

# Region looks to 'centralize' trash decisions

**MELANIE HENNESSEY**  
Special to The IFP

area of his municipality.

"I want to get a comfort level before I can support this," he said.

Halton Commissioner of Planning and Public Works Peter Crockett explained that GreenCarts and Blue Boxes are planned for the rural area to meet waste diversion targets. He noted that maintaining the status quo when it comes to rural Halton Hills garbage bag collection won't have a detrimental effect on diversion efforts.

Burlington Councillor Jack Dennison questioned why the jurisdiction change is even necessary.

"Our feeling is to ensure we're successful with the diversion targets, we need centralized control," Crockett said.

Oakville Councillor Tom Adams echoed the commissioner's sentiments.

"The Region has the responsibility to provide these programs and doesn't have the authority," he said. "I think the responsibility and the authority should be in one place."

A bylaw that would transfer all jurisdiction over major garbage collection decisions from the four local municipalities to the Region has received an initial stamp of approval.

The item was endorsed by the Region's planning and public works committee at its meeting last week and will go before regional council today (Wednesday) for consideration. A majority of the local municipalities will also have to give their consent to the bylaw for it to come into effect.

If approved, the new regulation would see service level decisions made at the regional level— something the local municipalities can currently alter themselves. The Region's plan is to have weekly Blue Box and GreenCart collection and bi-weekly garbage collection with a six-bag limit.

With the new bylaw though, local councils would be able to request 'enhanced' levels of service, such as when it comes to bulk waste and metal collection in the rural area.

During last week's meeting, Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette asked if garbage bag collection is going to be forced on those who don't currently have it in the rural



**RICK BONNETTE**

Milton Councillor Barry Lee once again voiced his opposition to the bylaw.

"It is taking the control away from the local municipalities," he said, noting he thinks the bylaw will also prohibit the option to discuss service levels in the future. "This is a total change in direction."

Regional Chair Gary Carr reminded him that the Region is committed to working with and consulting the local municipalities about waste management decisions.

"We try to build great relationships with the local municipalities," he said.

Bonnette asked if Milton would have an option to reverse the previous decision it made to have garbage bag pick-up in the rural area.

Crockett said if the new bylaw is in place then it would be up to regional council to make that service level decision. In this situation, he said staff would recommend maintaining the Blue Box and GreenCart pick-up in rural Milton.

The local municipal councils are being asked to pass a resolution that gives consent to the bylaw by the beginning of April 2008. Three out of the four municipalities would have to approve the bylaw for it to come into effect.

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