

Local company investigated

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

Two government agencies are keeping a close eye on an Acton company that plans to dry animal blood for use in pet and plant food.

Both the Ministry of Environment and Halton Region have questions about the operations of Ontario Protein at 4 Commerce Ct.

The Ministry of Environment is concerned that the company has not applied for a certificate of approval for natural gas burners, used in the drying process.

Halton Region has concerns about what Ontario Protein might put into the sewer system.

The Ministry of Environment first became involved with the company in January, following a citizen complaint to the fire department about "sickening" odours coming from the plant.

Company officials told Ministry investigators that they were trying to perfect the blood-drying process and the odour occurred when some foamy blood acciden-

tally got into the vent and burner system.

In an interview last Wednesday, Ministry spokesperson Chuck Micheau said the company abandoned that process and still is doing research and development on a new system.

Micheau said the company was told in a follow-up visit in March that it had to file certificates of approval for the gas burners, and that has not been done.

"That concerns me," Micheau said. "A violation has occurred because they have not applied for a certificate and our investigations branch has been notified."

Micheau said the company must make application for a certificate, even though they insist they are still running trials and doing research and development on the drying system.

"We won't be able to shut them down, unless there is a serious health or environmental risk," Micheau explained.

"Our goal is to get the application in and get a look at it to make

sure everything is okay." Ahimed Hamis, Halton Region's industrial waste abatement inspector, said his staff are checking the company every few days to see what, if anything, is being discharged into the sanitary sewer.

"So far I'm satisfied that nothing has been put into the system, but I told the company I want to be there next time they do a test burn," Hamis said Thursday.

Hamis said he checked on the plant last week after noticing a strong odour in the area, but he could not determine where it was coming from.

Company spokesperson Cliff Kerr said he intended to file the necessary application this week and stressed that they are trying to eliminate all odours by installing an anti-odour device.

Kerr said he is not sure if the company will go into production.

"We have to decide if there's any money in it and if we are going to be harassed to the point where we have to do too much to make everybody happy," Kerr said.



EARTH FUN: Meghan Knapton, 7, in Grade 1 at St. Joseph's, had fun on Earth Day Thursday making a boat with an egg carton, paper towel and other materials. (Doug Harrison photo)

St. Joseph's lifts earth

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

A sunny day went a long way in lifting the spirits and the earth around the flower beds at St. Joseph's for the celebration of Earth Day on Thursday.

Among some of the outdoor activities was Ms. Spiak's Grade 4-5 split class joining their Kindergarten buddies in drawing the habitats of various species with chalk on the entrance sidewalk to the main door of the school.

"The kids were really excited

and positive about Earth Day," said Ms. Spiak, whose class is reading Farley Mowat's book, *Owls in the Family*.

Since last Monday, the kids, all dressed in green for the colour of the earth and to symbolize life, donated money with proceeds going to an environmental cause and the school's drama fund for future productions.

"It's nice to get the kids involved," said Ms. Spiak. "They need to be aware of earth concepts and environmental issues."



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
for Halton Hills Land Use Study and Residential Implementation Study for the Community of Acton, Ward 1/Acton and Wards 3 and 4/Georgetown

Council of the Town of Halton Hills will conduct a Public Meeting in order to present and discuss proposed changes to the Town of Halton Hills Official Plan. These proposed changes have been incorporated in proposed official plan amendments that are intended to implement earlier decisions of Council on February 16, 1993 involving the adoption of two studies referred to as the Halton Hills Urban Land Use Study, and the Residential Implementation Study for Acton Urban Area. These studies contain growth management recommendations for both the communities of Acton and Georgetown.

ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS WELCOME

For further information contact the Town's Planning Department at 873-2600. Copies of the proposed amendments are available in the Planning Department.

An information meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 12, 1993** from 4:30 to 7 pm in order that interested persons may review and discuss with Town staff the details of the proposed amendments.

80698A

Monday, May 31 — 7 pm
Council Chamber
Civic Centre (Georgetown)
Town of Halton Hills

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