

# Continued landfilling is 'just plain dumb' — Minister

People have to wake up and realize that "landfill is just plain dumb" according to Ontario Environment Minister Dr. Harry Parrott.

Speaking Friday to a Halton Region-sponsored seminar on source separation, Dr. Parrott said his ministry is prepared to fund municipalities ready to get into source separation as a method of reducing the dependence on using landfill for garbage disposal.

Source separation means residents dividing garbage into glass, metal, and newspapers which can be used in recycling. The percentage of recyclables reduced means the duration of landfill sites can be extended and money can be made from source separation to offset the cost of municipal waste disposal.

Dr. Parrott said the Ministry of the Environment will fund any project which shows the promise of being able to be self-sufficient in three years.

Halton Regional Council is now considering a program of source separation and it is the responsibility of the Solid Waste Management Committee.

Dr. Parrott stressed the operation of a source separation program must be municipal, not provincial, and he noted Halton is currently in the "forefront" of municipalities considering such a plan.

He said if the Region brings forward a workable program, "you bring it to me" and it will be put into operation.

"We can no longer afford the bad habits of the past," he said.

Dr. Parrott noted since his appointment as Environment Minister he has been a proponent of source separation as a priority, and "it is very high on my list of personal priorities."

During the day-long seminar many examples of source separation in the United States were discussed. Many municipalities there have gone to mandatory-by-law programs.

## Recycling: United States experience shows it can happen here

Halton Region can save millions of dollars in energy usage in encouraging people to separate their garbage so portions can be recycled. It is being proved now in many towns and cities in the United States.

Two experts in the field of source separation highlighted a day-long Halton Region sponsored seminar held Friday on starting a source separation program on a region-wide basis.

The first speaker of the day was Chaz Miller of the United States Environmental Protection Agency of Washington, D.C., and an acknowledged expert in the field.

In Halton Region, for example, each ton of garbage is equal to the consumption of 17 trees in terms of paper content in the ton. By lessening the amount of garbage, it means in Halton, \$13.50 saved per ton. That is the cost per ton now spent to bury refuse in landfill sites.

Mr. Miller noted that great strides have been made in the United States, while admittedly there have also been failures.

A total of 45 per cent of all garbage is recyclable but the current programs have not reached the level.

Current highs in terms of paper are 28 per cent of the newsprint being recycled and 33 per cent of the corrugated cardboard. But aluminum cans are highly recyclable and firms are paying \$460 a ton for old cans. This is as high as 50 per cent.

Now that recycling has been in operation for about a decade, several lessons have been learned, not the least of which is recycling by a government or volunteer agency must realize refuse is a business.

"You can't sell scrap, no one wants it. You have to understand that the recycled material must be in the quality and form wanted by the buyer," Mr. Miller said.

Once this is done recycling becomes a part of a town's operation to the point it would be too expensive to go back to landfill.

In Boca Raton, Fla., the public works director has stated that if source separation was ended now it would mean spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to buy garbage trucks and compactors, and hire staff to man them.

Mr. Miller said many groups have now found out it is wise to sign a contract with a buyer as a hedge against weak markets.

Most of all the group should know that mechanical forms of loading and unloading are crucial to efficient operation. Mechanical unloading takes seconds while manual unloading can take hours.

But of particular interest to Halton is the program being run in Montclair, N.J., and the town of 40,000's recycling coordinator Jean Clark spoke to the Halton seminar on what they had done. It carried obvious messages for Halton Region which is currently considering source separation.

Miss Clark has been named National Recycler of the Month in the United States for October and she has just been named by a congress of recycling groups as Recycler of the Decade in the United States.

The Montclair program began in 1971 during Earth Day and from the start "we realized that we were in a business" and that accounts for the strict cost-conscious approach.

The Montclair group works hand-in-hand with the municipality. Currently they are retrieving nine per cent of paper or about 28 tons per week, but that is bringing in \$4,100. That has resulted in a saving to the town of more than \$41,500 per year in paper collection alone.

They are also close to a glass manufacturing plant which Mr. Miller said is key to the success of any recycling project.

They have a small glass crusher in Montclair, and because of the constant publicity through a co-operative interest has remained high to the point where they are processing three to four tons of glass per hour.

The local newspaper publishes a recycling report on the amounts of glass, paper, and metal taken in weekly, and it is read like the baseball box scores.

Miss Clark said the Montclair project considers that for each ton of recyclable materials, the town has saved the equivalent of two-thirds of a barrel of oil in energy or about \$60 to 90 per ton.

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## Milton firm is part of massive recycling project

A Milton firm, J.C. Recycling, is to be involved in one of the largest newspaper recycling projects ever attempted in Canada.

The firm will soon be in a contractual arrangement with the Ontario Paper Company and its newsprint recycling division which promises to produce reusable newsprint equal in quality to the "virgin" newsprint made from trees cut down in Northern Ontario.

John Davis, speaking for the firm, said the Ontario Paper Company plant in Thorold is planning a massive expansion which will be processing 100,000 tons of old newspapers by 1984.

The volume of that much old newsprint is equal to a building encompassing a football field and 15 storeys high.

J.C. Recycling in Milton will be supplying old newspaper to the plant in Thorold and will be doing most of North Halton, and as far west as Guelph.

Mr. Davis said his firm, which cuts trees in Northern Ontario, is switching to recycling from a conservation point of view and the fiscal view in regards to the amount of energy it takes to cut trees and transport them to Thorold.

The total investment in the new plant will exceed \$100 million and it contains the ability to "deink" newsprint which has been the major problem with newsprint recycling in the past.

He said Ontario only recycles about 20 per cent of newsprint while the figure is about 40 per cent in the United States. Right now his firm is prepared to take every ton of old newsprint Ontario can generate. This would lead, by 1984, to a possible 50 per cent recycling or about 100,000 tons, the company objective.

Mr. Davis said the rolls of newsprint contain about 75 per cent virgin wood fibre and 25 per cent recycled fibre. Cost and quality are equal, he said.

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## Monarch out Leferink is in

Monarch Disposals will be told it has to vacate the Georgetown waste transfer station to make way for another competitor.

Leferink Disposals has been given a Halton Public Works Committee recommendation to Council that Leferink be allowed to move its garbage compactor and collection bins to the transfer site and begin operations.

Both firms had petitioned the Region to use the site and Monarch had been given approval because it had correctly sized bins. Since that time, Monarch has also put money into the site.

Four weeks ago, Halton Hills Councillor Russ Miller asked the committee "whether Leferink would be going into the old Georgetown landfill site by Nov. 1?"

He was told at the time the answer was no, but that a report would be prepared by Regional Solicitor Dennis Perlin. The problem at that time, Mr. Perlin said,

was Leferink was operating its compactor on an "illegal" site and was looking for a legal one.

At the Public Works Committee, Mr. Perlin made the recommendation that the lease agreement with Monarch be terminated and that Leferink take over. The lease with Monarch can be determined legally.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1980 AT 7:30 P.M.  
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