

The cost for garbage convenience

By DONNA DANIELLI

Rural residents of the Town of Milton recently received a survey from the Town and the Region of Halton asking for feedback on a proposal to instate rural garbage pickup. Halton Region is conducting the survey based on a request from the Town of Milton and will report back to the Town Council with the results so that an informed decision can be made. Regional Council made the decision in August to close the Rural Recycling

Depots due to the increasing costs. Annual costs to operate the depots had increased from \$190,000 in 1998 to \$400,000 in 2003. As a result of this closure, all rural residents will be receiving roadside blue box collection of recyclable materials effective February 2004.

The Region is proposing that should Milton Council decide to go ahead with weekly rural garbage collection along with the blue box collection, that the cost for this be

based on the property assessment value of the home. According to the Region, basing the cost on a per household basis instead of an assessment basis would result in an increase in the cost of 34 per cent. Based on a cost per \$100,000 (Current Value Assessment), the tax for garbage collection services would be \$25.39. Thus a home that is assessed at \$250,000 would incur a cost of \$63.48 on its property tax bill for the garbage collection. On top of this would be an additional

\$19.85 cost for recycling pick up (based on \$7.94 per \$100,000 assessed value), bringing the total cost for a \$250,000 assessed home to \$83.33 for both services.

"My gut feeling is that it won't go through," says new Ward Three Councillor Jan Mowbray. "A lot of people that I'm talking to are against it. People are telling me that they are into recycling and composting to the point where they don't need garbage pick up as well." Also of concern for Mowbray are road safety issues. She cites the lack of shoulders on the winding roads and poor sightlines as possible problems for any increased truck

traffic on the rural roads. For new Ward 2 and 4 Regional Councillor Ron Furik, the very nature of the rural residents themselves may work against the proposed garbage collection. "Many people have long driveways and may need to put their garbage out by 7 a.m.," he explains. "If they put it out overnight and the critters get into it, it will contribute to more rural roadside litter. That's the component that concerns me."

The deadline for the return of the surveys was November 26. The results of the survey are scheduled to be presented to the Milton Council sometime in December.




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PROJECT UPDATE

Mid-Halton Sewage Treatment Plant Expansion Phases 3 and 4 Class Environmental Assessment Study

In March 2003 the Regional Municipality of Halton completed a Water and Wastewater Master Plan review, which identified the required water and sewer infrastructure projects to service future growth in Halton Region. One of the major projects identified in the Master Plan review was the expansion of the Mid-Halton Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). Located on the North Service Road between Bronte Road and Third Line in Oakville, and servicing residents and businesses located in the northern portion of Oakville and Milton, the Mid-Halton Plant exceeds sewage treatment standards set by the Ministry of the Environment before the treated effluent enters Lake Ontario.



This project update signals the next phase of implementation with the Class Environmental Assessment Schedule C study. This project must meet the requirements of the Phases 1 through 4 before proceeding to design and construction as governed under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. The Master Plan review satisfied Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Municipal Class EA Process for this project by providing a review of the need for the project, an assessment of the alternative solutions for meeting sewerage servicing needs, and a description of the preferred sewerage servicing solution.

To ensure in-time completion of the Mid-Halton Plant expansion, the Region is proceeding with Phases 3 and 4 of the Class EA Process. This work will include an evaluation of conceptual designs (i.e. layouts) and implementation concepts for achieving the capacity expansion, a full evaluation of environmental impacts and mitigation measures, and preparation of an Environmental Study Report. The Environmental Study Report will be subject to a mandatory public review period at the end of the Class EA Process.


A key component of this study involves consultation with interested stakeholders (public and regulatory agencies). Two public meetings were held over the past year, and two additional public meetings will be scheduled to review how decisions will be made during the remaining EA process, present the alternative conceptual designs, and receive public input. Details regarding the forthcoming public meetings will be advertized.

A Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), made up of community representatives and a member of Regional Council from each area municipality, was also established in May 2003 and is meeting regularly with the Region's Project Team. The CAC is responsible for providing advice to the Project Team and sharing information throughout the EA process.

A mailing list for notification purposes is also being updated. If you are interested in being placed on the project mailing list to receive future information, or if you have any questions, please leave a message for the Project Team at the number or e-mail address identified below. Information on the study is also posted on the Region's website at www.region.halton.on.ca.

To be placed on the mailing list, for information requests or questions, please contact:

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