

Is Halton's biosolids program spreading lies?

By DONNA DANIELLI

Halton's Biosolids Recycling Program has been providing the Region's agricultural community with biosolids fertilizer for over 23 years. As landfills have become overcrowded and concerns about air quality are increasing, biosolids offer the opportunity to use these treated, nutrient rich by-products of wastewater treatment plants to promote crop growth. But according to Laurie Eagles, the hazards of this program far outweigh the benefits.

Mrs. Eagles appeared as a delegation before Halton Regional Council on September 17 to speak on the Region's new report on the "Biosolids Management Centre Environmental Monitoring Program Enhancements." "This report is a sham. The information is inaccurate and incomplete," accused the Burnhamthorpe Road resident, whose family dwelling neighbours the W.A. Bill Johnson Biosolids Management Centre. (BMC).

The BMC was the recent target of a health hazard investigation by the Region which included an environmental audit and an investigation into a biosolids tank liner breach in November 2002. Although the investigation shows a negligible risk of impact to ground water and claims that the occurrences of odours at the site have seldom been found to be biosolids, a number of recommendations are being made to further protect the environment and nearby residents.

"Your recommendations are nothing more than illusions," Mrs.

Eagles told Council. Mrs. Eagles has logged numerous complaints with the Region about the facility over the past few years, citing health problems, quality of living issues and water concerns, all of which she claims have fallen on deaf ears. "Halton Region, the Planning and Public Works Committee and now the Health Department continue to protect themselves at the expense of the residents," she accused. In a separate letter to the Council she stated that the investigations numerous recommendations serve as further proof that previously dictated practices were inadequate. "This region is caught between a rock and a hard place," she wrote. "Considering the growth and projected growth, coupled with diminished available farmland to dispose of product, the Wastewater Master Plan is in dire trouble."

As Mrs. Eagles is involved in litigation with the Region on the issue of the biosolids, Regional Council chose to receive her deputation for consideration and declined to comment on it at the Council meeting.

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North Halton Happenings

September 30 - October 27

• **Artists Among Us:** An exhibition and sale of painting, mixed media, pottery, drawing and more at the Georgetown Library & Cultural Centre, 9 Church Street. Open during library hours. Free admission. Meet the Artists Reception Sunday, October 5 from 2 to 4 pm.

October 4

• **Rockwood: A Mosaic of Memories** book launch by author Deb Quail at Eden Place, Eden Mills from 10 am to 12 pm, and Rockwood Community Library from 1 to 3 pm. Proceeds to local charities.

• **St. John's Anglican Church's Annual Jumbo Sale** at the Campbellville Lions Hall, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. Unique new-to-you treasures, bake table and lunch. For additional information or to donate items, please call Mary at 905-854-0344.

October 5

• **Guelph Arts Council's Historical Walking Tour, The Slopes of the Speed**, at Guelph Public Library, 100 Norfolk Street, 2 p.m. For more information call 519-836-3280.

• **Arboretum's Sunday Afternoon Walk, Animal Architecture**, at J.C. Taylor Nature Centre, The Arboretum, University of Guelph, 2-3:30 p.m. For information, please call 519-824-4120, extension 52113.

• **Fall Trolley Festival** at the Electric Railway Museum, 13629 Guelph Line, Milton from 10 am to 5 pm. Enjoy the scenery and autumn beauty of a southern Ontario hardwood forest.

October 8

• **A free seminar titled Just a Phase? Recognizing and Managing Mental Illness in**

Children and Teens, at the Galaxy, 475 North Service Road, Oakville at 7 pm. To reserve a seat and for more information, please call 905-338-4379.

• **Ranting and Raving at City Hall!** Join the Esquesing Historical Society, Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m., as they explore the public buildings that people of Georgetown and area have used since 1821. This meeting is open to the public at no charge.

October 9

• **Halton Hands In Motion** Knitting and Crocheting Guild meeting, rear entrance of 318 Guelph Street, Georgetown (Between Honda and Swiss Chalet). For more information call Diane at 905-877-1521.

October 12

• **Guelph Arts Council's Historical Walking Tour, Altar and Hearth in Victorian Guelph**, at Guelph Civic Museum, 6 Dublin Street South, Guelph, 2 p.m. For more information call 519-836-3280.

• **Arboretum's Sunday Afternoon Walk, Seeds for Survival**, at J.C. Taylor Nature Centre, The Arboretum, University of Guelph, 2-3:30 p.m. For information, please call 519-824-4120, extension 52113.

October 14

• **Oktoberfest celebration** customs for youths between the ages of 9 and 13 at the Milton Leisure Centre from 6:30-9 pm. Event will include a cookout with sausages and some great Oktoberfest traditions. Tickets available at the Leisure Centre until October 9. Call 905-878-7946 for information.

• **Nasagieweya Historical Society** is holding a **Scan Night** at 8 pm. Bring your old photos to be electronically scanned. For further information call 905-854-6111 or

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October 16

• **At the Milton Historical Society meeting**, members of the **Milton Agricultural Society** will give highlights of the development of the local agricultural society and the Milton Fall Fair upon their 150th Anniversary, at Hugh Foster Hall, Milton at 7:30 pm.

October 18

• **St. George's Anglican Church's Wild Food Dinner** at St. George's Anglican Church, 60 Guelph Street, Georgetown. Two sittings, one at 5:30 p.m. and one at 8 p.m. Wild boar, wild turkey, venison, buffalo and more on the menu. Phone 905-873-3194 or 905-877-8044 for tickets.

October 19

• **Guelph Arts Council's Historical Walking Tour, Brooklyn and the College Hill**, at McCrae House, 108 Water Street, Guelph, 2 p.m. For more information, call 519-836-3280.

• **Arboretum's Sunday Afternoon Walk, Pioneering the Arboretum**, at J.C. Taylor Nature Centre, The Arboretum, University of Guelph, 2-3:30 p.m. For information, please call 519-824-4120, extension 52113.

• **Historical Walk in Acton and Georgetown**. For further information, please contact Halton Hills Community Support and Information 905-873-6502 or the United Way 905-877-3066.

October 20

• **Milton & District Horticultural Society meeting**, Royal Canadian Legion, Charles Street, 7:30 p.m. There will be demonstrations on making kissing balls, topiaries, wreathes and other displays. Phone 905-875-0406 or visit www.halinet.on.ca/miltonhort/



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