



Students at École Sacre-Coeur worked together to help one of their fellow students as Patrick Thibeault (centre) was presented with a cheque for \$1,000 from the students. Patrick has leukemia, and the money will be used to offset some of the costs for his treatments. The funds were

raised by grades five to eight holding dances as fundraisers. On hand to present the cheque at a recent school assembly were (from left) Shannon Somerville, Martine and Natalie Lauzon, all of Grade 6.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Equity decision deferred again

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

Council deferred making a decision on the Equity Waste Management proposal at a special council meeting Monday night until a study of the Steeles Ave./401 industrial corridor is completed.

Council also passed an interim control bylaw that will be in effect until the study is complete allowing for only agricultural uses, parks and recreational facilities in the corridor.

The study, which is expected to be done in about eight months, will take a look at the corridor from east of the Fifth Line to Winston Churchill Blvd. to provide advice on how council can achieve high quality, high visibility prestige industrial growth for that area.

The Equity composting facility is proposed for a 20-acre parcel of land on the south side of Steeles Ave. west of Eighth Line and east of Trafalgar Rd.

Larry Hurley, CEO of Equity Waste, was not happy with council's decision.

"I am disappointed at the way council has approached this," said Hurley after the meeting. "They should have been passing a resolu-

tion regarding an Environmental Protection Act hearing. They (council) are sending out a very clear message to potential investors — Halton Hills is closed for business."

He added a landowner cannot rely on the zoning on his land to ensure he can go ahead with development plans.

"Now they (council) are telling us despite the fact the zoning is in place, they are not sure they want us here."

Hurley, who said Equity has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to get the proposal this far, said he is not yet certain which step he plans to take next.

Vic Hendrickson of the Hornby East Ratepayers Organization (HERO) supported council's move to study the area.

"We are pleased they took the approach not to approve (the proposal)," said Hendrickson. "A study is needed to get a comprehensive plan for that corridor."

Council unanimously supported the resolution (Mayor Russ Miller was absent) calling for the study that was moved by Norm Elliott and seconded by Bill Robson.

"The stakeholders are not just the neighbors (of the proposed facility)," said Elliott. "They are every-

one in the town of Halton Hills. At this time the application is premature and will not receive a stamp of approval."

"A study has to be done and where the \$30,000 to \$50,000 (to cover the cost of the study) will come from remains to be seen," said Elliott.

He added he had very strong concerns about the zoning issue. Council has heard varying legal opinions on whether or not the proposed facility contravenes the town's zoning bylaw based on water use.

Council decided not to put the zoning question to a judge, which was recommended at a recent committee meeting.

Councillor Pam Johnston said she had mixed feelings about the resolution because she believes landowners have rights and the introduction of an interim control bylaw pending the completion of the study could open the town up to legal wrangles.

"The 401 strip holds our economic future," said Councillor Gail Rutherford. "It has always been stated that area should be prestige development but that has not been articulated well enough in our paperwork."



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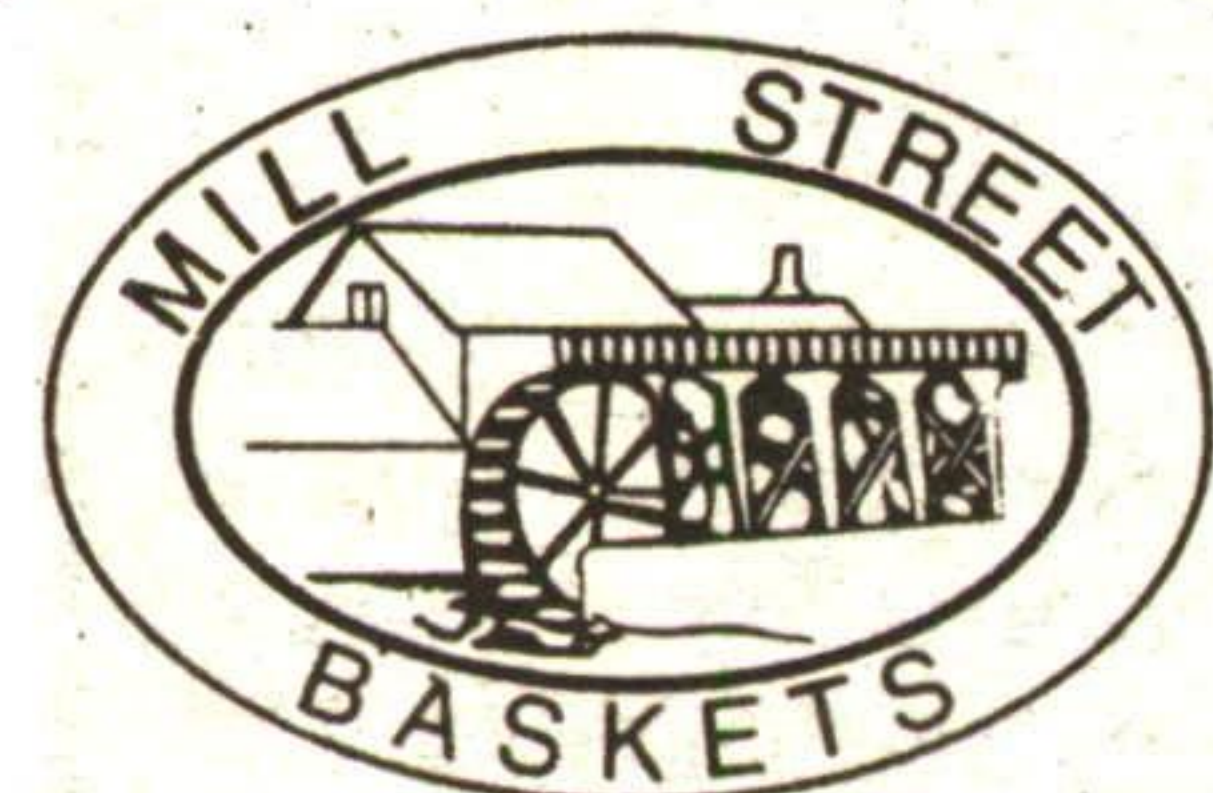
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