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VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4

JULY 2003

Rural garbage becomes a taxing concern

BY DONNA DANIELLI

Garbage can be a messy business. It can also be a little controversial as was recently seen in the council chambers of both Halton Hills and Milton when Regional staff explained that the rural recycling depots are to be shut down next year and that the possibility of rural waste collection should be considered.

The Region is proposing a rural roadside waste collection program with garbage pickup weekly and recyclable pickup every two weeks. The cost would be \$430,000 for Halton Hills and \$460,000 for Milton. These amounts would be billed as an increase in the levy that would be allocated to the municipalities, which would then decide how to charge for these costs.

Reaction was mixed at the two presentations. Milton's Planning and Public Works Committee (PPW) cited a survey done eight years ago, the results of which did not support rural garbage pickup. The committee questioned whether or not to conduct another survey. However, upon hearing that a new

survey could cost \$10,000 to \$15,000 and that the current rural recycling depots will be removed next year regardless of any survey results, Mayor Krantz asked, "Is the survey simply courtesy if this is a *fait accompli*?" Councillor Cindy Lunau added, "The money would be better spent to educate people on the new service, rather than on a politically correct survey."

The question of how rural waste collection would be paid for was also debated in Milton. Councillor Ken Keates argued against the assessment value cost on the basis that rural residents will not be receiving the same level of service, such as yard waste and large item pickup, as their urban neighbours. Regional Councillor Barry Lee asked, "Why should a house double the assessment pay double the cost?" Councillor John Challinor argued that if Milton ultimately chooses to charge on a per household basis for its rural residents, only those 3,000 of the Region's approximately 110,000 homes would not be charged based

on their house assessment. When Ms. Lunau predicted the possibility of "an urban-rural cat fight" over the issue, Mr. Challinor retorted, "To suggest there is an issue between rural and urban is simply grandstanding."

Milton's PPW Committee voted 3-2 to support rural waste collection, to forego the expense of a survey, and to request more information from Town and Regional staff regarding the costs associated with the program.

When Regional staff made the same presentation to Halton Hills council, it was a completely different story. There was a general consensus that the new service would be paid for on an assessment basis and that a survey was the next logical step in the process. How the survey should be done was the focus of the debate in Halton Hills.

Colin Bennett, owner of Bennett Waste Disposal, decried the use of a survey and asked, "If surveys are being used to determine local politics, why do we need a

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PHOTO BY REID KENNEDY

Church anniversary celebrated

Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church celebrated its 167th anniversary on June 8. The stone building was designated by the Milton Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee as a historical site. Milton Mayor Gord Krantz presented the church's oldest parishioner, 94-year-old Joe Henderson, with the plaque at the Sunday service. Mr. Henderson started attending Sunday school at the church before World War I.

Inside this month's Compass

SHOEBOX MEMORIES

William Alexander Service was born in the Campbellville area about 1830 and worked on area farms. In 1859 he married Mariah Scriber and they established a board and batten house that once stood at the Kelso Conservation Authority gates.

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IDLE PURSUITS

The closing of Percy Merry Public School was attended by past and present students; staff including secretary, Barbie Taylor (back left), and principal, Shirley Chaisson (back right); and Percy and Amy Merry's children, Lois McDougall (front left) and Keith Merry (front right).

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AG HALL OF FAME

Ed Segsworth took on leadership roles in associations such as the Halton Agricultural Society, Halton and Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Associations, and many more. His widow, Dianne, accepted a tribute to his work at the Agricultural Hall of Fame.

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