

Continued waste of food will eat up resources

By BARBARA HALSALL
Immoral Waste

Is 9 per cent, by weight, of our residential garbage edible food?

Instead of digging up ancient civilizations, Bill Rathje, a professor of anthropology at the University of Arizona, began in 1973 to examine fresh trash in his Garbage Project. He and his team have since moved on to excavating landfills across the U.S.

He finds that Americans are throwing out 9 per cent by weight of edible food. In an article in the May 1991 issue of the National Geographic, Prof. Rathje compares the present American situation to the Classic period of the ancient Maya civilization which he describes as a period of profligate waste. This was followed by a period of decline.

"The Maya woke up and discovered resources were in



short supply, and they became very efficient very fast - they recycled, and reused. But it was too late."

He sees the Americans as still throwing out tremendous amounts of resources on a daily basis. He feels that if they became efficient now that their way of life could be sustained for a much longer time.

But, are Canadians throwing out that much edible food? We are about to find out. Halton Region has voted to fund some of

Prof. Rathje's digging that will take place in Ontario, hoping to learn more about our waste stream and how we can better deal with it.

We all dutifully save leftovers - but do we eat them?

The comedian, George Carlin has a comment on leftovers that goes something like this: "When you first put leftovers in the fridge, you feel really intelligent. 'I'm saving food.' After a month when hair is growing out of them and you throw them away, you

feel really intelligent. 'I'm saving my life.'"

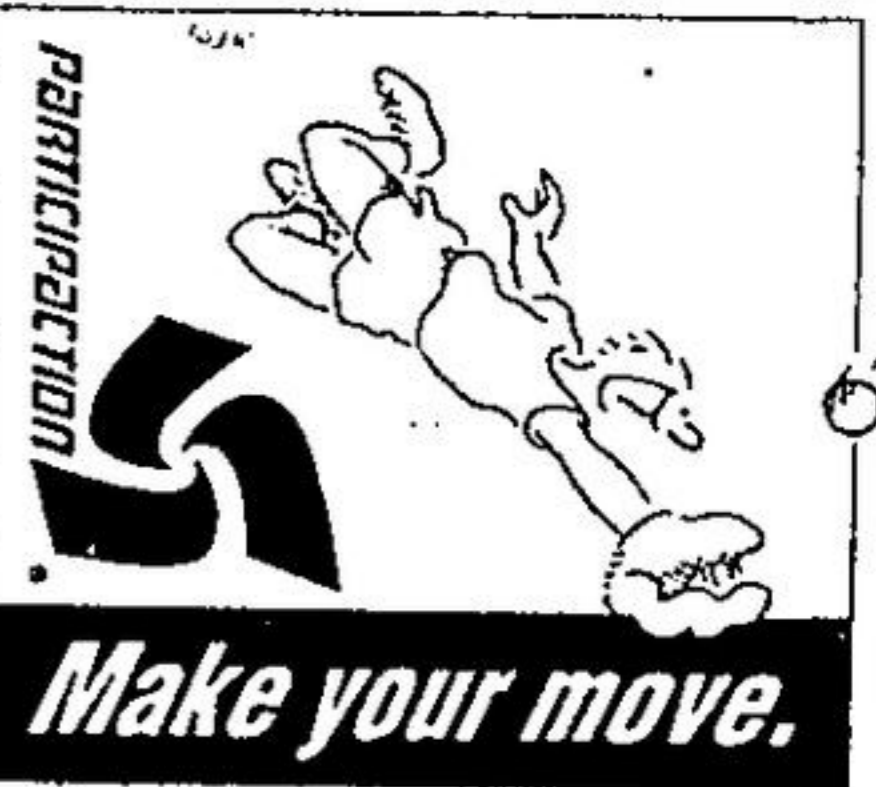
If we threw out less edible food, we would save money and more important, we would save the resources needed to produce and package that food. As well, we would save space in landfills and in our composters.

One problem is knowing how to use up the bits and pieces that accumulate in the fridge. I will share one thing that has worked well at our house. I hope some of you reading this will pass on your best ideas so that I can share them in future columns.

