

# Plan provides opportunity to curb emissions

• from WASTE-TO-ENERGY on page A1  
 methods range from high-tech incineration to gasification, plasma arc or thermal cracking technologies, which he described as "non-burn" methods. It's not known at this point which technology the Region would adopt.

And while there would be emissions from the plant, Crockett said they'd be well within the Province's guidelines and that the most modern pollution control equipment would be used.

He noted the project also presents an opportunity to lower the overall emissions in Halton's airshed, pointing out it could help reduce the truck traffic that travels through the region each day carrying waste to other municipalities.

The Region recently received confirmation from Ontario Environment Minister Laurel Broten that it's been approved under the Environmental Assessment Act to create such a facility whenever the municipality determines one is needed to manage Halton's waste.

Crockett told The Champion that if everything goes smoothly, the EFW facility — expected to have a 275,000-tonne capacity — could be up and running by 2010.

In addition to the fact Halton's landfill will reach capacity by 2030, Savoline spoke of an additional pressure on the site — the potential closure of the Michigan border to Ontario garbage.

Currently, over 150,000 tonnes of waste from the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors in Halton is shipped each year to the United States. Several other municipalities in the province also truck their waste across the border.

Savoline pointed out if the border closes, it could take years to find the extra landfill capacity in Ontario. She also noted that in a time of crisis, the

Minister of the Environment can direct waste from other municipalities to Halton's landfill, decreasing its capacity.

"The need to manage our current and future waste disposal is becoming increasingly important," she said.

Savoline explained that a business case for the implementation of an EFW facility will now be prepared and presented to regional council next spring.

The document will include preliminary environmental, health, air quality, transportation and financial assessments needed for a public consultation process and council's ultimate decision.

A few other local politicians have expressed support for the EFW initiative,

such as Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh who called it a "leading example."

"The Halton energy from waste initiative is an excellent demonstration of communities taking leadership to ensure self-sufficiency in managing their own waste," he said.

Mayor Gord Krantz also expressed favourable thoughts and said Milton looks forward to continuing its "positive relationship" with the local landfill, which falls within the town's borders.

The Province's 1989 approval of the Halton Waste Management Site — which cost almost \$100 million to create — came with a condition to estab-

lish an EFW facility.

Consultation with the public on the EFW initiative is already getting underway. Residents can send comments or information requests to [efw@halton.ca](mailto:efw@halton.ca) or phone (905) 825-6000, ext. 7920.

Also, Savoline said a public awareness campaign will be undertaken over the next six months. "While the public is becoming more supportive of alternative waste management technologies, further education and information is required," she noted.

For more information visit [www.halton.ca](http://www.halton.ca).

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at [mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

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