maximum number of garbage bags for collection then they would end up putting their extra bags on someone's else's curbside.

Public education is the most effective way to promote waste reduction because it teaches people about the environment instead of how to get rid of garbage at the expense of someone else, he explained.

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Ballinafad News

Annual corn roast

By BETTY SOJKA

It is time to plan to keep Saturday, September 7th free. Time just flies between one September and the next, and then it is time again for the Annual Corn Roast Dance. Scrumptious fresh corn and hotdogs will be served. A D.J. will supply the tunes, starting at 9:00 p.m.

The first ever Shortill family reunion was held in Ballinafad on Saturday, August 17th. As well as locally, relatives came as far from Florida, Texas, British Columbia, Manitoba, Thunder Bay, Ottawa, Kitchener, Burlington, Toronto, Cookstown, and Harriston. All in all there was about 85 people in attendance. Hubert Shortill as the oldest member there, spoke eloquently of the family history. M.C.'s for the afternoon program were Mary Jane McIntyre of Winnipeg and

Elizabeth Heath of Texas. Family members learned how their ancestors arrived in Canada from Ireland in the 1830's, then later eventually settling in the Ballinafad area.

Hearts were beating fast at last week's Jim Dandies game, when the Hillsburg Panthers were steadfast in their lead against the ladies. It looked sure a sure loss for the home team. With a few well placed hits, the Dandies surged ahead. What really made the win was Marion Lumbers pitching. She left batters just standing there, unable to connect with the balls coming at such hurtling speeds! With Marion closing up the defensive lines, just a few hits were needed to take the win. The Jim Dandies play twice this week with a game in Acton on Wednesday, and then returning to Ballinafad on Thursday.

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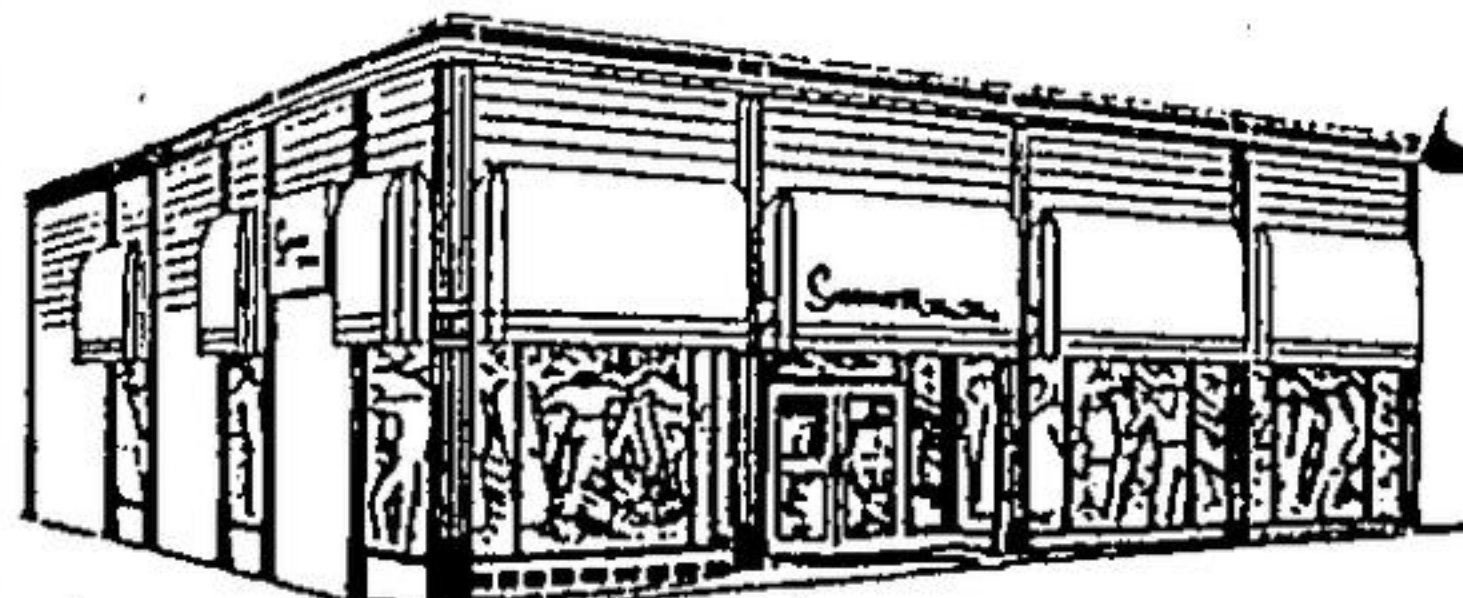
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