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# THE HALTON COMPASS

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## Trash talk from John Kerry

BY DONNA DANIELLI

U.S. presidential candidate John Kerry made headlines north of the border last week with his vow to close the border to Toronto trash if elected November 2. "It's time to end Canadian trash dumping in Michigan," pledged Kerry in a press release. "George W. Bush has let Michigan become Canada's landfill."

More than 1.1 million tons of trash have been shipped from Toronto to Michigan since the closing of the Keele Street landfill site on January 1, 2003.

Toronto's trash has also been a bone of contention for Halton Region in past months. Earlier this year, Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline requested a guarantee from Minister of the Environment Leona Dombrowsky, guaranteeing in writing that Halton's landfill site would not be forced to accept Toronto's or any other municipality's trash in the event of a border closure. The Minister has the authority to compel a municipality to accept another municipality's trash in the interest of public safety.

### WOULD OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAVE THE INTESTINAL FORTITUDE TO CLOSE THE BORDER THE OTHER WAY?

"We have impressed upon the government that Toronto does have options," Savoline told the Compass. In letters to and meetings with Dombrowsky, Savoline has argued that simply changing the certificate of approval process and allowing private landfill sites to accept municipal trash could divert a crisis.

As for Kerry's vow, Savoline would suggest that the "candidate look to his own backyard" and consider the flow of trash that travels north daily from Michigan to Sarnia, much of which is toxic. "I think it's a knee jerk reaction in a hotly contested presidential election."

Town of Milton Mayor Gord Krantz, in whose municipality Halton's landfill is located, feels fairly confident that the stringent regulations placed on the landfill site by the Ontario Municipal Board may be enough to keep it safe. He does admit though that "It's always a possibility. There's always a concern what politicians at a higher level will do." He's even more interested in what the Canadian government's reaction would be to a potential closing of the border to Toronto's trash. "Would our federal government have the intestinal fortitude to close the border the other way?" he wonders.

## Reservoir named for Bruce Kitchen



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

Bruce Kitchen, former director of engineering services for the Region of Halton, is joined by his daughter Jennifer Kitchen (left) and Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline at ceremonies to rename the reservoir on Upper Middle Road in his honour. Mr. Kitchen worked for 34 years for local government, first with the old County of Halton and then with the Region of Halton when it was formed in 1974. In an address at the dedication, Chairman Savoline underlined the importance of his contributions, making note of his involvement with creating Halton's landfill site. "Bruce Kitchen was the engineer behind the creation of our made-in-Halton solution to our waste management issues. This landfill has doubled its lifespan thanks to the hard work of Halton residents and staff and the sound engineering principles that Bruce used in its creation."



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