

# Track record needs improvement

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 date to shut down the coal-burning power plants, its embrace of nuclear power and its decision to exempt its plan for new electricity supply — including new nuclear plants — from any provincial environmental assessment has already cost the Liberals dearly.

They may be beyond redemption among many environment-first voters, but if McGuinty and his cabinet sincerely want to repair their tattered green cloak, they must refuse the expansion of Dufferin Aggregates' Milton Quarry on the Niagara Escarpment.

At 1,156 acres, the existing site is the largest active quarry in Canada. A 205-acre expansion would carve up the escarpment's continuous natural corridor. Turning it down would seem to be a political no-brainer, since it's smack in the middle of the Liberals' much-heralded Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt, which resulted from a 2003 election promise.

A Niagara Escarpment Commission dominated by provincial Tory appointees supported the quarry expansion back in 2002. If the same application went before the commission today — populated as it is with much greener, Liberal-appointed members — it would get a rough ride. Bolstered by the 2002 commission support, a hearing board, after an 82-day public hearing, approved the quarry expansion one year ago.

Two environmental groups involved in the case — the Coalition of the Niagara Escarpment (CONE) and Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER) — appealed the board's decision to cabinet, citing a long list of ecological and land use planning reasons why the expansion should be turned down.

The quarry property is part of the Halton Forest, the largest track of continuous forest along the Niagara Escarpment south of Grey County and the largest intact upland woodland in the Greater Toronto Area. And just as nuclear power carries with it the risk of thousands of years of high-level radioactive waste, the Dufferin quarry expansion would involve massive engineering works that would need to operate successfully for years in order to attempt to protect the water resources of the area — the wetlands, creeks and groundwater tables.

Why jeopardize the ecological integrity of the Greenbelt for centuries for a mere 10 to 12 years of quarrying? There will always be a demand for more aggregate stone, sand, gravel and products made from them, such as concrete and asphalt — for roadwork and urban growth. But as a society, we must look long and hard at whether we are doing enough to reduce that demand through more compact urban development, more public transit instead of more high-

ways and the recycling of aggregates.

Recycled sources can provide about five times more of the aggregates needed for public-sector road and development projects in Ontario per year than would be extracted from the Dufferin Aggregates quarry expansion area each year. With so much at stake politically, and viable alternatives to the quarry expansion in the wings, it makes us wonder what could possibly propel the cabinet to approve the quarry enlargement, other than the enormous influence that the aggregate industry wields at Queen's Park.

The Liberal government hasn't yet had to make any big, tough decisions about protecting the escarpment — part of the Greenbelt — since coming to power in 2003. The electrical power decisions appear to signal that environmental protection may no longer be a high priority for McGuinty's government. Approving the Dufferin Aggregate quarry expansion would be an equally strong signal.

The question is whether McGuinty's cabinet truly appreciates the uproar in the environmental community that approving the quarry expansion would cause — and how much they care.

**BRADLEY SHAW**  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
 COALITION ON THE  
 NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

# Nassagaweya farmers' barn totally destroyed by lightning

'Time Capsules' are gems of information extracted from past issues of *The Champion* and other publications in order to provide a window into Milton's past. Explanatory comment is sometimes provided to place the situation in context.

June 1908

Last Friday evening's thunder storm did great damage in different parts of Ontario and two men were killed by lightning. It was heavy here, but did more good than harm. The heavy rain after the long drought was welcome. Walter L. Elliott's barn in Nassagaweya was burnt by lightning with its contents, \$500 worth of machinery and 30 tons of hay. Mr. Elliott had only \$600 of insurance. The barn was blazing when he first saw the fire and he could do nothing. In Milton the electric lights were put out of business for a short time. Messrs. Bastedo & Co.'s chimney was smashed. During that of Monday evening Edward Core's dwelling on King Street was struck while his tenants, the Fennimore family, were at tea. The lightning broke the back door into pieces, went through the dining room and out through the front door, knocking it off its lock. The family had a wonderful escape. No one was hurt, but a little girl said her arm tingled.

The band will run a moonlight excursion to Burlington Beach by train, thence by steamship Modjeska for a three hour sail on the lake, tomorrow. Special train will leave Milton at 7.30 p.m. Fare to Burlington Beach 50¢, boat tickets 25¢ extra.

July 1908

The union excursion of the Methodist and Presbyterian Sunday Schools to Scarborough Beach, Toronto, last Friday was well attended although the W.C.T.U. convention kept many at home who would have otherwise been with it.

G Co. of the 20th Lorne Rifles got home from the Niagara camp on Saturday about 2 p.m. and marched down Main Street on their way to the armoury. The men looked well and

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moved smartly. They were paid off by Captain Clements a little later after returning their outfits. They hope to wear a different uniform next year, the officers of the corps having, at a meeting, decided to apply for khaki clothing, faced with green, also for Stetson hats, cowboy pattern. Captain Ballentyne will command the picked company which the regiment will send to the Quebec celebrations at the end of next month with Lieuts. Peppiatt and Bastedo as subalterns.

