

Georgetown residents get the big boot from legislature

By PAULINE JOHNSON
Thomson News Service
TORONTO - Demonstrators waving black flags stood in the Ontario Legislature Wednesday shouting that the government had lied to them over allowing garbage dumps on the Niagara Escarpment.

Three members of the group Furiously Opposed to Acton Dumping were ejected from the building for their outburst during Question Period.

Security guards told them that attempts to re-enter the premises would result in trespass charges. Photographs of the three were also taken by security personnel.

FOAD member, Debbie Van De Valk of Georgetown, told reporters they staged the demonstration because they are ticked off the government has flip-flopped on its opposition to a proposal to put garbage in a quarry on the escarpment at Acton.

"We're infuriated because, number one, it's just a dumb idea to put garbage in a limestone quarry and, number two, this is a UNESCO-designated Biosphere Reserve along the lines of the Gallipagos Islands," she said.

"It's an insane proposal. This government in opposition only knew too well what an insane idea it was, and yet now they're telling us there's a process," to be followed by allowing an environmental assessment into the proposal by Reclamation Systems Inc., she said. "What happened to a common sense?" Van De Valk asked, saying it will cost taxpayers millions of dollars to hold the hearing.

"This government has absolutely zero money to be throwing around. Let's save all of the time and let's save the money that they're going to spend on lawyers and consultants. It's not necessary, this is a dumb idea," Van De Valk said.

Furthermore, she said, the government is sending out con-

tradictory messages on the transportation of garbage.

It won't allow garbage from the Greater Toronto Area to be shipped outside, such as to Kirkland Lake, yet it appears willing to let RSI ship garbage from anywhere in the province to Halton Region.

RSI has applied for a garbage to ship garbage anywhere in Ontario. The proposal has been submitted to the government for comment by ministries with an interest. It is now in a 60-day period for public comment and could likely go before a hearing during a hearing during 1992.

Environment Minister Ruth Grier said she has not changed her personal position that garbage dumps on the escarpment are not a good idea.

"As a general principle I don't think the Niagara Escarpment is a good place for a landfill site."

But she said "One has general opinions about all sorts of things. One has, as a minister, the responsibility to administer legislation and make sure that those decisions are made in an environmental a way as possible and in a way with as much integrity as possible, and that involves both sides putting their opinions before a legally constituted environmental assessment board," Grier said.

"As I said to this group on umpteenth occasions, if the shoe was on the other foot, they wouldn't want a minister, any kind of minister, acting in that kind of an arbitrary way" of stopping a hearing, she said.



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Along with presents, presents, presents - Santa Claus also took some time to deliver Georgetown residents Lorraine and Welburn Marchment (left) their mail last Friday. (Herald Photo)

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