



TRIP TO OTTAWA: Pouring rain greeted the Grade 8 students at McKenzie Smith Bennett School who were happy to be home after a long bus ride back from Ottawa last Wednesday night. The students enjoyed a one day trip to Quebec as part of a three-day excursion. — *Denise Paulsen photo*



DECORATION DAY: Acton Legion Branch 197 Ladies Auxiliary President Peggy Harris and LA Secretary Helen Van Opstal planted flowers on the graves of veterans during Decoration Day at Fairview Cemetery on Sunday. — *Submitted photo*



The Regional Municipality of Halton www.halton.ca

It's Our Own Garbage

The Joint Board under the *Consolidated Hearings Act* gave approval to Halton Region in 1989 for a new landfill site. Approval under the *Environmental Assessment Act* was included and a number of conditions were set.

Condition 1 of the approval is as follows:

For more than a decade, the Regional Municipality of Halton searched for a new landfill site to receive the waste of its citizens. A great deal of money was spent in the search, and residents of two communities felt threatened by the impending decision. In 1987 and 1988 a Hearing was held by the Consolidated Hearing Board established by the Environmental Assessment Board and the Ontario Municipal Board. This Board heard that although the Regional Corporation was responsible for disposing of waste, it was not alone responsible for waste reduction, reuse and recycling measures. This Board also heard that the waste recycling objectives in the Region were modest, being less than 20%.

The Board orders, therefore, as its first condition of approval for a new landfill site in the Regional Municipality of Halton, that the Regional Corporation enter into agreements with the Municipalities of the Region to establish a Municipal-Regional Waste Management Committee having as its goal the reduction, recycling and reuse of waste so that there will be very little waste remaining to be landfilled. Through public meetings held at least twice a year the Committee should attempt to reach the goal through measures including but not limited to:

- paper recycling and denial of landfilling paper products;
- promotion of individual, private and public composting facilities;
- provision of glass and metal recycling facilities for residential, apartment and commercial establishment waste, including provision of reception areas for packaging materials at point-of-sale of such materials;
- development of measures to encourage retail outlets to reduce to the maximum extent possible "disposable" items and packaging materials, including fast-food packaging materials;
- provision of reception areas for household hazardous wastes, and
- consideration and development of mandatory recycling programs which include rewards and penalties for compliance and non-compliance.

Once each year the Regional Municipality shall report on the participation of area Municipalities and the extent of cooperation and progress on the work of this Committee in full-page advertisements in the newspapers having general circulation in each of the Region's constituent Municipalities, under the headline "IT'S OUR OWN GARBAGE," and is to include this condition in full at the beginning of such advertisement.

What We Did in 2009

By participating in Blue Box, GreenCart, yard waste, reuse and household hazardous waste programs, Halton residents are sending less garbage to the landfill.

In 2009, Halton Region achieved a residential waste diversion rate of 60 per cent. This is one of the highest residential waste diversion rates in Ontario!

As a result of the ongoing participation by residents in Halton's waste collection programs, 2009 diversion data has indicated that Halton's landfill site has gained an additional two years of capacity beyond what was projected in 2008. The landfill is now projected to reach capacity in the year 2032.

Joint Municipal-Regional Waste Management Committee

Comprised of members from Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville, the Committee promotes the 3Rs—reduce, reuse, recycle—to help minimize the amount of waste going to landfill. The Committee was established to satisfy the above Condition.

In 2009, the Committee supported reviews of the Provincial Waste Diversion Act, and Blue Box Program Plan, waste audits and participation study results, Blue Box litter abatement, and various communications initiatives.

How We Did It

Communications & Outreach

- Award-winning communications program including WasteLess News and Waste Management Calendar
- Award-winning workshops for schools, community groups and apartments reaching 32,986 people
- Participation in community events and open houses
- Online customer service tools
- "Calendar Cover Art" contests for youth

Waste Diversion Programs

- Weekly Blue Box and GreenCart collection
- Every other week collection of garbage
- Battery recycling program in partnership with Local Municipalities

The Results

Total material diverted from landfill through reuse, recycling and composting programs: 124,413 tonnes

Amount of materials collected at the curb, events and HWMS:

- Blue Box: 47,372 tonnes
- GreenCart: 24,799 tonnes
- Yard waste: 33,358 tonnes

- Cell phone, printer cartridge, eyeglasses, natural cork and electronics recycling
- Household Hazardous Waste Depot
- Paint reuse program
- Salvation Army Reuse Depot
- Blue Boxes and GreenCarts delivered to new subdivisions
- Backyard Composter sales
- Space-saving reusable tarps as an alternative daily cover at the landfill

Extended Producer Responsibility (Industry Funded Programs under the Waste Diversion Act)

In collaboration with our neighbouring municipalities, Halton Region has advocated to the Provincial government

resulting in legislation that has enabled increased support from industry for the proper recycling and disposal of material through the following programs:

- Take It Back! Halton (www.halton.ca/takeitback)
- Municipal Hazardous & Special Waste (www.dowhatyoucan.ca)
- Used Tires (www.ontariots.ca)
- Waste Electronics & Electrical Equipment (www.dowhatyoucan.ca)

Special Events

- Compost Give Away
- Tire Amnesty Day
- Environment Day
- Special Waste Drop-off Days

A Report describing compliance with all the Conditions of Approval under the Environmental Assessment Act is available for review. To obtain a copy of this report, please call Halton Region by dialing 311 or 905-825-6000 or 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866) or TTY 905-827-9833.