

Public hearing slated to begin on Valentine's Day

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

The public hearing into MPP Noel Duignan's bill to halt landfilling on the Niagara Escarpment will begin on Valentine's Day.

The bill passed second reading in April and the hearings are being held Feb. 14 and 15, with a day set aside to go through it clause by clause on Feb. 16.

"It's an historic situation that a private members bill is taken seriously as part of government business. Normally it goes to committee of the whole, and no action is taken," Duignan said. Public hearings for two other unrelated private members bills, one

from the Liberals and one from the Conservatives, are also taking place in February. This is a new approach to the bills, Duignan said.

"This is a really major hurdle, for the bill to go to a public hearing is a major, major step," he said. From there, it will go to the third and final reading, but no date has yet been set for this.

The Halton Conservation Authority has thrown its support behind the bill and asked all other conservation authorities to do the same.

"Whenever someone proposes one of these (landfill) sites on the escarpment, the town,



NOEL DUIGNAN

conservation authorities, government and private individuals have to do research and pay lawyers. It gets to be very expensive," said Rob Barlow, a member of the HCA since last summer.

He said he proposed the resolution of support for the bill and asked other conservation authorities to do the same because the limestone base of the escarpment is prone to leakage, and could contaminate the water supply.

It's too early to know whether the other conservation authorities will follow suit, since many haven't met to discuss the issue yet, he said.

Both Duignan and Barlow are urging anyone who would like to make a presentation on Bill 62 to contact Donna Bryce, of the standing committee on the administration of justice, Room 1405, Whitney Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, M7A 1A2, or by calling her at (416)325-3525.

While the slate of people making presentations is already almost full, if more people are interested in appearing before the committee, the half hour time slot can be cut down to 20 minutes in order to accommodate more.

Mayor Russ Miller will be making a presentation, as will representatives from environmental groups, Reclamation Systems Inc., and individuals.

HALTON HILLS
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News

Digest

Water main break

The very low temperatures caused a water main to break, leaving Robert Little School without any water on Tuesday. Principal Deanna Nodwell said she and the superintendent decided at 10:30 a.m. to begin calling to see if students could be sent home or to a sitter. "We didn't close the school and all the staff had to remain," Nodwell said. She was concerned about having 400 people in the building when they couldn't flush the toilets, wash their hands or use the drinking fountains. She was also concerned about safety, in the event of a fire.

Police suspicious

Police were suspicious when they saw a car driving around in a field with its headlights on at 1 a.m. Thursday morning. A vehicle was heading south on Trafalgar Rd. near 10 Sideroad when the driver lost control and entered the ditch. The car rolled over and came to rest on its wheels. The driver continued operating the car with the roof crushed, police said. A 27 year old North York man was later charged with impaired driving and operating a motor vehicle with more than the legal limit of alcohol in his blood.

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Life in the longhouse

Nine-year-old Jody Stapleton of Georgetown tried pounding corn as she learned first-hand how the native Indians ground their dried corn into corn meal. Grade four students from George Kennedy School visited

Crawford Lake Conservation Area near Campbellville, Tuesday to learn about "life in the longhouse," as part of their study unit on North American Indians.
TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Budget talks begin

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

Councillors took their first stab at dealing with the town's 1994 budget at a budget committee meeting Tuesday night.

Budget committee members, all councillors and the mayor, approved in principle most of the \$9.8 million capital budget presented to them. The proposed 1994 capital budget is about \$1.8 million less than last year's approved budget. But town treasurer Andy Koopmans said it is still very early in the process, and those approvals could be reversed as budget deliberations proceed.

Like last year both town staff and council are working toward a zero per cent increase for residents on the town portion of their tax bills.

Koopmans said the budgeting process has become increasingly difficult due to a "significant decline in municipal revenues, and an ever-shrinking pool of dollars."

The provincial government's expenditure control plan, initiated last year, will result in provincial unconditional grant funding to the town being slashed by \$400,000 in 1994. Koopmans added cuts are also expected in the province's conditional funding.

"Despite a decline in resources we have been able to achieve most of the 1994 capital forecast," said Koopmans.

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JANUARY CLEARANCE

all furniture on sale!

the olde
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