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Roadside dumping concerns raised

By Dianne Cornish

Illegal roadside dumping and a proliferation of backyard burners will result if Halton Hills Town Council doesn't provide rural and hamlet residents with a local dump station for the disposal of waste, a

Stewarttown resident told council Monday night.

Speaking at a committee meeting of council, Appelbe Ct. resident David Barrager warned, "You're going to get roadside dumping. It has already started. There are about

10 bags on Highway 7, tonight."

Barrager criticized a recent decision by Halton regional council to discontinue funding support for three container stations in Halton, including the Leferink Transfer Station on Armstrong Avenue,

Georgetown. To compensate for the loss of regional support, transfer station manager Bert Leferink adopted user pay fees, which came into effect January 1.

For the past 12 years, Halton residents have been allowed to drop off as much as 150 kilograms of garbage or recyclables per day at the plant, at no cost. Halton Region absorbed the cost. However, with the recent opening of the region's new landfill site just south of Milton, the region has decided to discontinue funding support to container stations in Halton. Residents of Halton continue to have the option of dropping off 150 kilograms of garbage at the Milton landfill at no cost.

For residents of Halton Hills, that represents about a one-hour drive, round trip. Barrager told council that many local residents won't make that drive but will look at other ways of getting rid of their garbage. Illegal roadside dumping will become a problem in Halton Hills, he repeated.

The town had a problem with illegal dumping a few years ago, the local real estate agent said. "It was cleaned up but at a large cost to the municipality," he said.

After considerable debate about whether the issue is a regional or town matter, council decided to defer a decision until they heard from town staff about what options are available to resolve the prob-

lem. Mayor Russ Miller and other council members agreed that the issue should be addressed promptly. The mayor suggested that a special committee meeting be called for late Tuesday afternoon. Results of that meeting weren't known before press deadline.

Discussion around the council table Monday indicated that a tax levy on rural and hamlet residents wanting garbage pickup will be one option of consideration. At present, town residents are charged an extra tax because of garbage pickup service by the town. Rural residents don't have the service and pay less taxes, as a result.

"You're not paying the special charge that urban people are paying (for garbage pickup)," Councillor Anne Currie told Barrager. "This may be costly," she said, referring to the possibility of rural garbage pickup.

Barrager agreed that some system that would "average the taxes" and provide rural residents with a local option for getting rid of their garbage should be investigated. However, he said that he and other rural residents were angered because they weren't given a choice in the matter. A local service, provided free for many years, was simply taken away, he said. "We didn't have a choice; we weren't asked," he stated.

During earlier discussion,

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Acton commercial plaza plan draws some opposition

By Dianne Cornish

Plans by Coscan Developments to build a 74,600-square-foot commercial plaza on the south side of Highway 7 just east of Churchill Road in Acton were called "premature" by one of the proposal's opponents attending a public meeting Monday night.

A lawyer representing Freure Management Company, which also has plans to build a commercial plaza in Acton, told town council and area residents at the meeting that "it's premature to deal with the merits of this site" until questions regarding access to Highway 7, stormwater management and the proposed residential component to be added south of the planned plaza are addressed.

The Coscan plaza proposal includes a food store, department store, retail outlets and a restaurant. Coscan also intends to build over 200 homes south of the plaza, but that proposal is scheduled to go to a pre-hearing of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) January 20.

At Monday's public meeting, lawyer Gordon Petch, representing Coscan, revealed that he plans to ask the OMB to consolidate the shopping centre proposal with the subdivision plan for a full hearing. Although the Ministry of Transportation is currently balking at providing an access to the plaza off Highway 7, Petch said talks between the Ministry, town staff and Coscan officials are continuing and he's confident that access will be granted. "We will not build a shopping centre without access off Highway

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She may have come the day after New Years but the town's first baby of 1993 was first in several ways. Rachel Evelyn Longwell was number one with her parents Lori and Stephen of Georgetown and number one as Georgetown District Hospital's New Year's baby when she made her appearance at 1:12 a.m. on Jan. 2.

Photo by Laura Salverda

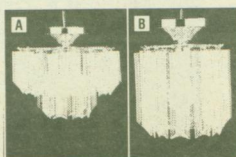
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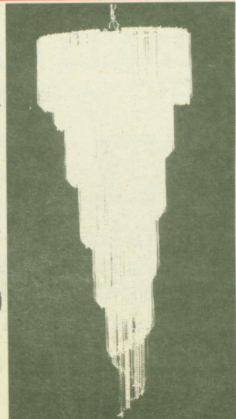
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