

Fate of Halton police helicopter still up in the air

By LISA CARTWRIGHT
The Champion

Halton Regional Police would benefit from a helicopter, but not on a full-time basis, according to a police official.

"It probably isn't justified in Halton," said Superintendent Paul Cormier. "We don't have the number of calls."

Superintendent Cormier's comments stemmed from a presentation to Halton, Hamilton-Wentworth and Peel police on the effectiveness of air support last week after the three services participated in a five-month helicopter pilot project — Air 3 — from July to December, 1999.

Dr. Kathryn Asbury of Research Management Consultants Inc. studied the pilot project and found that ample evidence existed to show helicopters are a valuable operational tool for local police services.

"The helicopter made a contribution to a broad range of calls for service and has some important impacts in all three jurisdictions," Dr. Asbury wrote in her report.

To help establish the effectiveness of the project, targets and goals were set, she said.

The goals of AIR 3 were to reduce the duration of high-speed pursuits as well as lessen the response times to alarm calls, theft of motor vehicles and residential and commercial break-ins by 10 per cent, and to increase cultivating narcotics charges by 100 per

cent.

The partners also wanted to find out response times, determine officer satisfaction and get community opinion.

While many of the goals weren't met, Dr. Asbury stressed that was because of the tight flight schedule and the short test period rather than the ineffectiveness of the helicopter.

Each police organization used the helicopter for six hours for two consecutive nights each week.

"They (police) were locked into a schedule," Dr. Asbury said.

She said the short-time frame "hindered the ability of teams to meet their objectives."

In Halton, the targets that were met included reducing the number of commercial break and enters by 10 per cent and increasing the number of cultivating narcotics charges by 100 per cent.

In the latter, about \$1.5 million dollars worth of drugs were seized and two arrests were made.

Dr. Asbury's report also stated there was high officer satisfaction with the helicopter in that it arrived faster than a cruiser.

In fact, Air 3 was 76 per cent faster, Dr. Asbury said.

In Halton, cruisers took about six-and-a-half minutes to respond to a call, while Air 3 responded in just more than a minute-and-a-half.

The budget for the pilot project was about \$550,000, with \$250,000 being funded by the Ministry of the Solicitor General and Correctional Services.

Because of what Dr. Asbury called "fiscal management," the pilot project cost almost \$490,000 — less than originally predicted.

What police do with the information is now up to the individual organizations, Superintendent Cormier said.

Here, the Halton Regional Police Services Board will evaluate the report before making any decisions.

