

Town becomes first in Ontario to pass environment-first salvage yard bylaw

After years of deferrals, referrals, acrimonious meetings and amendments, the Town of Halton Hills has passed a revised salvage yard bylaw that doesn't make most people happy, but at least some were prepared to accept it.

Contentious items included stricter environmental requirements and regulations concerning heavy equipment noise.

Town Clerk Karen Landry said the major differences between the current bylaw and the new one are:

- Completion of the record of site condition and the filing of that site condition and a copy of the phase two environmental site assessment with Halton Region

- Extending the requirement for a phase two assessment every five years to every 15 years, recognizing that it

costs \$1,000 to \$1,500 per record

- If the Town has reason to believe that a licensee is not carrying out sound environmental practices, the Town can issue a conditional licence

- The licensee must ensure compliance with the Ontario government's Safe Drinking Water Act

- The use of heavy equipment, including forklifts, is permitted during regulated hours of operation provided that they are in good working order and equipped with an effective muffler device

- The prohibited times for creating noise is between 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. Monday to Friday and 5 p.m. Friday to 8 a.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Saturday to 8 a.m. Monday and on any statutory holiday.

The Town is practising "due diligence" to protect the groundwater sup-

plies for this community, Landry said.

Ministry of Environment (MOE) representative Kirsten Mania, senior program advisor at the Environmental Innovations Branch, said the Town's bylaw "is charting new ground in using this approach, however it's not a bad thing."

The MOE supports this bylaw, which she said is the first of its kind in Ontario to require environmental management standards as a condition of salvage yard licensing.

Under questioning as to why the MOE would not accept the environmental certificates, Mania said, this is a municipal-led bylaw and the municipalities should be the "keepers of the document". She confirmed Landry's opinion that should the certificates indicate a problem Halton Region would inform the MOE and become

involved.

Randy Gray, who lives beside a salvage yard, told council he is prepared to accept the newly amended bylaw, just so that it can be enforced. He said that no one (police and town enforcement staff) is prepared to enforce the noise and environmental standards until council approves the amendments.

"So what if nobody else in the province of Ontario has done this, it's important and someone has to be first," he said. "I would just like this to end. The bylaw is fair. Even with all the time and work that has gone into this over the past four years both sides are never going to agree; nobody will be totally happy."

His neighbour John McKay agreed. "I'm not happy with this but if it's See BYLAW, pg. 9



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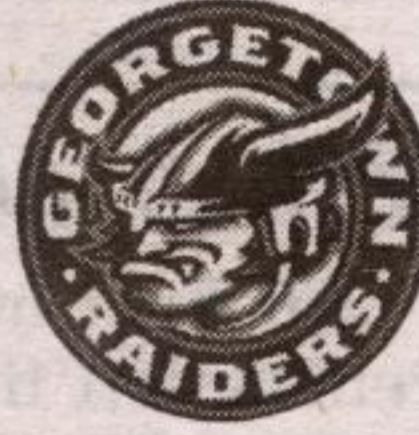
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