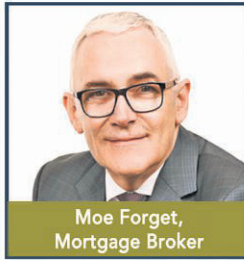


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## NEWS



John Rennison/ The Hamilton Spectator

Trucks carrying green bin material enter the the city's resource recovery centre on Burlington Street.

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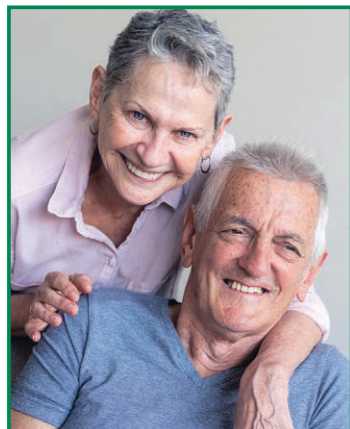
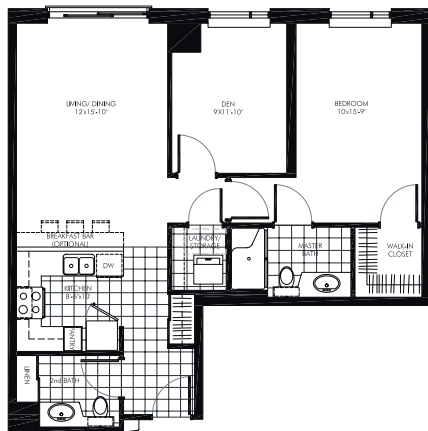
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# Halton compost to be trucked to London while Hamilton compost facility is closed

*Burlington street site closed by city after massive stench at Arkells concert*



Gord Bowes/ Hamilton Spectator  
**Hamilton Councillor Sam Merulla.**

**ALEXANDRA HECK**  
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Halton Region's compost waste is being diverted to London, Ont., after the city of Hamilton shut down their Burlington Street operations.

The City of Hamilton chose to shut the site down after what has been described as a 'crippling stench' creeping into in parts of the downtown over the past two weeks. It came to a head on Saturday night at the Tim Hortons Field, where the Arkells played a concert.

Hamilton Coun. Sam Merulla urged the city to close the site, saying he was swamped with complaints about the smell. He even said that he is seeking punitive damages for the odour.

Halton has a contract to send nearly 2,600 tonnes of compost there annually, which is 35 per cent of the facilities capacity.

"Food waste does often have odour issues," said Jim Harnum, Halton's commissioner of public

works.

Harnum says that the region's food waste will now be trucked to Orgaworld in London while the Ministry of Environment tries to figure out exactly what the problem was.

The Region of Halton, as well as Niagara Region send compost to the site.

Both the city of Hamilton and Halton Region have committed funding to reducing odour at the facility through upgrades.

"Typically, this facility is run quite well," said Harnum. "But with food waste you do end up with upset conditions at times."

Harnum is not sure how long the Halton compost will be trucked out to London for, but the City of Hamilton and the contractor are working with the Ministry of Environment to come up with a solution.

"Any cost that is incurred, the contractor is responsible for," said Harnum. "There won't be any additional cost to Halton

residents."

Additionally, Halton's contingency plan would be to store the compost at their own waste transfer station while they wait for the Hamilton site to reopen.

"Food waste doesn't stop," said Harnum, explaining that compost services are available to all residents in the region, save for homes in rural Milton and Burlington.

The program has a 90 per cent engagement rate in the region.

The region has never considered in-house composting services, as Harnum says the market has the capacity, and is much more feasible to outsource.

statement Monday it is still reviewing the situation and has not issued any orders or taken any enforcement action.

While the plant shut-down is a first for Hamilton, other Ontario cities have faced similar challenges.

Guelph's compost plant, also run by AIM Environmental, had to shut down soon after opening in 2012 to deal with odour concerns.

A compost plant in London, Ont., meanwhile, was fined more than \$1 million last year because of several years of odour emissions tracked by the MOE.

– With files by the Hamilton Spectator