

Site F discussed

HRCA not a puppet of region

A request from Halton Region to reword statements concerning the proposed regional landfill site F got an angry response at the Halton Region Conservation Authority (HRCA) meeting last week.

"I'm not going to try to hide my anger," said Terry Mannell, interrupting a presentation by the region's lawyer Dennis Perlin. "The region has shown all the subtlety of a sledgehammer and the proverbial bull in a china shop."

"The conservation

authority will say what recommendations it wants to submit and not mouth words the region directs. The authority is a separate body, and not a puppet of the region," Mr. Mannell asserted.

HRCA was courted by Halton's lawyer and the lawyer and delegates of Tremaine - Britannia Citizens Group, which is fighting the dump. Both sides were reacting to statements concerning Site F put forth by HRCA's land use advisory board. A handout on the

region's submission bore the title "Recommended Changes in Statements".

Mr. Perlin argued the region was not attempting to usurp the HRCA role. He said a landfill site was needed and the region was looking to fellow public bodies for support and guidance.

David Estrin, lawyer for the protest group, asked HRCA to apply to the province to have Site F lands "scheduled", a procedure that would bring the lands under the authority's jurisdiction, giving it legal powers

to grant or deny a fill permit. The land use advisory board had recommended amendment of existing regulations not be proceeded with.

The authority referred the matter back to the land use advisory board for study on the extent of flooding in the event of a regional storm.

Remaining statements made by the land use advisory board were accepted and a request by the protest group to be informed about any applications to HRCA dealing with Site F was accepted as well.

The adopted statements

read as follows:

— That HRCA not support the proposal to convert class one farmland into non-agricultural use.

— That questions concerning groundwater contamination and the costs of protecting groundwater resource be thoroughly studied before any final decision is reached on the suitability of Site F.

— That if the proposal proceeds, the Woodlots on Site F be preserved and controlled through the appropriate zoning so that the trees are protected and the rural character of the area is maintained.

— That HRCA is not interested in Site F as a potential recreation facility.

— That the question of surface water containment and treatment on Site F be documented by the proponent and resolved before a final decision is reached on the suitability of Site F.

The region had recommended that the first statement be changed to read that HRCA, although regretting the conversion of Class 1 farmland into non-agricultural use, supports and encourages the region's intention to restore the site to agricultural use at the end of the six-year life.

"We all know that's a joke," commented Jim Watson, Milton representative to the authority. "It would never return to first class farmland."

Another statement change the region recommended was that the authority call for the region to install a full and proper leachate control

system to prevent any possibility of the surface waters being contaminated with leachate. Mr. Watson maintained the region's reason for choosing Site F in the first place was because no leachate collection was said to be needed.

Eric Larsen, a consultant for the region, said that leachate would not be a problem for 10 years. This information caused a member of the audience to retort: "I thought it (landfill) was only for six years."

"We feel there are other ways of handling garbage rather than a landfill site," said Craig Reid, speaking for the citizens' delegation. "People in Europe are bidding against each other for garbage for heat."

"We are concerned about our water and our land," he continued. "We have the best water in the world. Let's keep it that way. Forty per cent of sickness would be eliminated if the rest of the world had clean water."

Earlier in the meeting, Mr. Reid described flooding in the Site F area last fall and this spring. Ane Katz, also a member of the citizens' group, showed slides of water-covered fields in the area. The slides were taken this spring. There appeared to be some dispute between members of the group and HRCA staff concerning the direction of water flow at the site.

Halton Region Conservation Authority is withholding 15 per cent of its payment to Skyway Engineering for construction of a triple chairlift at Kelso because the lift wasn't completed in the time agreed.

Last fall HRCA contracted to pay Skyway \$165,000 provided construction was completed within 60 days. But the lift did not begin operation until March 11. Skyway claims delay in the delivery of parts for the lift made it impossible to complete construction in the time specified.

The authority is withholding payment of \$24,750 until its losses and liabilities have been assessed. Earlier the authority held back more than \$81,000, but all but the 15 per cent has been released.

Meanwhile, Glen Eden ski area at Kelso had brought in a profit of \$104,567 by the end of February. This amount exceeds last year's revenue for the same time period by almost \$65,000.

CA halts development of Crawford Lake

Halton Region Conservation Authority has called a halt to development of Crawford Lake Conservation Area.

A private group, the Conservation Foundation, has been ready to proceed with fundraising for the first two phases of the project. HRCA members decided it would be preferable to face some embarrassment now than to make a long-term mistake. They plan to meet with the foundation Thursday.

Since HRCA purchased the property in 1969, an Indian Village was discovered in the area. Cost of developing the site, including an educational interpretive centre, roads,

parking lots and a gate house, was estimated at \$300,000. Operating costs were estimated at \$45,000.

"I would rather see the area left in a natural state, not put to massive public usage," said Jim Watson, Milton representative to the authority. "That's not the purpose for which it was bought."

"At the time it was bought we didn't know we had an Indian village there," said chairman Brock Harris.

The property has declined very quickly, reported Bill Warwick, director of conservation services. He said the authority has been unsuccessful in policing and controlling it. Controlling uni-

versities who want to remove samples for research has been a problem.

Moreover, the area is known and is attracting an unsavory crowd, Mr. Warwick added. "We have to do something."

"I'm sick of the argument we have to develop areas to protect them," said Joan Allingham, Burlington representative to HRCA. "These things grow like topsy."

Oakville representative Terry Mannell said the authority should have made its position clear to the foundation a year ago, adding the authority was treating the foundation in a cavalier fashion.

Halton Hills representative Russ Miller commented the original decision was made by people other than those sitting on the authority now. "Developing this property is to destroy it."

"We're going in a lot of directions," summed up Mr. Watson. "We should redefine our aims and objectives and follow them. We don't know what to do with Crawford Lake."

During the same meeting the authority continued discussions concerning a proposal to install a concrete "Superslide" at Kelso led to further examination of the authority's purpose. "I don't think we should get into the Disneyland type of amusement at Kelso," said Keith

Bird of Oakville.

But several others argued the slide would be a money-making proposition and would offset losses in a bad skiing season.

"There's nothing wrong with making a buck," said Gordon Krantz, vice-chairman of the authority. "If we don't make it, someone else will. The concrete slide will go in someplace."

"If it's simply a matter of making money, why turn down Crawford Lake?" asked Paul Farley of Oakville. "You can overutilize Kelso and turn it into a three-ring circus."

Staff was requested to provide further information about the slide.

Council review Crawford Lake

Milton Council last week had second thoughts on the Crawford Lake Conservation Area. Council had previously endorsed plans to develop the area.

However, Councillor Jim Watson, who had missed the meeting at which Crawford Lake was discussed, questioned the decision. He said although a private foundation was raising funds for developing the site, the town would have to operate it from municipal levies at a cost of \$20,000 or more annually.

Councillors agreed to approve the plans in principle, subject to the conservation authority entering into a

development agreement with the town.

At the same meeting council heard a request from R. E. Austen of Northgate Farm, Campbellville, for closure of the unopened portion of Fourth Line from Five Sideroad to the back limit of his property. Mr. Austen said the Hydro corridor running through his property has severely cut into his land.

If he can get a portion of Fourth Line, he would stand a chance of picking up another acre to make a 10-acre parcel

—No outstanding April Fool's Day jokes were reported in town on Saturday.

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Public school supporters may register their children who will have attained the age of 5 years on or before the last day of February 1979. Proof of public school support is required and a birth certificate or a baptism certificate will be acceptable as proof of age.

If further information is required, please call the school principal.

D. G. Morton Chairman
E. S. Lavender Director

HRCA withholds payments

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