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Nearly There

Robertson Inc. in final stage of site clean up

By JENNIFER ENRIGHT

Robertson Inc. in Milton, the screw manufacturing company, is completing the final phases of a major clean up of its lagoons located at the company's Milton site off Bronte Road.

Eito Nijholt, the operations manager at Robertson Inc., said in an interview that the project to decommission the lagoons has been going on for approximately 10 years. The lagoons, which formerly had been used to store waste products when Robertson Inc. manufactured screws at the site, are being cleared based on guidelines set out by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE). While the facility still operated as a plant, metal wire used to manufacture the screws was stored outside the building. To prepare the wire for use in the manufacturing process, it was cleaned with acid, with the waste from this process as well as refuse from the plating process going into the lagoons.

Mr. Nijholt said he hopes the project will be completed soon, but he could offer no specific date. Last month, Robertson Inc. began the latest phase of the project.

The decommissioning project is being undertaken by Clean Harbors Canada of Guelph. Clean Harbors has been trucking material classified as hazardous waste by the MOE to its waste

facility in Sarnia, Ontario.

The Region of Halton maintains an inventory of sites in Halton that have or may have had a land use with the potential to contaminate the surrounding environment. According to the inventory, the Robertson property was registered with the MOE as a hazardous material generator from 1995 to 1999. The company also registered with the ministry as a PCB storage site from 1996 to 2000.

"MINISTRY IS SATISFIED WITH THE RECENT ACTION THE COMPANY HAS TAKEN"

Robertson Inc., which was formerly owned by P. L. Robertson the inventor of the Robertson screw, first opened in Milton in 1908. In subsequent years, refuse from the manufacturing process was dumped at the back of the property, but with more stringent environmental regulations, lagoons were set up to store the refuse. According to Halton Region, the company received approval from the MOE to operate wastewater lagoons, but the Region doesn't indicate the date for this registration or if the lagoons existed prior to its formal registration with the Ontario government. The intention was to avoid seepage and to keep the refuse from draining into Sixteen Mile Creek,

(continued on page 5)

Primping pooch



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Miniature Poodle, Ch. Kieja's Lepricon Dipt In Gold CD. age 4 Owner, Elizabeth Bowes, from Portage La Prairie, Manitoba. More on the Kilbride dog show at Milton on page 2.

Minister receives greenbelt recommendations

By DONNA DANIELLI

The Golden Horseshoe is already one of the most populous regions in Canada, with a predicted growth of another four million people by the year 2031. The preservation of greenspaces and quality of life in the face of such rapid growth has taken precedence on the province's agenda, with the moratorium on development in the Golden Horseshoe announced last December to allow the

(See Greenbelt recommendations continued on page 5)

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