

Spending questioned

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Shropshall expressed doubt that Toronto lawyers would be used in other cases involving opposition from "a small group of local taxpayers." She argued that "the Eighth Line group has been elevated to the status of larger developers," such as Reclamation Systems Inc. (RSI), proponent of the Acton dump proposal.

Several councillors said the town is justified in hiring whatever legal firm is deemed suitable to represent its case.

"Should we not get the best legal advice," Councillor Al Cook asked Shropshall. He later remarked: "If council had turned down the proposal, I would hope that we would hire the best lawyer to defend our position."

Noting that council and the town's planning staff are both in support of the Beechbrooke proposal, Councillor Pam Johnston told Mrs. Shropshall: "You're disturbed because we are defending something we are in favor of."

However, Mrs. Shropshall countered that her concerns relate to the town's hiring of legal representatives to fight a small landowners' group when normally, to her "way of thinking", they would be hired only to fight large developers.

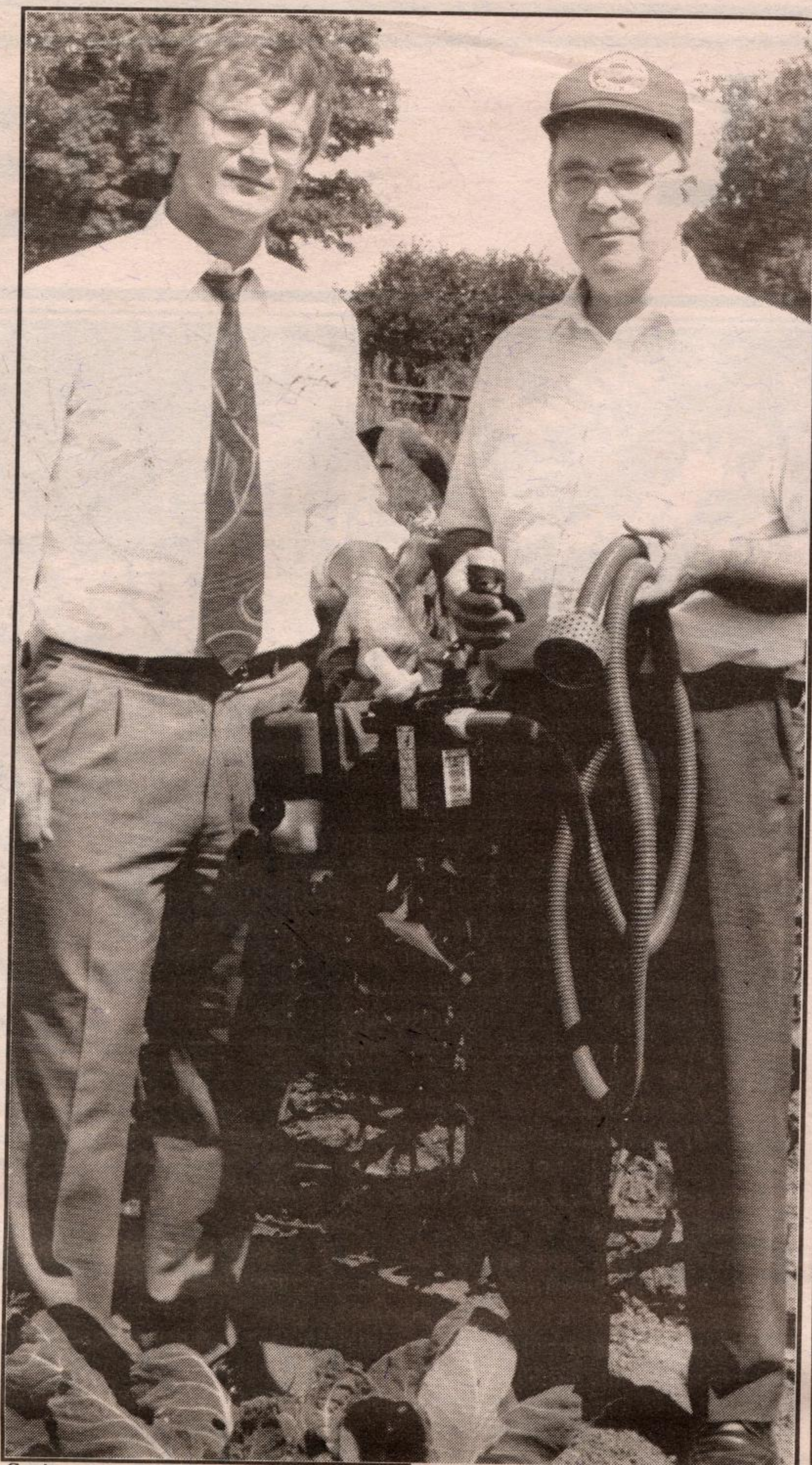
In answer to Councillor Kathy Gastle question about the costs that the ratepayers' group has incurred to date, Shropshall said the group has spent between \$35-38,000 for the first three days of the hearing.

