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Local politicians take up the fight to bar T.O. trash

egional council is sending a loud and clear message to L the Province— Halton doesn't want garbage from GTA municipalities to ever end up in its landfill.

At its meeting Wednesday, council unanimously supported a resolution that calls for the Regional chairman to write to the Premier and Minister of Environment requesting in the strongest terms that Halton's landfill be excluded from consideration as an interim, short or long-term waste disposal option for other municipalities.

This comes in response to a secret report the Province has had for the past eight months listing landfills in Ontario that could accommodate one million tonnes of trash per year from Toronto, York, Peel and Durham should Michigan stop accepting waste from Canada.

Inside sources have said Halton's site on Regional Road 25 in Milton could be on the list since it's one of the few landfills in Ontario big. enough to take the extra garbage.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette voiced his opposition to the notion, calling it "morally wrong to even look at."

was also strongly opposed to the idea, saying if trash from GTA municipalities ends up the Halton landfill, "it's theft on a grand scale from the taxpayers of Halton."

"I do feel that we're very vulnerable because the Province can basically dictate to municipalities, so no matter how hard we protest, it could still happen," said Fogal, who added other solutions besides burying trash need to be found.

Regional Councillor Clark Somerville was also adamantly opposed to receiving garbage from other municipalities.

"Halton spent \$110 million of taxpayers' money getting things done (finding a site and building a landfill). We were the ones who did everything the right way," said Somerville, "And now this is what's happening."

Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale said it would be "disgusting" if GTA waste were to start coming to Halton's landfill, but if it does, monetary or in-kind compensation would be necessary.

She noted she's spoken with Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn on the issue, who she said knows it would be risky politically to suggest Halton receive garbage from municipalities that ignored the Region's previous warnings and pleas for help, refer-Regional Councillor Jane Fogal / ring to when Halton was out of landfill capacity and turned to its neighbours for assistance.

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Leslie Moskovits arranges her vegetable stand Saturday during the Downtown Georgetown Harvest Festival which signaled the final Farmers' Market for the season. Every Saturday from June to October vendors offer up a wide variety of fresh goods to eager shoppers.

Photo by Yves Desjardins



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