



Halton Regional Police officer Carla Ferguson holds up a Bus Watch investigation sheet as OPP officer Dave Thomas and bus driver Betty Beecroft give the thumbs up sign to a new school bus safety program, which went into effect on Wednesday. Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Leferink requires hearing

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

Bert Leferink had no luck at a committee meeting Monday night getting council to change their 1991 decision requiring a public hearing before he can accept waste from other areas.

Leferink, who operates Leferink Transfer Ltd. on Armstrong Ave., told councillors he wants to receive waste from Peel and areas north of Halton at the Georgetown transfer station. Plus he wants to operate the station on a 24-hour basis. He hauls waste from the station to landfill sites, many of them in the U.S.

Councillor Gail Rutherford told Leferink that in light of the recommendations in the Urban Area Land Use study there was a definite need for public hearings on Leferink's proposal. She was concerned about the increase in truck traffic in the area.

"You feel now that there is no need for public hearings," said councillor Rutherford. "I see the need is even greater now than it has been."

"You talk about being in a remote industrial section of town but we have determined (in the study) that the centre of town will be Guelph St. and Mountainview Rd. You are no longer in a remote industrial area of Georgetown. You will be surrounded by residential development," said Rutherford.

Leferink said that he didn't think the \$40,000 he would have to spend during the hearing process was warranted or would be useful.

Rutherford also asked Leferink if he had considered moving his station. He told her he couldn't because the permits he had from the Ministry of the Environment were site specific.

Councillors supported Rutherford's recommendation that town staff prepare comments for hearing officers regarding the impact of the urban area land use study on the operation and that a legal opinion be sought from the town's solicitor regarding whether or not RSI can use council's support for this application in their favor.

Operation Bus Watch

The Halton Regional Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police (Milton detachment) have joined forces to address a community concern regarding school bus safety in the Region of Halton.

Officers have put together an innovative program to identify and reduce traffic violations involving motorists and school buses. Children's lives have been endangered by vehicles passing properly stopped school buses. The intent is public awareness before a child is injured in a preventable accident.

The elaborate enforcement program is the first of its kind and encourages the cooperation of the community, police, school boards and contracted school bus companies. Officers have instructed school bus drivers on the requirements for successful prosecution of violators. Violation forms have been developed and distributed to the school bus firms.

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