"We are shaking in our boots" because costs could go as high as \$110,000 by the time the hearing concludes, she added.

Gastle suggested that it would be a good idea to get the estimate for the town's legal costs "in writing" because "it sounds like we're getting a bargain."

In an interview following the council meeting, MacLean told Halton Hills This Week that he could understand why Eighth Line residents think costs for the town would be higher, but he emphasized that the town does not have the extra expense of paying for a hydrologist and planner, as is likely the case for the ratepayers' group.

While Councillors Anne Currie and Norm Elliott said it was "highly unethical" for council to discuss the issue with the OMB hearing so close at hand, Councillor Marilyn



Serjeantson thought council should respond to the ratepayers' concerns about the town's procedure for selecting lawyers.

She proposed that council direct staff to prepare a report outlining the process used to select a lawyer to defend the town's position at hearings. The resolution also stated that there be information about when the decision to hire is made and what the proposed costs would be.

Serjeantson's motion failed to get support from the majority of council members.

An \$800 irrigation system has been donated by the Kinsmen Club of Georgetown to Feedback Canada. Accepting the donation from Jack Walinga (left), the service club's past president, was Lionel Salisbury, treasurer of the non-profit organization which provides fresh produce from donated plots of local farmland to Halton, Peel and Metro Toronto food banks.

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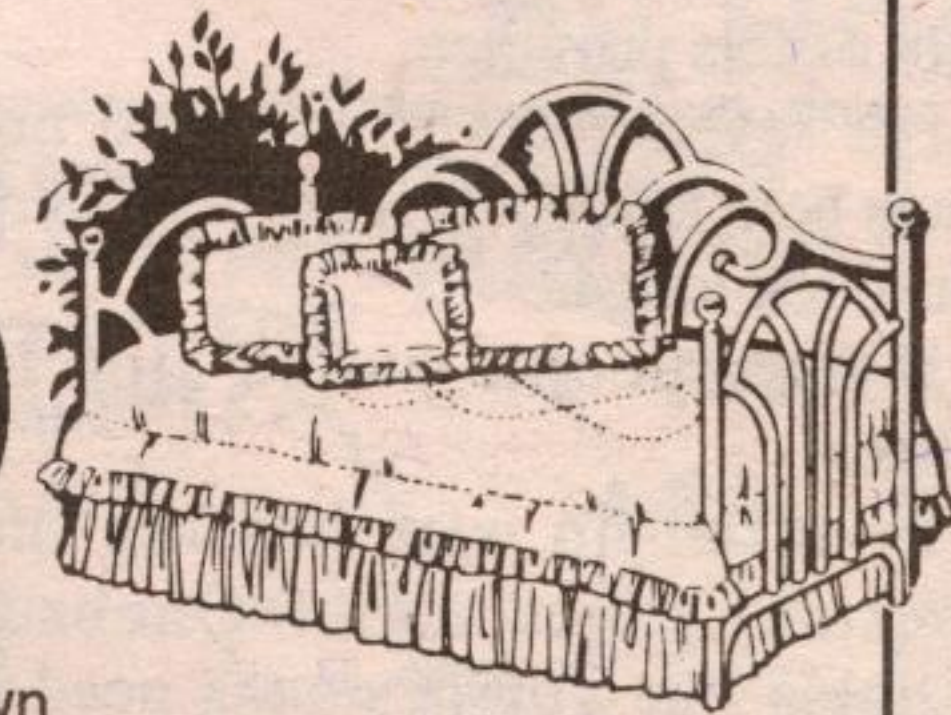
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