

Region gives stamp of approval to aggressive recycling changes

More recycling and less garbage should help Halton reach its goal of steering 60 per cent of waste from the local landfill.

Last Wednesday regional councillors approved: rolling out more than \$5 million worth, or 140,000 GreenCarts, to dispose of kitchen waste, next April; changing Blue Box pickup to a weekly service, with less sorting of recyclables and adding tubs and lids to the list of items; and reducing garbage collection to every other week, with a six-bag limit imposed.

The changes are expected to extend the life of the region's landfill site by another six to eight years.

For the past four years only about 40 per cent of waste has been diverted from landfill.

"The increased emphasis on recycling is a sustainable approach to waste management, and should help in raising Halton's waste diversion rate to the target of 60 per cent from the current 43 per cent," said regional chair Gary Carr.

GreenCarts will be delivered to homes in March 2008 with information on which items should be dropped into them.

This residential composting program has been pushed ahead by three years due to increase population growth and the region's wish to divert more waste from landfill.

Beginning in April, recyclable material such as paper, glass, plastic and metal, no longer have to be separated into two different Blue Boxes.

Peter Crockett, Halton's Commissioner of Planning and Public Works said, "It will make it easier for residents to participate in our recycling programs and should result in more waste

being recycled than what is being sent to landfill."

Halton Director of Waste Management Rob Rivers said, "We're trying to keep it a made-in-Halton solution."

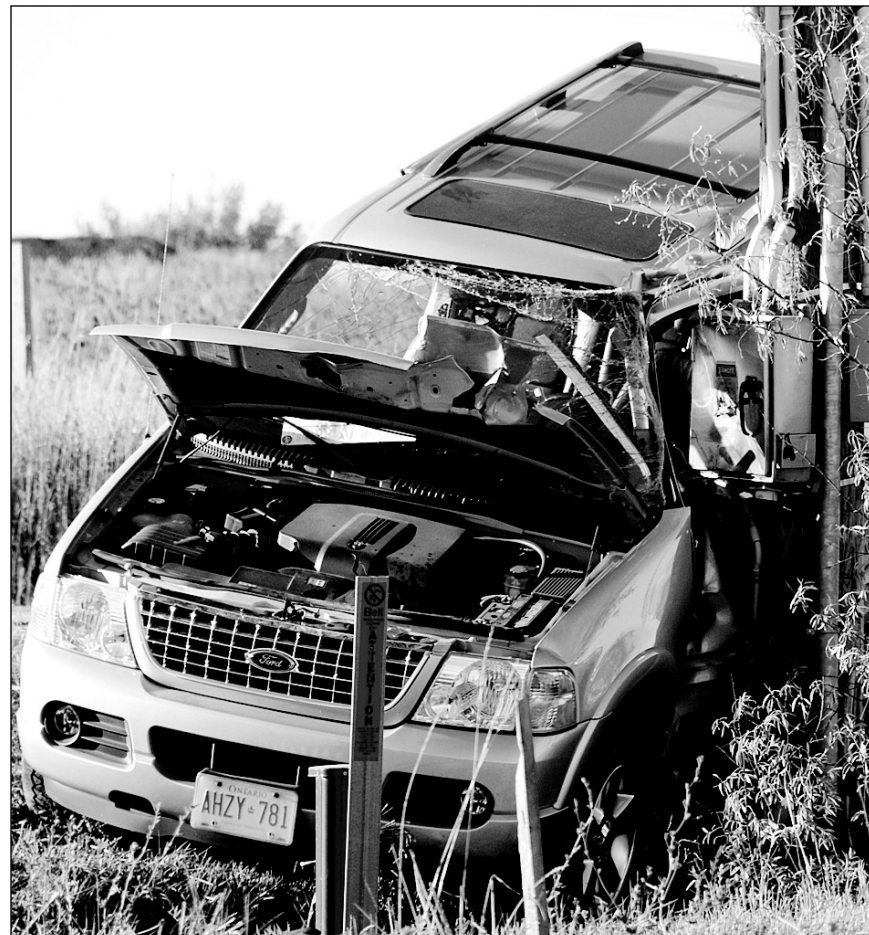
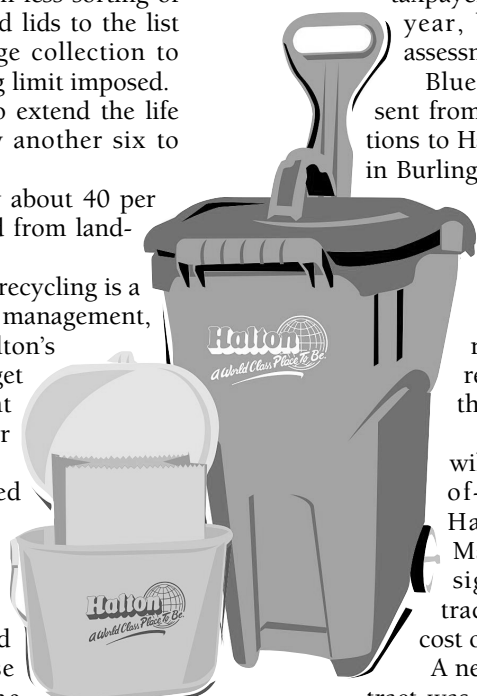
The addition and changes to the waste management plan are expected to cost the average taxpayer about \$20 more next year, based on a \$300,000 assessment.

Blue Box materials will be sent from the waste transfer stations to Halton Recycling Limited in Burlington, which was given a six-year contract to process and market recyclable material for an estimated \$940,000 a year. The region will reap about \$150,000 in revenue from the sales of the recyclables.

GreenCart materials will be processed by state-of-the-art facility at Hamilton's AIM Waste Management, which has signed a four-year contract with the region at a cost of \$2.2 million.

A new waste collection contract was also awarded to Miller Waste Systems for a six-year term beginning April 7, 2008, at a projected cost of \$12.3 million per year. Miller has a fleet of 50 trucks, 30 for collection and 20 for yard waste and garbage.

Residents can find more information about the GreenCart and Blue Box programs by visiting www.halton.ca/waste, or calling 905-825-6000.



Driver airlifted

A 75-year-old Guelph woman was airlifted to Hamilton General Hospital after a collision between a Honda Civic and Ford Explorer at Hwy. 25 and Five Sideroad 1:30 p.m. Monday. Halton Police report after the initial crash the Honda veered into a light pole and the Ford struck a wooden hydro pole. The 33-year-old Rockwood woman, who was driving the Civic, sustained minor injuries and was treated and released at the scene by paramedics. The Guelph woman had to be extricated by firefighters from the Explorer. Anyone who witnessed the accident is asked to call police at 905-878-5511 ext. 2381 or 2354.

Photo by Jon Borgstrom



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