HALTON REGION 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-

JOINT MUNICIPAL-REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

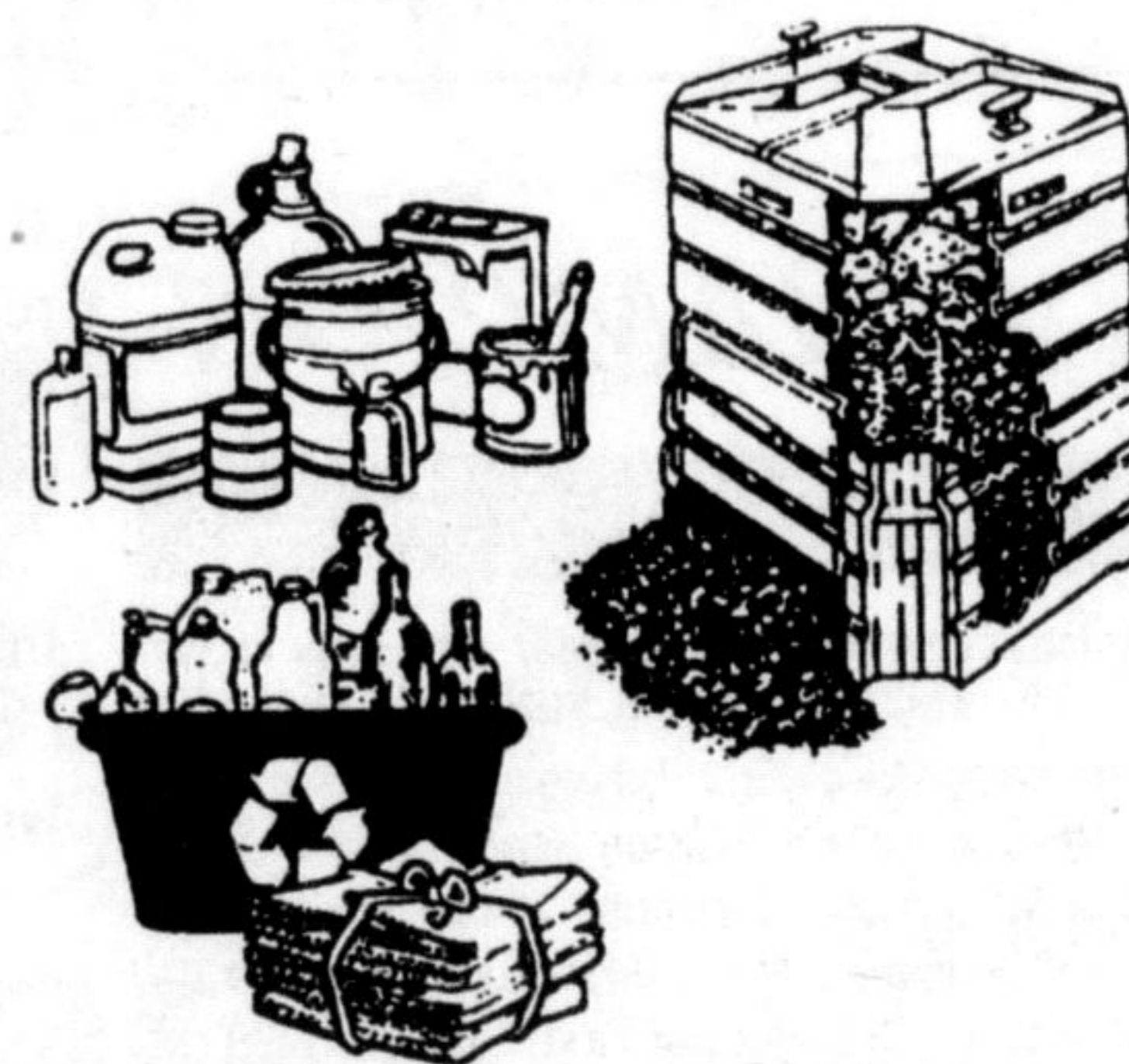
This Committee was established to satisfy the above Condition. It was intended as a cooperative effort between the Region and Area Municipalities to promote the 3Rs and as a result, to minimize Halton's long term disposal requirements.

Under direction of the Joint Committee, the following programs have been established:

- Solid Waste Management Strategy
- School Waste Reduction Awareness Program
- Special Environmental Events
- Composting
- Household Hazardous Waste Depot
- Single Tier Waste Management
- Blue Box Recycling Program
- Canadian Foodgrains Bank Project
- Tire Amnesty Days
- Compost Give-Away

The Joint Committee meetings are open to the public. Public input and participation in the development of programs is encouraged.

MATERIALS
DIVERTED
THROUGH
HALTON'S 1999
DIVERSION
PROGRAMS



MATERIAL	TONNES
Paper Products	19,899
Glass	3,593
Yard Waste	10,710
Cardboard	4,339
Steel/Aluminum Cans	1,485
Scrap Metal	881
Plastic Containers	571
Drywall	344
Tires	105
TOTAL	41,927

Total residential waste received in 1999, 94,835 tonnes

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 or if you have any comments or suggestions, please write to:

The Regional Municipality of Halton, Waste Management Services
1151 Bronte Road, OAKVILLE
Ontario, L6M 3L1

or call the Waste Management Information Line
(905) 825-6034

Acton..... (519) 853-0501 ext. 6034
Georgetown..... (905) 878-8113 ext. 6034
Aldershot..... (905) 639-4540 ext. 6034
Streetsville..... (905) 823-6720 ext. 6034



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