

# Delay sought in landfill site opening

By **STUART JOHNSTON**  
Staff writer

A Milton couple is seeking provincial support to delay the November opening of Halton's new landfill until engineering studies into how the neighboring site has affected their wells are completed.

Ray and Annette Winter, owners of Winsum Farms on Hwy. 25, immediately south of the almost-completed regional landfill in Milton, have long complained that construction next door has seriously affected the quality of their wells.

Two months ago, regional officials finally agreed to truck water to their farm "on an emergency basis," until an independently hired hydrologist can conduct detailed studies of the wells.

CH2M Hill Engineering Ltd. was recently hired, at Halton's expense, but the problem is the company will likely not be able to complete the study before the regional landfill opens for business in November.

So, the Winters have written to

environment minister Ruth Grier to ask that she delay Halton from dumping its garbage on schedule until the results of the study are known.

"The letter is pointing out problems we are having due to the activities on (the landfill site)," Annette Winter said in an interview Monday. "I don't know exactly what the outcome will be, but we fear that if dumping were allowed, it will go right back into our wells again. The study won't be complete for six to eight weeks, so we're asking (Grier) to delay the dumping until we know the results."

The Winters contend that for four years their well had operated without a hitch, but it wasn't until excavation of the 130-acre site next door began that problems started occurring. They claim the water levels have dropped, and what little water they do draw from the well is brown and murky.

Regional officials have argued repeatedly that there is no evidence

to support the Winters' charges, but, nevertheless agreed to help them out temporarily until the study is complete.

"There has never been a 'what if' discussion — the only one is if we were wrong then we forget it all," Winter said. "That's why we are asking for the delay, so we know where we stand on this issue."

Halton public works commissioner Art Leitch told the Independent/Free Press that as far as he knows, the November 1 opening of the landfill is still on schedule.

Leitch pointed out that if the studies determined the landfill excavation was causing problems with the Winter's well, then an "alternate source" of water will be found.

"If we are in any way adversely affecting their supply, then the Region is obligated to provide an alternative source of water," he said. "That is one of the conditions of approval for that site."

Alternate sources could include continuing trucking water onto the property and storing it in a holding tank; drill another well in a better location on the farm; or extend the municipal water supply through a pipeline to the farm.

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## 50th anniversary

Irene and Wallace Swackhamer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last Sunday with an open house at their Third Line (Churchill Road) home, with family and friends dropping by to offer good wishes. They have five children, 10 grandchildren and one great grandchild, and have attended Churchill Community Church all their lives. Both have also been active for many years in Acton Agricultural Society, with Irene acting as secretary-treasurer for many years.

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