

POWER lawyer outlines town/UAL deal on quarry site

By LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

Residents heard only POWER's lawyer's version of the deal being proposed to kill plans for a landfill in the Acton quarry at a meeting Tuesday night.

Peter Pickfield, lawyer for POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) which hosted the meeting, gave his interpretation of what is being proposed but town lawyer Stephen D'Agostino, who was expected to be there, didn't attend.

In a letter to Pickfield, Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson said the town was still involved in detailed discussions regarding the Reclamations Systems Inc. (RSI) proposal and "it is in the best interest of the community that we do not make those discussions public at this time." She added the town didn't feel it was appropriate for D'Agostino to attend the meeting.

Pickfield said recent discussions between the town

and United Aggregates Limited (UAL), which owns the Acton quarry and is partly owned by St. Mary's Cement (as is RSI), have provided the most hope so far that RSI's application will come to an end.

"POWER has never been formally asked to be part of the negotiations. It is a shame because POWER was the key trigger in the community fighting the landfill," said Pickfield.

Pickfield said he understands the terms being discussed to include:

RSI would withdraw its application for a landfill and the town would not go after UAL or RSI for the money it has spent to fight the landfill. Pickfield said POWER would also agree not to pursue its costs, which amount to about \$50,000.

Town treasurer Andy Koopmans said Thursday the town has spent more than \$1 million as of February to fight the proposal.

Pickfield added UAL would agree to study a rehabilitation scheme for the quarry so it

could be used for recreational purposes.

He said another aspect of the proposed settlement is that UAL would agree to impose a restrictive covenant on the quarry, so it couldn't be used for landfill as long as UAL owned it. The town would have an option to buy the quarry lands in the future as soon as quarrying is done.

Another aspect of the agreement according to Pickfield is that POWER, the town and region would agree not to object to the provincial government's regulation exemption which would result in exempting UAL from the Niagara Escarpment Development Act for its quarrying operations.

"Neither the town or UAL has agreed to it (the settlement). They are still in the middle of negotiations," said Pickfield. "I don't believe POWER is willing to throw away the amount of money that's been spent on it (fighting the RSI proposal). RSI has taken this community for a long and miserable ride."

No deal yet, mayor says

At an emergency council meeting called Wednesday night, Halton Hills council continued deliberating the negotiations with United Aggregates Limited (UAL) on the Acton quarry issue.

In the public portion of the meeting, councillors directed town lawyer Stephen D'Agostino to proceed as instructed in-camera and withdrew the bylaw authorizing him to settle matters pertaining to Reclamations Systems Inc. (RSI),

because the timing was premature. "Nothing has been settled yet," said Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson Thursday. "We should know by tomorrow (Monday) night."

Also on Wednesday, regional council passed a resolution endorsing the settlement of all matters pending before the Consolidated Hearings board regarding RSI's landfill proposal based on the terms set out in an in-camera meeting.



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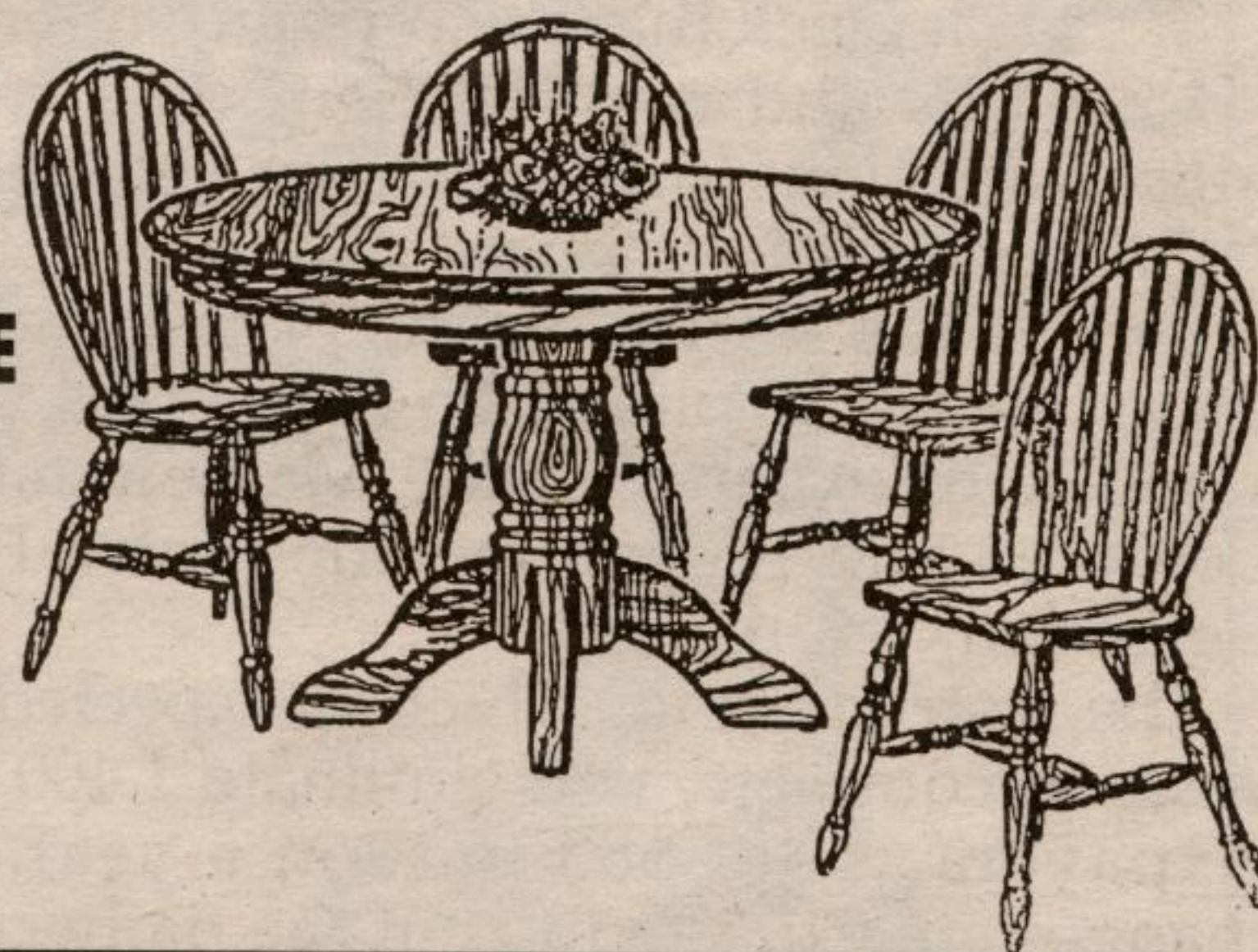
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