

# Preliminary hearing could cost taxpayers \$940,000

By **STUART JOHNSTON**  
Staff writer

Environmental hearings into Reclamation Systems Inc.'s plans to landfill the Acton Quarry could cost the town almost \$1-million in legal fees.

According to documents filed with the province's consolidated hearing board, the body reviewing the dump proposal, Halton Hills' legal bills could exceed \$940,000.

The hearings are expected to last six to eight months, and cost as much as \$5 million

in all.

Of course, the town has applied to the board for intervenor funding, but a decision on that will not be rendered until next week, when the preliminary hearings conclude. Under intervenor funding, the board can direct RSI to foot the bill up front for all or some of the costs incurred by those parties opposing its plans, such as the town.

However, if sufficient funding is not granted to cover the town's expenses, then the taxpayer will be stuck with the bill.

The town is arguing in a nine-page docu-

ment that RSI's proposal is incomplete, therefore a hearing at this time is not appropriate. If it does proceed, which will again be decided during next week's preliminary hearing, the town is asking that RSI post, with the Supreme Court of Ontario, enough funds to cover the town's expenses. Because RSI is a shell company with no assets, explained administrator Dan Costea, the town wants to ensure that there is enough money to cover the majority of everyone's expenses at the end of the hearing.

By the end of 1991, the town had already

spent \$387,000 preparing for the hearing, and it has budgeted another \$200,000 for this year.

"The town is certainly expecting to incur some costs, even with intervenor funding — that is why we budgeted money this year," Costea noted.

Every \$85,000 spent by the town is roughly equal to a one per cent tax increase, so a \$940,000 lawyer's bill would mean taxes may have to rise by 11 per cent, assuming financial assistance is not forthcoming.

See TAXES, page 5

HALTON HILLS

# WEEKEND

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## News

### Digest

#### Out of control

The Halton Hills Fire Department responded to a brush fire call at 9:25 a.m. Wednesday on Wildwood Rd. Someone had a permit to burn, but the fire got out of control and had to be put out by firefighters.

#### Teacher retiring

A teacher from Holy Cross School in Georgetown will be among six retiring from the Halton Roman Catholic Board this year. Mary Hartley will be honored by the board, along with other retiring teachers and 10 people who have served the board for 25 years at a dinner on Friday, June 5 at Notre Dame Secondary School in Burlington.

#### Fee waiver denied

A request by the organizers of an upcoming Child Find softball tournament for council to waive its diamond fees was denied by councillors. According to town treasurer Ray King, extra money to cover the tournament's operating expenses are not available. The fee to use the diamonds and operate a concession stand is \$522.

#### Tender accepted

A Harrow, Ontario company has been hired by the town to supply dust suppressant materials for numerous rural roads, at a total cost of \$57,000. The cost of the 307 tonnes of calcium chloride is under budget by approximately \$15,000, according to a report.

### INSIDE

Region study.....page 2  
Let's Dance.....page 10  
Flag football.....page 22



### We lost

Even though residents all over Halton Hills turned out in droves to take part in Wednesday's Crown Life Participaction Challenge, Halton Hills failed to top the numbers reached by Milton as they exercised for the required 15 minutes. All day Wednesday, Halton Hills residents took up the challenge like Suzanne Dimichele of 'Work That Body' as she led employees at Economy Forms on Todd Road, Georgetown through a gruelling 20 minute work out. More photos and story on pg. 3.

TED BROWN photo

## New committee formed to fight dump proposal

By **STUART JOHNSTON**  
Staff writer

Halton Hills council has formed its own strategic committee to deal with the Acton Quarry dump proposal.

Councillors Bill Robson, Norm Elliott, Marilyn Serjeantson and Mayor Russ Miller were appointed to the newly-formed Acton Quarry Steering Committee Monday night, described by town administrator Dan Costea as a "contingency committee."

Miller explained in an interview that "on the advice of our solicitor," the committee was formed to streamline the lines of communication during the environmental hearings into the dump proposal. The preliminary meeting is scheduled to start Monday at the Acton Legion.

"This way it gives us an opportunity to meet quickly if the solicitor needs direction from council in a hurry," Miller said. "Otherwise, it would be a big hassle trying to organize all council members to make these decisions... (Town solicitor) Steve D'Agostino feels that there may be a meeting every week during the hearings."

Along with forming the new committee, councillors agreed to send a collective message to the hearing's board members that the town opposes the landfill on the basis that its environmental review is incomplete.

