

# Public gets chance Monday to let views be known on 'landfills on Escarpment'

By JANET BAINE

A senior planner with the Niagara Escarpment Commission said Reclamation Systems Inc. (RSI) is trying to fight its battle in the wrong place.

Marion Plaunt was questioned all day Wednesday by RSI lawyer, Robert Hassard, at a hearing which could see landfilling banned from the Niagara Escarpment.

The hearing focussed on Amendment 52 to the Niagara Escarpment Act. This amendment initiated by a local man, John Minns, in February 1989 on behalf of POWER and two other environmental groups, requested the NEC Act be amended to "prohibit waste disposal within the Plan area." RSI wants to turn the Acton quarry into a landfill site and is fighting the proposed amendment.

"He (Hassard) seems to be trying to fight RSI's battle in a forum that is not appropriate," Plaunt said. "He's trying to fight the battle in two courts and the real battle is in another court. He has to go through the Environmental Assessment process in any event."

So far, Plaunt said, RSI has refused to acknowledge this will be necessary.

Two other lawyers in the case thought Hassard hadn't accomplished much during his day of cross-examining Plaunt, a witness who was called in February to support the amendment.

"Marion is a very good planner and I think she really knows her material," Robert Radcliffe, the lawyer representing the NEC said. "I don't feel his cross examination changed any of the evidence she has already presented."

"I thought that the cross-examination didn't really make much headway. It didn't alter in any way the case she's already presented,"

Peter Pickfield, who represents three environmental groups, including POWER, said.

But Hassard said he thought the hearing was proceeding well and a "better amendment is evolving." He said he had been ill for the past couple of days, and still hadn't recovered. He spent most of the day asking Plaunt questions about documentation to show how the Niagara Escarpment Act reached its

present form.

The hearing will continue Monday, when the public will have a chance to tell hearing officer John Duncanson their views between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Radcliffe said people who want to appear should try to come early.

There are a total of nine hearing dates in April and another two in May should bring the hearing to a conclusion.

## Old landfill may create delays

Concerns about yet another former landfill site in Georgetown have surfaced over the proposed reconstruction plans for Maple Ave.

According to Manager of Engineering Services Peter Linn, three Georgetown residents have expressed their concerns in writing that the project is environmentally unsound because of its proximity to the landfill.

"The concerns raised related to the former landfill site east of the (Maple Ave.) extension, that there was possible impact from leachate," Linn told councillors. "There is concern that the site had not been officially closed, whatever that may mean. Other concerns relate to storm water being possibly discharged directly into the Credit River."

"If there was a bump-up request (for full environmental assessment), then the chances of meeting our (work) schedule is non-existent."

Councillor Joe Hewitt received confirmation from Linn that his department has followed "strict guidelines, over and above the required process" for the road

project. He expressed his "frustration" over his view that residents continually object "to every project in town."

"It gets rather frustrating that everyone out there is an armchair quarterback on all our processes," he said. "It's frustrating sitting here as a councillor seeing that the process may be held back. The public meeting on this project was held a year ago, so it's frustrating that everyone is making an issue out of every project we have. It's a damn shame."

Planning Director Ian Keith added that, in his opinion, "any relationship between the road and the old garbage dump is beyond (his) comprehension."

Councillor Anne Currie supported Keith's position, adding that the dump is a significant distance away from any environmentally sensitive area.

"It's a long way to get anything from the garbage site to the Law Developments area," she said. "Unless you go there and see it, it's hard to appreciate it, but it's damned difficult to get anything over there."

# Burlington councillor proposes quarantine for people with HIV

By ROB KELLY

The time has come to consider imposing a quarantine on people infected with the virus believed to cause AIDS, a Burlington regional councillor said Monday.

Councillor Ralph Scholtens told the regional health and social services committee that, "I do think we should be applying our minds to how to deal with the problem."

Stressing that he hadn't made up his own mind yet, Councillor Scholtens appeared torn between staying the current course, which guarantees the privacy of those infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and curtailing the sexual activities of those afflicted with HIV.

"It would not be the first disease in which people were quarantined," the councillor said. "But

I'm not suggesting that." Later however Scholtens appeared ready to make just such a suggestion.

"I'm starting to lean toward somehow isolating the problem," the councillor said. "We have to consider that." His difficulty, he added, was striking "a balance between sensitivity and safety."

"I'm not sure if confidentiality is actually hindering us" in efforts to protect the public from the virus, Scholtens said. Of those afflicted with HIV, he asked, "how do you stop them from spreading this very dangerous virus?"

Scholtens used anecdotes to illustrate what appeared to be his two main points; that the public has a right to a certain degree of protection from hazards, and that those who choose to risk hazards

are responsible for their own actions.

To underscore the former, he said he "thought of a man on the street with a gun. The police will take that gun away from him, but they're certainly not going to go to the public and ask them to put on bulletproof vests."

As far as individual responsibility goes, he used the example of polluted beaches to illustrate choices people make about their health risks. Health authorities will warn that certain waters are polluted, but "they don't hand out diving gear and goggles" to those who choose to swim there anyway, he said.

Scholtens said those who contract HIV through sex have chosen to indulge in risky sexual practices. "This is a lifestyle disease. It's almost 100 per cent lifestyle related."

Sheila Flynn-McGrath, the acting Halton health commissioner, said her department has not yet developed a position on what she termed a "complex" issue.

"This is a very serious, live problem," Councillor Scholtens said. "I don't mean to take shots at people who are HIV positive, (but) it's more than individual rights, it's public safety."

At present physicians are required to report the names of any patients afflicted with HIV to regional or county health authorities. Patient identities are held in confidence, although the numbers of HIV infections and cases of full-blown AIDS in a given area are publicized.

While no conclusive evidence links HIV to AIDS, an overwhelming majority of medical opinion supports HIV as the root cause of AIDS, and HIV has been present in every AIDS victim.

## Rotary Club offers Cedar Tree Sale

Rotary Club of Georgetown will be holding a Cedar Tree Sale on April 21, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The rain date is April 29.

The purpose is to raise funds for the Club so it can carry on its support of local needs — the Food Bank, seniors activities and youth awards, etc.

This is a dig your own tree event. Trees range from 3-8 feet tall with one cost of \$5 per tree.

Pack a picnic lunch — but remember to bring a shovel and garbage bags. Hot coffee will be on hand.

The event will be held at Kingsclere, 12100, Sixth Line, Halton Hills. Take 15th Sideroad to the Sixth Line, go north past

20 Sideroad and follow the signs.

Don't forget upcoming Rotary events: a garage sale on June 1. Call 877-5285 for pick-up of items that you want to donate to a worthy cause. The annual Rotary Car Wash is on June 22.

### Little Sisters

Girls, you can have your own special adult friend to share your excitement in good times and to help you get over the sadness of disappointment. That is what a Big Sister is for. If you are age 7 to 15, call us and ask for a visit with a case-worker. Call the Big Sisters Association at 878-7772.



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