

Halton taking Toronto trash story 'untrue'

Halton Region Chairman Joyce Savoline says new EFW plant has many options

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A Toronto Star story which maintained that Halton Region's plans to build a waste-to-energy facility could take 70 per cent of the Greater Toronto Area's garbage has been denied by Halton Chairman Joyce Savoline as premature.

"It's simply untrue," Savoline told reporters.

Halton is weighing options for the plant, one of which would make it large enough to accept waste from other regions, but Savoline told reporters Halton has not talked to any other municipalities about it or made any decisions on the size of the plant.

The options include a \$250 million facility to meet Halton's needs until 2050 to a \$500-\$700 million plant that could accept garbage from other places. The plant would be located at the Region's landfill site, off Regional Road 25 south of urban Milton and use in-



**Halton Chairman
Joyce Savoline**

cineration or other thermal technologies to burn trash.

Halton wants to have something in place before the present landfill site expires in 2030. A large waste-to-energy facility in place by 2010 would

lengthen the life of the current site considerably as well as provide revenue for the Region and provide power for as many as 60,000 homes.

Savoline also told reporters the plant would reduce pollution by cutting down on truck traffic since the large option would insist that any waste from outside the Region came by rail lines, possibly by a short spur line.

Toronto's desire to use a Halton facility has been fueled by Michigan's attempts to close the U.S. border to the city's trash.

The Halton only option would handle all residential garbage now going into the landfill. It would generate

power for 18,000 homes. Industrial-commercial garbage is being shipped to Michigan.

Although the Province gave approval to an energy-from-waste plant in 1989, Halton Region Council which will have to make the ultimate decision about the facility is not anticipating an easy journey for any such proposal. Memories are still fresh from the fights to establish the present landfill site. Environmentalists are already criticizing the plan, large or small maintaining the best solution for handling waste is a combination of strict packaging laws and good recycling programs to reduce the volume.

Back to classes and bullying...

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used standover tactics and resorted to punching and biting others to get their way. Some hit, pushed, punched, yelled, screamed, and threw temper tantrums. Others showed little respect for other children or adults.

What's more, the children also knew how to slyly engage in this behaviour when the teacher wasn't watching.

There is concern that this type of behaviour needs to be curtailed at this impressionable age when real behaviour modification is

possible. If left unchecked, children can carry on bullying throughout life, as many in fact do.

Teachers feel parents should work together with the school staff to recognize inappropriate behaviour and instill lessons early on.

Not just boys

While it may be easy to categorize boys as the main offenders in bullying, girls are equally represented. Just look at the way the bully stereotype has transformed through Hollywood movies. While it was once the deviant boy causing all of the trouble (think Scott Farkus, Ralphie's nemesis in "A Christmas Story"), now girls are getting equal airtime in movies such as "Mean Girls," "Heathers," "Cruel Intentions," etc.

Boys are more likely to engage in a physical type of bullying, while girls are experts at the emotional and psychological type. They often employ relational aggression, meaning they use their relationship as a weapon to get what they want. For example, "Do this or I won't be your friend anymore."

In other cases, girls use rumours and innuendo to ruin the lives of other classmates. This is especially effective through e-mail or other electronic methods because of mass reach. Some girls who are on the receiving end of bullying say rumours are oftentimes more hurtful than physical abuse.

Making changes

Bullying is wrong, but not so easily overcome. First and foremost, many students who are being bullied do not report the incidents for fear of further retaliation. A study of Toronto schools found that a bullying act occurred every seven seconds while teachers were aware of only four percent of the incidents.

Close to 40 percent of victims said they had not talked to their parents about the problem.

What is agreed upon is that bringing the topic of bullying to a conversational forum goes a long way in educating students that this type of behaviour is offensive and wrong. It also gives those who have been bullied a voice and a chance to receive support from others who have been in the same shoes. Ignorance will not alleviate the problem, nor will stating that it is a "phase" or "just what kids do."

According to Rachel Simmons, author of two books on girl bullying and someone who has been both the bully and on the receiving end, "the hardest thing in the world is to get somebody to say, 'No, I am not going to go along with this [bullying].'" They believe if they stand up to somebody they're going to lose all of their friends. Unfortunately, some kids are just not going to do that. And no amount of good parenting or teacher supervision is going to make that okay for a kid to do."

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