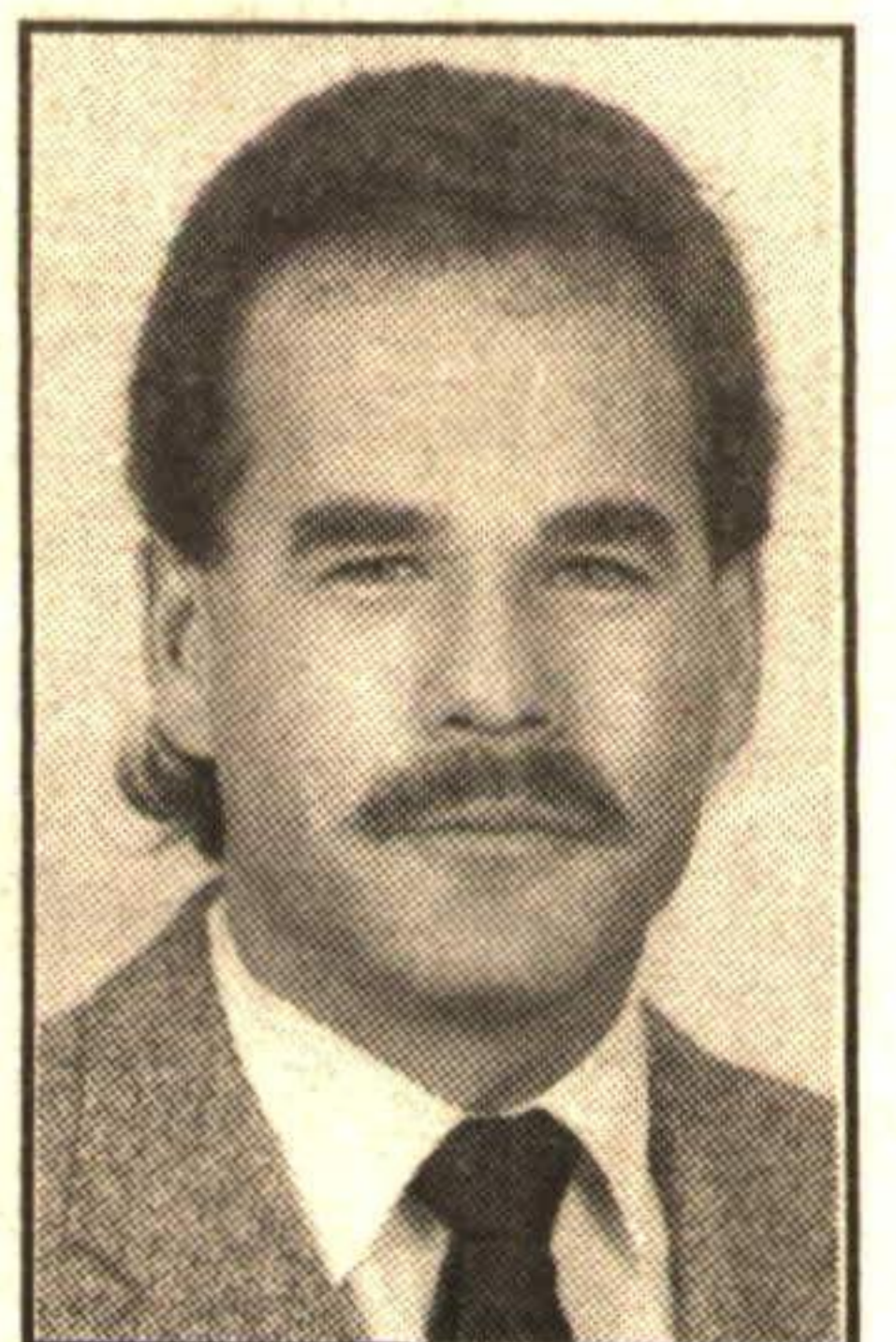
"We were commenting on our own review of Reclamation Systems Inc.'s environmental assessment documents, and not on its application to change our official plan to allow a landfill," Costea noted in an interview.

All but councillor Rob Heaton voted in favor of the message and the new committee. Councillor Kathy Gaste was absent from the proceedings.

When asked why he didn't go along with the rest of council, Heaton explained that he "would have voted in favor of everything in the resolution, except for the committee appointments."

"It was the mayor who picked the members — I didn't know anything about it until it was time to vote," he said, adding that he was angry that council wasn't given the choice of who was to sit on the committee.

"If the motion was split up, then I would've agreed to it, but what can you do when it's 11 to one?" he said.



ROB HEATON

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