

# Savoline pleased at progress made on trash talks

An Environment Ministry spokesman says it would consider using private landfills in addition to public landfills on an emergency basis if Toronto's currently-exported trash must be dumped in the province.

The Liberal government is open to reviewing legislative changes that would allow for private landfills to take a municipality's waste, said Art Chamberlain, communications advisor to Environment Minister Leona Dombrowsky, following last week's meeting between the minister, Halton Chair Joyce Savoline and Halton Liberal MPP Kevin Flynn.

"I think they had a good discussion around that," Chamberlain said.

The meeting came on the heels of a letter Dombrowsky sent to Savoline stating she couldn't excuse Halton's landfill from being a potential site to take Toronto's one million tonnes of garbage per year.

Savoline, fearful of Halton becoming a Toronto dumping ground, said she's ecstatic by that news.

"I think that's great. That reduces the risk of anything coming toward our municipal landfill site."

Chamberlain stressed, however, that the minister at the meeting couldn't commit to favouring a private landfill over a public landfill.

Halton politicians have been quivering at the knees about the possibility that

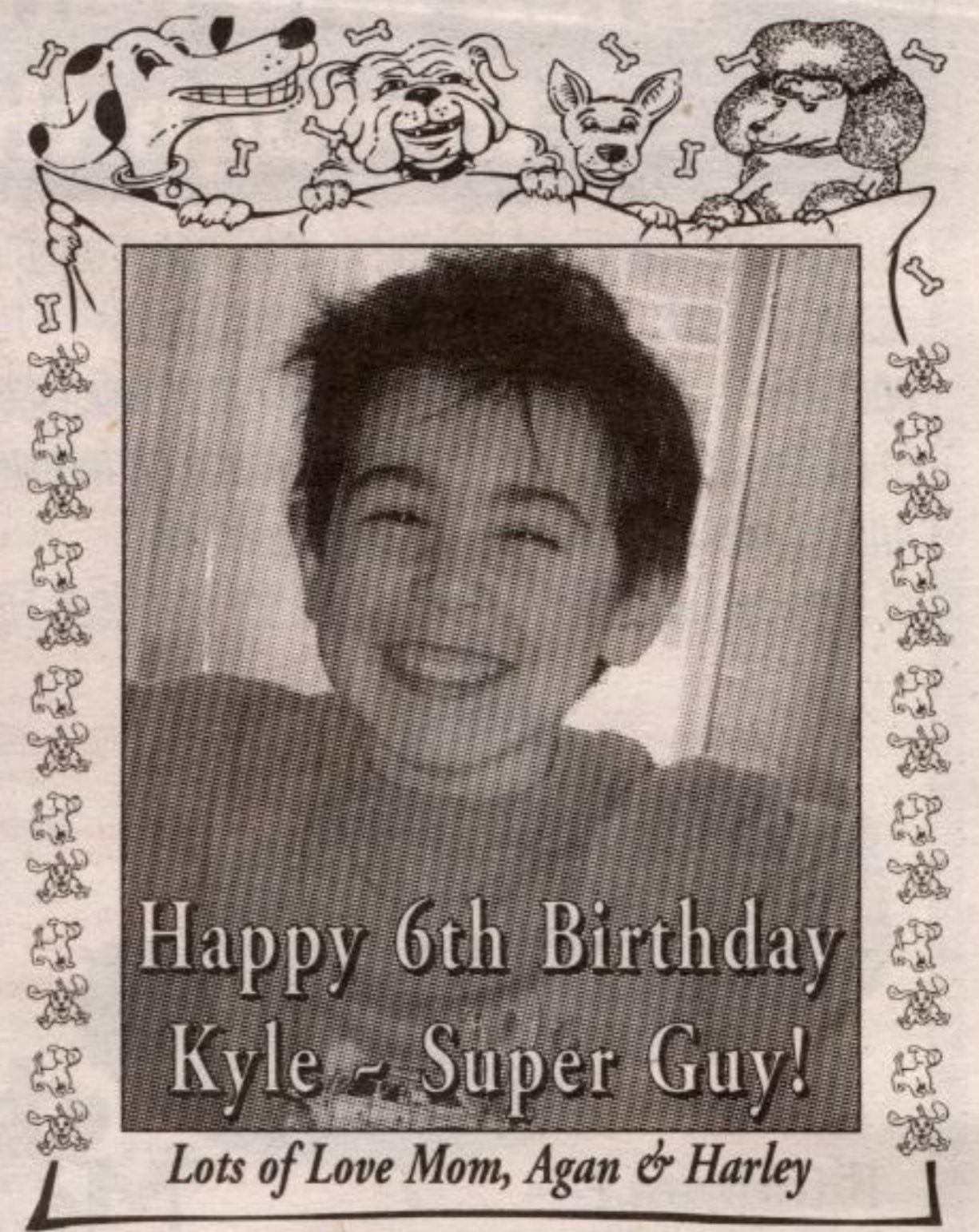
Toronto's trash could come here. Toronto's garbage is trucked daily to a Michigan landfill, raising red flags of what to do if the border shuts down.

Savoline also discussed a resolution endorsed by council illustrating solutions to addressing waste management in Ontario, which included pushing for private landfill sites to be able to accept municipalities' trash.

Savoline said the meeting was "a good beginning."

She said the next big step is the minister plans to write back to the region regarding the resolution she presented.

—By Jason Misner, special



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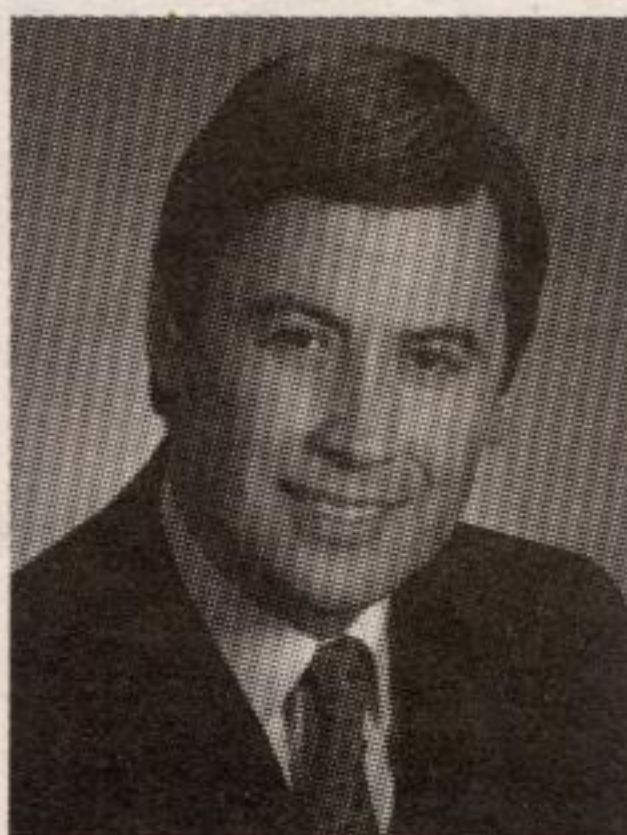
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