

Opinion

What other say:

The right way to go

Halton Region is laying the foundation for a bid to become the major player in waste disposal, a prospect that is perhaps more important than it seems for the average person, and definitely a move in the right direction.

The economic risk regional politicians and their senior staff members see right now is two fold.

One, they believe if the status quo continues unchecked, the Region may time and again be forced into legal battle against various private enterprise concerns interested in opening a massive landfill somewhere in Halton.

Two, the Region believes the more opportunity people in the private sector have to dilute regional control of waste disposal, the more expensive such disposal will become to Halton, and therefore to the average property taxpayer.

There is substantial justification for regional concerns.

First, a private corporate interest known as RSI is proposing a giant landfill for Acton. And the RSI proposal is moving slowly but steadily through the provincial bureaucracy. The point has already come (last week) at which Halton regional councillors felt compelled to go on record as formally opposing the RSI plan. Soon the time will probably come when Halton will have to devote some serious money to opposing the Acton landfill.

Councillors have every right to be angry about the RSI controversy. It took Halton about 14 years to finally find a regionally sanctioned and financed landfill in south Milton, and even that won't open until late next year. When one factors in the costs of shipping garbage out of Halton, as we have for years, the costs of the legal wrangles that led Milton to be chosen over Burlington, and the final tab for the landfill construction, the bill comes to something more than \$100 million.

And yet, before the ink is dry on half the cheques to cover that sum, the Region must face the possibility of another protracted dump hearing against RSI in an effort to prevent construction of a profit-driven landfill which is clearly superfluous to Halton's needs.

What's the justification for the exercise? While we've never advocated big, interventional government, if ever there was a time for our big and interventionist provincial government to act, this is it. What Halton is suggesting is a change to the legislation which grants regional government its powers so as to make it clear that Halton, and other similar entities, hold sway in deliberations and decisions regarding waste disposal.

Regional recycling programs, waste treatment initiatives and capital projects such as the \$60-million (estimated) construction of the Milton dump are paid for largely by property tax dollars and user fees for various regional services. One of those services is access to the new dump, when it opens. The charge is called a tipping fee, and that tipping fee helps offset other waste disposal costs, like the ones incurred in operating the popular blue box program, which runs at a loss.

If private enterprises are allowed to cut into Halton's action, so to speak, by luring commercial and industrial users to their dumps rather than the regional one, a smaller group of property taxpayers is going to be shouldering a greater burden of the cost of operating regional programs. That means higher taxes.

So Halton wants to make sure regional government stays in the driver's seat and private proponents are discouraged from attempts to muscle in. We think that's the right way to go in this case. The government does do the odd thing better than private enterprise, and this is one of them.

--Milton Canadian Champion



Our Readers Write

Potpourri of peeves

Dear Editor:

Having travelled on a regular basis through southwestern Ontario this summer, I have opinions on three concerns expressed by others.

1. The presence of loosestrife in streams and wetlands - I share the concerns of others about this obnoxious plant. However perhaps a pair of hip waders could be supplied to our weed inspector thus removing his focus on spraying then cutting the lilies along the roadside. A field guide was highly recommended a few years ago but to no avail it seems.

2. Chip trucks - Most towns have chip trucks

and the response has been very positive because people like fresh potatoes fried while they wait. There is no comparison between chips from a chip truck and chips from a fast food outlet. Georgetown needs a chip truck or two!

3. Plastic flowers - Georgetown is the only place I've been this summer that is displaying artificial flowers in the downtown core. Surely we have more pride and enthusiasm for the town than to resort to this sterile decor. Perhaps the Horticultural Society could initiate some ideas with the support of the BIA.

Thank You,
Mary Shier, Limehouse

Thief steals happiness

Dear Editor:

My children's annual visit to their grandparents in Georgetown is always a great week for both kids and grandparents alike. I won't bore you with the details of their exciting week but I would like to pass on some thoughts regarding one outing that was not so happy.

On August 9, my children were taken to the community high school swimming pool for an afternoon of public swimming. During their swim, my son (age 13) had his three-week old running expensive running shoes stolen, plus a gold chain and a purple LA Lakers basketball team hat. I guess it's a sign of the times but I don't think it makes it any easier to understand nor do I any

way condone it. What really confuses me is how these kids can pass the stolen goods past their parents. Do parents not ask, where did you get those new shoes, hat or gold chain?

I guess the biggest message I take from what happened to my son is that respect for others and their belongings is long gone amongst many of today's kids, teenagers and adults. So remember, when you go out in public, don't leave anything around you of value because it will disappear almost before your eyes.

Signed,
Disappointed
P.S. This is not meant to condemn all kids, only to point out that times really are changing.

Halton Hills

WEEKEND

The Georgetown Independent and Acton Free Press

KEN BELLAMY
Publisher

211 ARMSTRONG AVE., L7G 4X5
GEORGETOWN, ONT. (416) 873-0301

The Halton Hills Weekend, published every Saturday at 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ont., is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Acton Free Press, Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, The Aurora Banner, Barrie Banner Advance, The Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Erin-Hillsburgh Echo, The Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, The Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist & Sun, The Milton Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket Era, The Oakville Beaver, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, The Echo-Review, The Scarborough Mirror, The Stouffville Tribune, The Willowdale Mirror, Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate.

In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at the wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.

Editorial and advertising content to Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press Week End is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited.

Price: Store copies 50¢ each; subscription \$19 per year by carrier; \$52 per year by mail in Canada; \$75 per year in all other countries. Plus G.S.T.

EDITORIAL - 1-800-268-8719
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Robin Inskoce
EDITOR: Cynthia Gamble,
Staff Writers: Paul Dorsey, Stuart Johnston, Janet Baine,
Photography: Ted Brown

BUSINESS OFFICE - 1-800-268-8719
Manager: Jean Shewell
Accounting: Pat Kentner, Sherry Mitchell, Bev Nelissen

ADVERTISING - 1-800-268-8719
Director of Advertising: Lorne Beechener
Advertising Manager: Penny Karas
Display Sales: Charmaine Letts, Tammy Salt
Telemarketing: Jeanette Cox
Real Estate Sales: Kathy Toth
National Representative: Dal Browne 493-1300

CLASSIFIED - 1-800-268-8719
Manager: Carol Hall
Staff: Barb Izzio, Arlene Bellamy

DISTRIBUTION/CIRCULATION/SUBSCRIPTIONS - 1-800-268-8719
TORONTO LINE - 798-7950
Manager: Nancy Geissler, Mark Esposito
Staff: Jean Brander