

## Council decision on EFW issue ignites environment group's flame

By BEN DUMMETT  
The Herald

Local environmental group Incineration Counteracts the Environment (ICE) is back.

Contacted Monday ICE spokesperson Rita Landry said the group has been forced to re-enter the public forum because of a recent decision by Halton Hills Council endorsing a City of Toronto plan to establish a task force to consider the merits of Energy From Waste (EFW) as a way of dealing with garbage.

Town Council supports Toronto's idea because the Greater Toronto Area is facing a garbage crisis, and as a result, alternative disposal options must be found.

ICE members had thought their fight in opposing EFW had come to an end last April when the province issued a policy statement banning new municipal solid waste incinerators.

"Don't councillors listen to the provincial government?," asked Ms. Landry rhetorically.

An EFW plant burns waste and converts it into energy.

ICE members have always contended the toxins produced from an EFW plant are harmful to the environment.

Ms. Landry warned Town Council that it better think twice about supporting EFW unless it wants to face the possibility of a plant being plunked down beside its 'Taj Mahal', (Civic Centre).

Ms. Landry said the group plans to appear before Council relatively soon to request it overturn its previous decision endorsing Toronto's idea.

Before making an appearance before Town Council, the group will distribute a package to councillors including a video highlighting examples that show, contrary to popular belief, the European ex-

perience with incineration has been less than a rousing success.

To further the group's cause, Ms. Landry plans to send a letter she received from the Ontario Ministry of Environment to the four Halton Hills Regional councillors indicating the Region isn't obligated to establish an EFW plant by the year 2000.

As part of its gaining provincial approval to establish a landfill site in Milton, Halton Region was told it also had to establish an EFW plant within the next eight years.

Halton Regional Council has directed its legal department to determine if the Region must still abide by the EFW requirement in light of the province's policy banning the establishment of future municipal solid waste incinerators.

That report is expected to go before Regional Council early in the new year.

According to the MOE letter sent to Ms. Landry, a copy of which was obtained by the Herald, Linda Pim, MOE Special Assistant, writes, "I have consulted with legal counsel in our Ministry, who advise me that condition 2 does not actually require the construction of an Energy From Waste incinerator. The Regional Municipality of Halton .... would satisfy the 'reasonable efforts' criterion by virtue of the fact that the provincial government has issued a policy prohibiting the construction of the type of facility envisioned in condition 2."

Halton Public Works Commissioner Art Leitch, an EFW supporter, said Monday the province's decision to ban EFW has been based on political expediency and not on technical data.

"I can't think of another place in the world that has a similar policy in place," said Mr. Leitch.

EFW technology has proven to be safe in Europe, the United States and Japan, he said.

"If the province has some technical information showing EFW is harmful that the rest of the world doesn't have, I'm not aware of it," said Mr. Leitch.

## P.O.W.E.R. meeting

Those interested in the environment should take note that tonight (Wednesday) local environment group Protect Our Water Environmental Resources, (POWER) is hosting its annual general meeting at Georgetown District High School starting at 8:30 pm.

Lois Gibbs, the driving force behind the closure of Love Canal - a chemical dumping ground in Niagara Falls, New York, - will be the guest speaker.



### Bonnie's boutique

Bonnie Calhoun of Georgetown stands amidst the collectibles and gifts in her new store, called 'Montgomery's of Georgetown' features. Montgomery's officially opened Sunday amidst a throng of perusing shoppers enchanted with the crystal, figurines, antiques and collectibles on sale in the gift shop located at 98 Mill St. in Georgetown. (Herald Photo)



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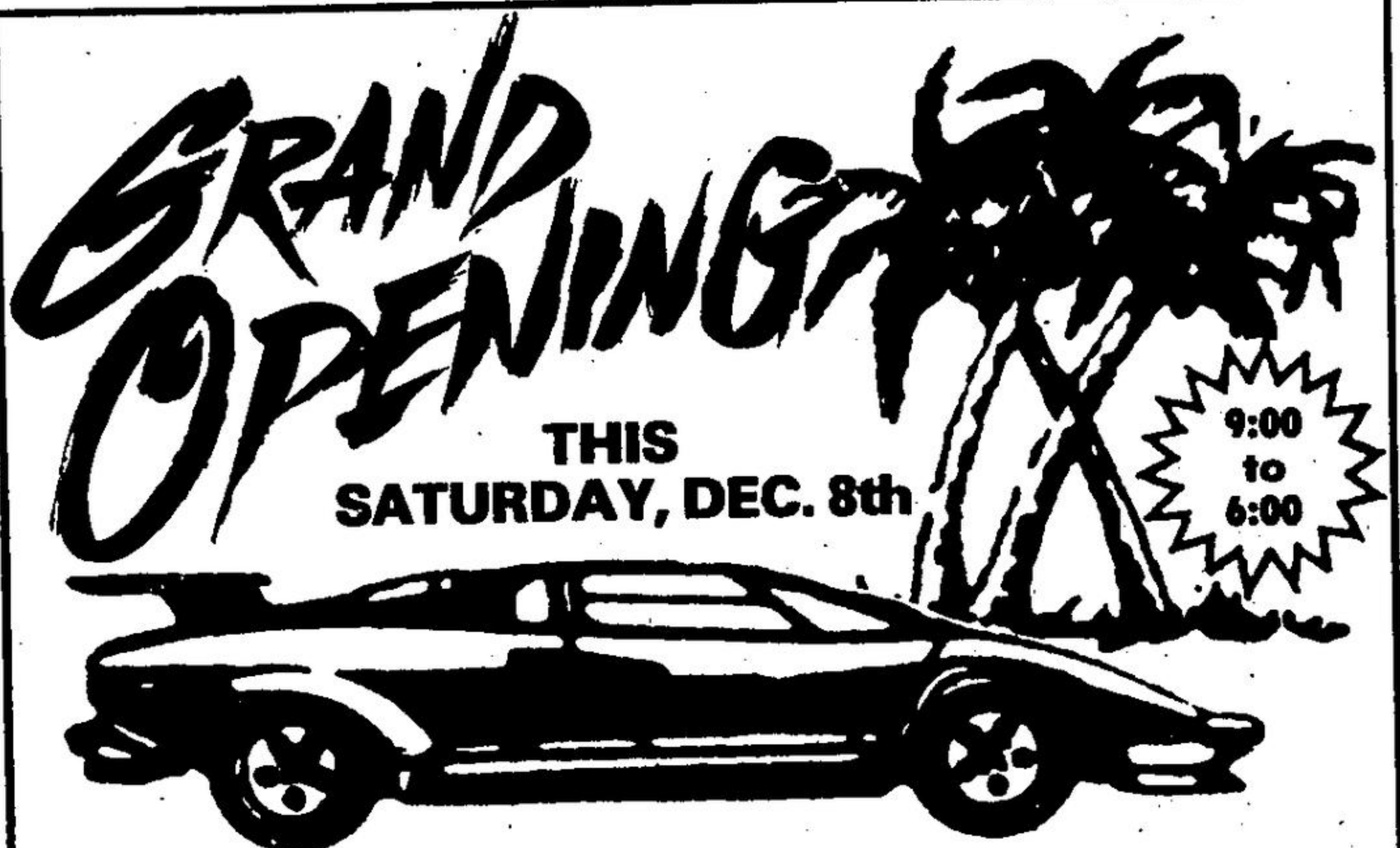
"I like shopping in Halton Hills because we don't have gigantic lineups. The small shops usually have low prices and the fact of knowing the people that work there, lets me enjoy shopping more".

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