

Savoline says no way to Toronto's garbage

By MELANIE HENNESSEY

The Champion

Local residents and politicians are vocalizing their strong opposition to the possibility of garbage from GTA municipalities coming to Halton's landfill.

This comes in response to a secret report the Province has had for the past eight months listing landfills in Ontario that could accommodate a million tonnes of trash per year from Toronto, York, Peel and Durham should Michigan stop accepting waste from Canada.

While it's not known which landfills are listed as potential spots for GTA trash in the report, insiders have said Halton could be on the list since it's one of the few landfills in Ontario big enough to take the extra garbage.

That raised concerns from Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline, who called the possibility "just unacceptable" considering the investment and commitment the Region and its taxpayers have made in the landfill.

"They (the Province) have to respect what we've gone through," she said, referring to the long and arduous process the Region and residents endured in developing the landfill on Regional Road 25 in Milton. It encompassed a 10-year environmental assessment that cost \$8 million.

Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh shared similar sentiments, noting millions of taxpayers' dollars were spent to build the local landfill and create programs to make it safer and lengthen its life expectancy, all for the benefit of Halton residents.

"Simply said, no, we will not take Toronto's garbage under any circumstances," he said. "Toronto has had years and years to take charge of their waste management needs. We will not bail out a municipality whose problem is a lack of political fortitude to make the tough and responsible decisions necessary to manage their own affairs."

Milton resident Bob Beyette — a member of both residents' associations, concurred that Halton residents have earned their waste management future, adding to shorten that by having GTA trash "forced into our landfill is not only wrong, it clearly says it doesn't matter if you work hard and are proactive with waste management, for our government can negate all gains by forcing someone else's trash on you."

The issue will go before regional council tomorrow, where a lengthy staff recommendation will be considered.

It reads: "That the Regional chairman write the premier of Ontario and the minister of the environment requesting, in the strongest terms that Halton Region's Waste Management Site located on Regional Road 25 in Milton be specifically excluded from consideration as an interim, short and/or long-term waste disposal option for other municipalities, given the significant investment Halton taxpayers have made and continue to make in the development and management of the Regional landfill site, the ongoing interest and participation of Halton and its residents in effective waste diversion programs as evidenced by

• see PRIVATE on page A7

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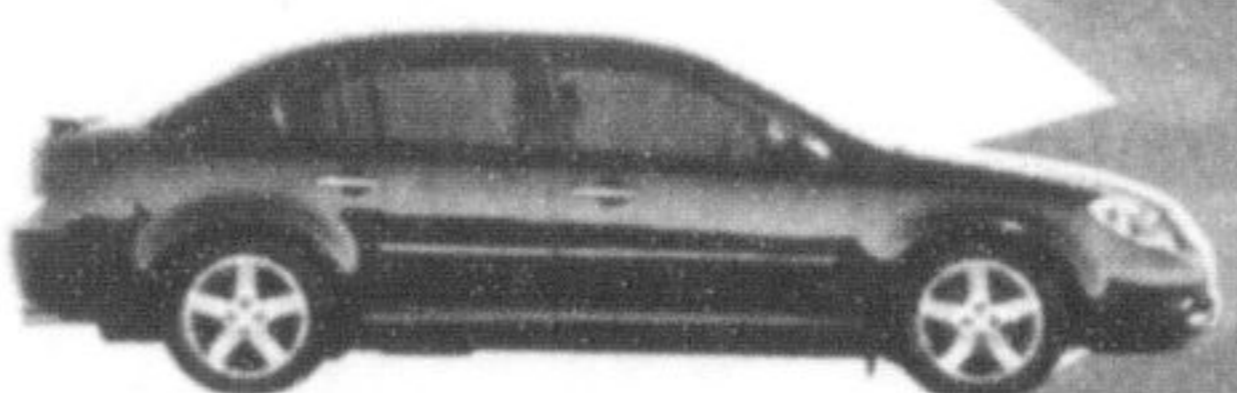
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Date: Saturday, October 8, 2005

Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

& Station 2 Reid Sideroad, Campbellville

Date: Saturday, October 15, 2005

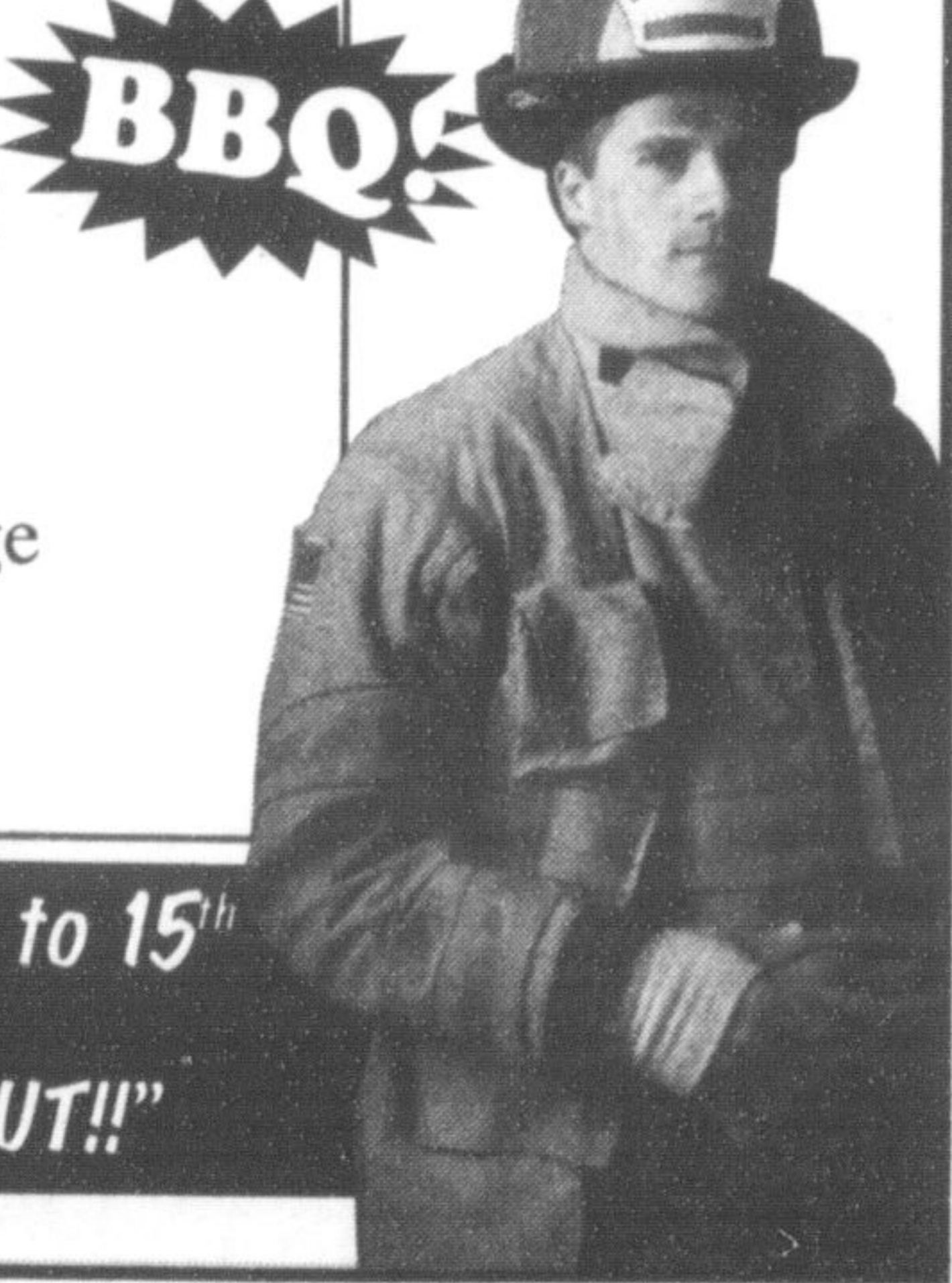
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