

# Regional councillors want more sewer discharge information before they approve bylaw revisions

By **RICHARD VIVIAN**

*The Champion*

New sewer discharge regulations are on the way, but at least one regional councillor doesn't feel they go far enough.

"These numbers (permitted quantities of chemical discharges) are driven by what industry wants, not what's best for the environment," Oakville Councillor Allan Elgar told the Halton planning and public works committee Wednesday.

Committee members approved the staff-recommended sewer discharge bylaw revisions, but were looking for more information before council takes a formal stance on the issue tomorrow.

The bylaw restricts the quantity of specific materials permitted into the sewer system from businesses.

Sewer discharges are treated at municipal facilities prior to being released into natural bodies of water.

Though much of the proposed bylaw remains the same as the existing one, some elements have been altered, removed or added.

Included in the proposal is the lowering of permitted mercury discharge levels from 0.1 mg/l to 0.05 mg/l.

Bismuth and Vanadium are also proposed to be removed from the bylaw.

The proposed revisions would further see the inclusion of beryllium, benzene, chloroform, toluene, trichloroethylene and others.

"Why aren't we taking the top standards? With less (industry) shouldn't we have better standards?" Mr. Elgar persisted, pointing to the City of Toronto's standards.

The City of Toronto sewer discharge bylaw permits lower levels of cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel and seleni-

um than is proposed in the Halton bylaw.

But according to the Region's Commissioner of Planning and Public Works Patrick Murphy, the difference is derived from the fact there are different types and quantities of industries in Toronto.

"You can't draw direct comparisons (between Halton and Toronto). Toronto is different because you may have hundreds of operators (discharging the same chemical) and in Halton only one or two you have to worry about," he explained.

Prior to regional council's consideration of the bylaw tomorrow, staff will prepare a report outlining the differences between the two systems and explain why the Toronto levels are lower than the proposed Halton levels.

## North Halton's literacy group returns to Milton

Literacy North Halton has physically moved back to Milton.

The organization has recently located to the Milton Employment Partners Centre at Laurier Avenue and Ontario Street.

"We are stepping up our program in Milton," said Wendy Somerville, outreach co-ordinator.

"Our main office is still in Georgetown but we wanted to have a presence in Milton."

Literacy North Halton offers one-on-one and group tutoring for adults, she continued.

"We will have a class at the office Wednesday nights and will continue with the Tuesday morning class at Knox Presbyterian Church."

Ms Somerville said the organization was able to open an office in town due largely in part by a grant from the Town's Community Fund, she added.

Adults wishing to be tutored will first meet with a training co-ordinator for an assessment to identify their strengths and weaknesses, she continued.

Then a volunteer is matched with the person for one-on-one or group tutoring.

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