Toronto's problem shouldn't become ours

Toronto has a problem. And like so many other Toronto I problems, it threatens to land on our doorstep.

The provincial Liberal government is considering letting Toronto use Halton as a dump. That this is even an issue stems solely from both Dalton's Liberals and Toronto council's irresponsible unwillingness to make the difficult decision.

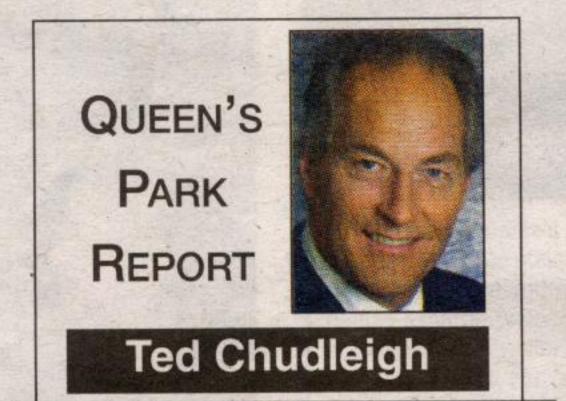
Toronto has been unwilling to make the hard choice and build its own landfill. Toronto councillors agreed to send their trash to the Adams Mine in Kirkland Lake but Dalton stopped it. Currently Toronto is sending its trash to Michigan but legislators there are making noises that this arrangement may be ending. It is not a permanent solution.

What is the alternative? Under emergency powers the province could compel other landfills in the province to take Toronto's trash until a permanent solution is developed.

By contrast, Halton fought the bitter fight and established its own landfill. The process cost millions in legal battles, studies and eventually buildings and equipment. All this was paid for by Halton residents.

In fact this model facility is so well managed that it is expected to operate many decades longer than its expected 25-year life span. However, if Toronto garbage were shipped to Halton, our landfill would be filled up in only two years.

Now, as the Toronto problem grows, Halton council has cottoned on to the idea that the province may



compel the region to accept Toronto's garbage. They are justifiably mad and willing to do something about it.

When the Conservatives were in power at Queen's Park, I made special reference to this potential problem long before it appeared on any agenda. In fact my defence of the dump was mentioned in literature sent to Halton residents.

My caucus colleagues knew where I stood— that under no circumstances would I stand back and let Toronto use Halton as a dump. Due to my intransigence on the issue, using Halton's landfill for Toronto garbage was never considered. Halton Region's only Liberal member, Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn, needs to stand up for Halton and put an end to this speculation.

If necessary I will fight with every weapon at my disposal, with every legal trick or loophole possible. I will stand with every other resident of Halton who sees this possibility for what it really is— a lack of leadership on the part of the provincial Liberals and the City of Toronto.

Ted Chudleigh is the MPP for Halton.

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