

the HERALD

THE VOICE OF HALTON HILLS SINCE 1866

125th YEAR - NO. 80 - 52 PAGES

SINGLE COPY 23¢+2¢ GST - 25¢

HALTON HILLS, ONTARIO - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27th, 1991

Landfill ban a step closer

By BEN DUMMETT

The Herald

A Niagara Escarpment Commission proposal banning landfills from being located on the escarpment has moved one step closer to receiving final approval.

NEC Commissioners learned Thursday a provincial Hearing Officer has come out in support of the proposal known as Amendment 52.

Not surprisingly, the Commission voted to endorse the Hearing Officer's report.

The report's findings are based on several days of hearings during which the amendment's supporters and opponents presented their respective positions.

According to the Hearing Officer's report, "evidence heard during the hearing seriously questions the suitability of Escarpment lands." The Hearing Officer goes on to report, "the weight of this evidence was that despite careful engineering in the preparation and management of sites, these Escarpment lands are generally unsuited for the siting of landfills, due chiefly to the uncertainties for satisfactory containment of contaminants."

The final decision on whether Amendment 52 is approved, lies with the Province based on a recommendation for, or against the amendment by Ontario Environment Minister Ruth Grier.

Contacted Friday, NEC Senior Planner Marion Plaunt wouldn't predict what Ms. Grier's recommendation will be.

However she did say, when both the NEC and the Hearing Officer have been in agreement regarding other amendments, the Environment Minister and Cabinet

have never rejected the amendment.

Ms. Plaunt added she had no idea when Cabinet would make a final decision on the amendment.

The amendment, if approved, would require companies wanting to establish a landfill on the Escarpment to first attain an amendment to the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

Currently this type of amendment isn't required under the Niagara Escarpment Plan with respect to certain areas on the Escarpment.

After learning of the Hearing Officer's support for Amendment 52, a confident Barbara Halsall, President of local environmental group Protect Our Water Environmental Resources, (POWER), said she expects Cabinet to approve the amendment.

Ms. Halsall describes opposition to the amendment as a "no-brainer."

Asked to explain the term, Ms. Halsall said it makes no sense to use a protected natural area for a place to dump garbage.

"Logic prevailed," added Ms. Halsall.

Acknowledging POWER spent approximately \$20,000 in legal fees during the public hearing on Amendment 52, Ms. Halsall said the approval process has been very cumbersome.

However, Ms. Halsall said if the amendment is finally approved, the fight will have been worth the effort.

Amendment 52 will force landfill companies to think again before they consider challenging the NEC to establish a dump on the Escarpment, Ms. Halsall predicted.



A special award

At Monday's Halton Hills Town Council meeting Joanne Bodnar, the Town's Recreation and Parks Supervisor of Aquatics and Special Events, was recognized by the Royal Life-Saving Society of Canada for the volunteer work she does in the

promotion of water safety. Pictured above (left to right) are Ms. Bodnar, Town Mayor Russ Miller, and Susan Glover-Takahashi, President of the Royal Life-Saving Society of Canada. (Herald Photo)

Pomeroy to remain?

Being a Norval resident and a past Halton Hills Mayor, it seems fitting Halton Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy publicly announced Monday at a local Council meeting he will be seeking re-election to the chairman's position.

The Regional Chairman will be elected Dec. 4 during the Halton Regional Council inaugural meeting, kicking off the new three-year political term.

The chairman is elected by Regional Council members.

Joking that Town Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson had previously commented on his indecisiveness, Mr. Pomeroy said he hopes to be elected to work with Regional Council for the next three years.



Pete Pomeroy

Young female assaulted

A Georgetown girl, who police say has been frequently harassed by a group of girls, was knocked unconscious by female assailants last Wednesday.

Halton Regional Police investigators say the victim is a student at Georgetown District High School and had been having problems at school with a group of girls.

On the day she was assaulted, the girls verbally assaulted her at school and on the school bus.

When the victim departed the bus, she was surrounded by four girls who kicked her in the legs and pushed her around.

Then, some of the girls started striking her in the head with a school bag. Police say the victim attempted to shield her head with her arms but one of the female suspects held back the victim's arms while another continually struck the vic-

tim in the head with the bag. The victim was knocked unconscious and was taken to hospital by an unknown adult.

Police are continuing their investigation.

Halton Hills Hydro purchase

Halton Hills Hydro Commission decided Friday to purchase the power transformer located on the Beardmore property in Acton for \$35,000.

The substation and the property on which it is located is owned by Toronto-based Maple Leaf Foods Inc.

Gerry Trudell, Halton Hills Hydro Commission General Manager, reminded the commissioners the utility had budgeted a maximum of \$40,000 to purchase this substation.

Following the meeting, Mr.

Trudell said the substation is required to meet expected increases in demand for power in the Acton area over the next five years.

The purchase is on condition that current testing at the substation location proves the site is free of any PCB contamination.

Mr. Trudell said testing has been completed, however, the results have yet to be released.

As part of the purchase deal, the commission will lease the actual piece of property on which the substation sits from Maple Leaf Foods at a cost of \$1 per year.

Mr. Trudell explained the property is to be converted into a road if and when Maple Leaf Foods receives Town approval to build a residential subdivision on the Beardmore lands.

If the company does receive approval, then the commission will be required to relocate the substation to another site on the Beardmore property.

The commission would be given the new piece of property free of charge. However, the company would designate the new substation location, said Mr. Trudell.

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