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'HOMETOWN PAPER, NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS!'

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1996

Quarry dump fight continues

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

Halton Hills Council will continue its costly fight against plans to turn a mined-out portion of the Acton Quarry into a massive landfill.

Many thought that Reclamation Systems Inc.'s (RSI) quarry landfill plan died with the NDP government's passage of Bill 62, which banned all land-filling on escarpment land.

But RSI's latest move in its seven-year battle to use the quarry for a dump, is an application to the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) for an amendment to its plan, to delete the land in question, owned by United Aggregates Limited, from NEC control.

Although a joint hearing of the

Environmental Assessment Board and Ontario Municipal Board ended hearings on RSI's plan in 1991, saying the joint board did not have jurisdiction over the proposal and RSI had not supplied enough information, the file has never been closed and RSI continues to negotiate with the province.

In a motion passed on Monday night, Town Council went on record with its opposition to RSI's latest plan and its concerns negotiations involving the proposal have happened without proper involvement of the public, the Town or other affected agencies.

After the meeting, a frustrated Acton Councillor Norm Elliott said the idea of using the quarry for a dump may never go away.

See DUMP, Page 2

Tough times mean tough budget choices

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

Halton Hills councillors have some unpleasant choices to make to deal with the Tory government's slashing of provincial transfer funds to municipalities.

The Town's 38 per cent reduction in transfer payments translates into \$900,000, so the Town will get \$1.5 million in provincial grants this year, not the \$2.4 million it received last year.

Town councillors do not want to raise property taxes to make up the shortfall, so they will have to take a very close look the services the Town currently provides.

"This is the beginning of a new era in municipal budgeting," said budget committee chair, Acton

Councillor Rick Bonnette.

"All levels of government, like most homeowners, will have to cut back and when we sit down for our capital budget meeting we will see how focused Council is and how much it is willing to cut."

Town Treasurer Andy Koopmans said staff will offer a number of options for Council to consider when dealing with the massive reduction in provincial money.

"We're focusing our attention on looking for new sources of revenue—like increased user fees—to offset the reduction," Koopmans explained. "We will also look at ways of reducing our expenses without affecting the existing levels of services. A third option is reductions of some services."



ANYONE IN THERE?

With only his eyes showing, 3½-year-old Eric Cardoso tries out his snow shovel at his Churchill Road home. The bitter cold has many of us hiding ourselves behind layers of clothing to keep warm. (Karen Wetmore photo)

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