If you have leftover spaghetti sauce, add some chili powder as you put it away. For a tasty lunch or snack, split leftover hamburger buns and spread a couple of spoonfuls on half a bun. Heat under the broiler until steam comes out. Remove and add

grated cheese. Voila! Leftover spaghetti sauce and hamburger buns are eaten up with people looking for more.

Let's learn from history. We still have time to change our habits. This is not something that we must wait for the government to act on, food waste is happening in your kitchen today. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



No signs of Loosestrife

Purple Loosestrife, more commonly known as the "monster plant" among wetland biologists, hasn't invaded inspected banks of the Credit River in Halton Hills.

Credit Valley Conservation Authority Biologist Bob Morris and Town councillor Marilyn Serjeanston walked the river in Cedarvale Park, parts of Silver Creek and in Hungry Hollow Wednesday, and saw no Purple Loosestrife.

"I was happy we didn't find any," said Coun. Serjeanston following the walk.

The plant displaces the natural vegetation found in wetlands that provide food, shelter and habitat for marsh wildlife.

Mr. Morris said he only witnessed spotty signs of loosestrife on wetland areas at the Ninth Line and Sideroad 5.

It's important to take periodic inventory of areas where the plant could flourish in order to prevent any such happening, explained Mr. Morris.

Once the plant becomes established in an area it's almost impossible to destroy it, he said.

Harvest celebration

Celebrate Ontario's bountiful harvest at the Ontario Agricultural Museum. As part of the annual Harvest Festival, the museum will be hosting a Farmers' Market on Sunday, September 8, 1991 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Local producers will offer visitors the opportunity to purchase a wide variety of homegrown produce including vegetables, apples, honey and preserves. In addition, several Commodity Boards and Associations will be on hand to provide information regarding Ontario-grown food.

This year's Harvest Festival and Farmers' Market features a country fresh bake table, a heavy-horse ploughing match, farming and domestic activities performed by costumed interpreters.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to meet local artist Karl Barnhart, whose work focuses on children. A variety of his prints will be on display and available for purchase.

Explore over 30 buildings and displays throughout the museum's 32-hectare site. Tractor-drawn wagon rides, picnic and catering facilities, and a gift shop featuring Canadian souvenirs are available.

To reach the museum, located just west of Milton, take Highway 401 to exit 320 or 312 north and follow the signs. Come enjoy a day in the country this fall and take part in the bountiful event on Sunday, September 8.

WORK WITH US TO SITE A NEW LANDFILL

The Interim Waste Authority Ltd. (IWA), an agency of the provincial government, has been formed to undertake three concurrent site searches in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA): one in Peel Region, one for Metro/York Regions, and one in Durham Region. Public open houses were recently conducted in each region to inform these communities about the search for new landfill sites.

Now is the time for you to work with the IWA, to assess what issues are important to your community, and to incorporate your concerns and criteria into the selection of the optimum landfill site for Peel Region. To reach these goals, public workshops have been planned in your area.

In order to receive vital background information prior to the workshops listed below, please pre-register. Return the coupon below or call the toll free number indicated.

Workshops

1. Tuesday, September 17
6:30-9:45 PM
2. Thursday, September 19
6:30-9:45 PM
3. Saturday, September 21
8:45 AM - 3:45 PM

Yes, I want to participate in finding a new landfill site!

- I would like to register for the following workshop(s):
1 2 3
- I would like more information
- Put my name on your mailing list
- I would like to correspond with you in French
English

Pour renseignements en français, composer 1-800-361-5448

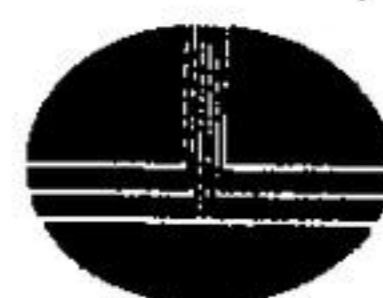
Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Telephone _____

Complete and mail coupon to:

Mr. Robert Sculthorpe
Peel Landfill Site Search
Public Information Office
720 Bathurst Street, Suite 403
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2R4
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