

Comment

Hands off our dump

We have a message for Toronto — hands off our dump.

We urge Ontario Environment Minister Leona Dombrowsky to seriously consider that message sent via Halton Regional Chair Joyce Savoline and Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn in their meeting yesterday.

Currently, Toronto is sending 125 trucks a day filled with trash to Michigan where state officials keep threatening to turn them back. The City had pinned its hopes on dumping its garbage in the massive Adams Mine project near Kirkland Lake, but Dalton McGuinty's Liberal government has killed that project.

So Toronto is obviously casting an envious eye toward Halton's landfill site in Milton, which could be opened up under the emergency powers granted to the environment minister.

But if the environment minister allows this to happen, she would be punishing Halton for Toronto's failure to deal with its own waste problems.

The development of Halton's landfill site was a long and arduous task that spanned 15 years and cost regional taxpayers \$100

million. At the same time, Halton embarked on ambitious recycling campaigns to reduce the amount of waste being dumped at the landfill site to increase its lifespan.

Its current lifespan is estimated to be as high as 40 years, but if the site is opened up to Toronto, it could be filled to capacity within two years.

Years ago, Halton made one of the most difficult decisions a political body may ever face — finding a suitable place to build a new landfill site within its own borders. Meanwhile, Toronto politicians twiddled their thumbs and refused to follow Halton's lead. They lacked the vision to deal with the problem that is now strangling their city.

Halton shouldn't be punished for Toronto's shortsightedness and lack of political backbone.

Rather than open up Halton's landfill site, the environment minister should follow the advice from Flynn and Savoline to change the certificates of approval for various private landfill sites to allow them to accept municipal solid waste.



Our Readers Write

It's sad to see so much littering: reader

Dear Editor:

I agree wholeheartedly with Mike Horning's recent letter about littering.

It's so sad to see so much garbage along fence lines, ditches, fields and yards. It seems that water bottles, coffee cups and plastics are everywhere.

Let's have more clean-ups in Milton.

School kids and office workers could take time on their lunch and help clean

up. Everyone could be encouraged to maintain their own properties on an ongoing basis.

Also, developers should be held responsible for the debris around building sites.

We only have one planet to sustain.

Let's keep it clean.

Carol Kerr
Mary Street

Rural trash pick-up a nightmare, says reader

Dear Editor:

It's 6 a.m. on a Wednesday in April and my recycled boxes are at the end of my long driveway in rural Milton.

Guess what? The boxes are still full. They were supposed to be picked up yesterday, but there they sit — waiting once again.

Since being forced into having my garbage picked up a few months ago, it has been an interesting experience.

On the plus side, it's convenient to just put out the trash and recycling material at the end of the driveway. It has saved me from driving 22 km to the waste site south of Milton. I guess I save about three hours of my Saturday and a fair amount of gas, too.

It hasn't changed my garbage habits, as I've been recycling and composting for the last 14 years, but it's nice to know that I'm getting more service for my tax dollar (even though I have to pay for it).

However, why is my garbage still

sitting at the end of the driveway the day after it was supposed to be picked up?

Several weeks ago I called the Region to let them know my recycled garbage hadn't been picked up on the specific day.

I said that when I got home that evening at about 6:15 it was still there.

Being an environment type — and with the rural roadside clean-up approaching — I thought I'd better bring it in so the rural critters wouldn't spread it all over the road and leave me to pick it up again. I was told that the collectors work until dusk and that I should have left my trash out. This isn't mentioned in any information package I received.

When I asked for the approximate time and route schedule, I was told the Region didn't ask for that information from the company they hired to do this work. Interesting accountability.

So they arranged to have it picked

up on the off recycling week, and I received a call saying that would happen.

I dragged the boxes down again — and guess what? They weren't picked up — again. I even left them out well past dusk. I called the Region and was told they were going to monitor the route and to let them know if any more problems arose.

They did apologize for the second failed pick-up, but I was again stuck with recycling boxes near to capacity.

And then last Wednesday it happened again. I'll call the Region for the third time and maybe my trash will be collected before the end of the month.

After an experience like this I can understand why in Toronto people still aren't convinced to use the "better way." When people say "more cost and less service," I think I know what they mean.

Syd Read
RR#1

Retired taxi driver says thanks to all his customers

Dear Editor:

My wife and I have sold Crowe Taxi Service and we wish to thank all our customers for their loyal patronage over the

years, as well as their cards, gifts and well wishes.

John Crowe
Millside Drive

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by Steve Nease