Milton was defeated in a baseball league match last Saturday at Georgetown. Milton led 3-2 until the 9th inning when an outfield error let the locals tie the score. 4-3 for Georgetown. There was a lively match on Saturday between a team composed of nine members of the Winn family and another of employees of the shoe factory of Messrs G. Winn & Co. The Winns were winners, score 25 to 5. No less than seven of them were left handed.

The Deputy Minister of Education has notified the secretary of the Milton School Board that the Model School (for teacher training) will be discontinued at Milton.

The anniversary of the battle of the Boyne, "the glorious twelfth," was celebrated by big demonstrations at Toronto, Hamilton and other places. Most of the Halton lodges, Hornby, Campbellville, Oakville and Bronte went to Hamilton. Hornby and Campbellville lodges went and returned via Milton and treated the citizens to plenty of fife and drum music.

This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, who can be reached at [jdills@direct.com](mailto:jdills@direct.com).

# EFW facility a good move by Region

DEAR EDITOR:

The recent proposal by Halton Region to build an energy from waste (EFW) facility is most apropos.

To correctly assess an EFW proposal, it's essential to establish the average and peak volume of daily total waste being handled, and the expected growth rate both for the region and the GTA.

One also needs to correctly identify the present fraction of combustible, anaerobic and landfill waste for each waste consignment from the different possible sources.

Modern EFW facilities have the incoming garbage sorted out into these fractions so that they can use the appropriate technology for each type

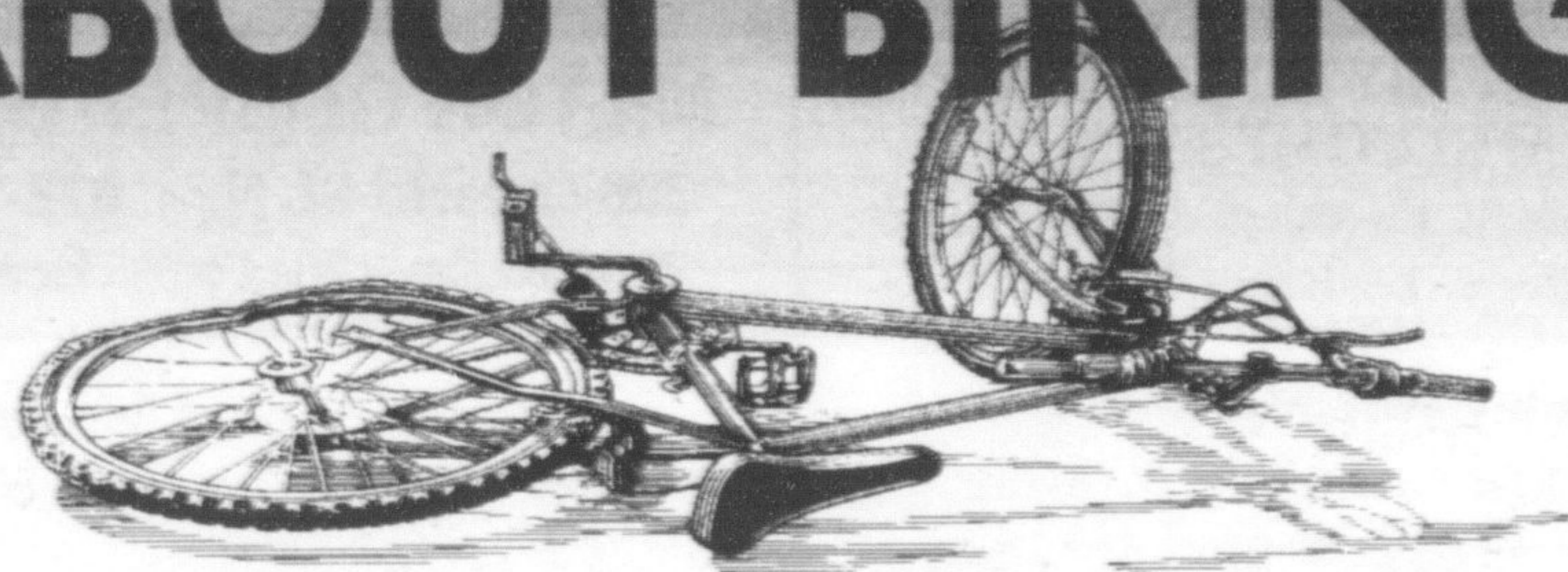
of waste. High temperature anaerobic digestion has the best efficiency and least pollution, followed by solid combustion.

Many EFW facilities with access to anaerobic and solid waste choose a combination of technologies. The public input would be more valuable if the Region could reveal the breakdown of its waste, as suggested above.

Every EFW facility built is now wanting to expand. The upward trend in energy prices will also likely continue. Hopefully, we in the region should soon see our wastes turn into nuggets of gold.

**DOUG DEANS**  
 SOMERVILLE TERRACE

# GET DEFENSIVE ABOUT BIKING.



Protect yourself when biking this season: wear a helmet every time you ride, don't weave in and out of traffic, and follow local laws and guidelines for riding. If you're driving, watch for bicyclists riding in the road.

**We can all share the road this summer.**

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