

Comments on EFW misleading

DEAR EDITOR:

As was reported recently in many regional newspapers, using results from what I think can only be described as a junk poll, retiring Halton Regional Chair Joyce Savoline touted the burning option from waste.

According to the article in last Friday's Champion based on a recent poll on Energy-From-Waste (EFW), researchers stated that the technology "is supposed to create no air emissions and produce only a non-toxic, glass-like substance."

In my opinion, this is misleading. Even if there were no health effects, and this isn't proven, we get a net energy loss with these technologies.

Dr. Jeffery Morris, with a Ph.D in economics from the University of California at Berkeley, did a complete analysis of the economics of EFW. He compared the energy needed to mine, refine and manufacture the products and then burn the

waste versus reusing and recycling the waste.

The choice was clear. We don't get back the original energy put into creating the products that we discard by burning.

That puts us in a downward spiral that's not sustainable over the long run.

The EFW option will require the Region to supply a certain amount of waste, which must then be brought in from outside our region, thus working against waste reduction.

The EFW technologies, by whatever name, are unproven. Gasification plants in Germany and Australia have been forced to close when they exceeded emission standards. A plasma arc facility in Hawaii was closed for eight months due to severe problems.

I think the answers in Savoline's poll might have been different if people had all the information.

We want a regional govern-

ment choosing to: create jobs and small businesses, practise sustainability, fight global warming, reduce over consumption, maximize the return of organics to our depleted soil, take measures to limit throw-away packaging and encourage industry to improve designs for recycling, reuse or composting.

EFW encourages a throw-away society. Like a child that doesn't want to clean up its mess, we don't want the responsibility for cleaning up. Let the government do it.

But we're now sitting at the grown-ups' table, and in our lifetime we will experience startling shortages.

We shouldn't destroy reusable resources.

**BARBARA HALSALL,
PAST PRESIDENT
PROTECT OUR WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
RESOURCES**

Warning signs damaging to our area trees

(The following letter was addressed to Ward 4 town councillors John Challinor and Wendy Schau and Ward 2 and 4 Regional Councillor Ron Furik, and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

DEAR EDITOR:

I'm writing regarding the signage that has been installed during the watermain work in our neighbourhood.

I'm referring to signs that appear to be Region of Halton signs, as well as a number of hazard warning signs.

Good examples of what I am referring to are signs located on McKenzie Street at Wilson Drive and at the west end of Cabot Trail near Woodward Avenue. The signs have been installed adjacent to boulevard trees. The braces and signs have been nailed directly to the tree stems.

The damage that occurs when nails are driven into woody plant tissue is simple. The nail pierces

and kills the living cells on the outer edge of the stem and acts like a wedge, splitting the woody tissue beneath. The damage is very difficult, if not impossible, for the tree to repair — especially at this time of year, as the tree is entering dormancy.

The damage that occurs when a sign is attached to a tree is much more dramatic. The same damage occurs as when a nail is driven into the tissue. However, the sign's movement, whether by wind or by people, acts like a lever on the nail, further splitting woody tissue in the stem.

The damage these signs have done can't be repaired. I would like to know if the Region, the Town and their contractors will ensure this sort of irresponsible behaviour toward our town's assets will end.

**MATT ROBERTSON
FROBISHER BOULEVARD**

Power plant simply doesn't belong in Milton

(The following letter was addressed to Jan Carr, chief executive officer of the Ontario Power Authority, and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

DEAR EDITOR:

We feel disappointed about the proposed power plant at the

doorstep of our community.

We're concerned about the air pollution the plant would generate, and its impact on the wildlife and natural environment, as well as on the health of the local residents.

We strongly ask Ontario

Power Association not to approve Pristine Power's proposal to build a hydro plant on Main Street and Fifth Line in Milton.

**ANNIE RONG AND
STEPHEN QIAO
HAWTHORNE VILLAGE**

Fixed leaks, conservation puts end to water drought

'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.

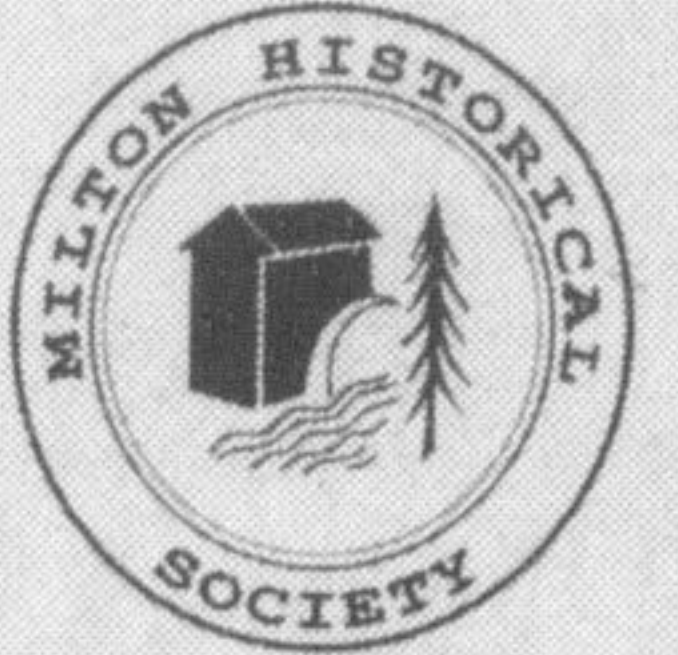
November 1908

The water famine here is practically over. By turning off the water services every night and stopping several leaks that were found in the intake pipes above the reservoir, the water in the reservoir has been raised to about what is normal height. The leak in the mains has not yet been found, only two men having been employed to dig for it. Messrs Winn & Co.'s shoe factory has been in operation this week. It is now independent of the waterworks system, its owners having run a pipe to the old Hampton House well in which there is about 14 feet of water. This is pumped into the factory for the engine. On Tuesday Reeve Earl, Councillors Deacon and Winn and J.W. Elliott, K.C. took a "water witch" or divining rod operator to the mountain. Mr. Crewson, of Crewson's Corners, who used the rod in the usual way, declared that there was a strong spring in what was said to be the exact spot pointed out years ago by Benjamin Waldbrook, another "water witch" and a still stronger one at a point near to the rocks and only ten feet underground. It is said that men will dig for the latter spring very soon. After Mr. Waldbrook used his rod years ago the council spent about \$200 in boring for water but found none. Both Mr. Waldbrook and the council came in for a great deal of ridicule, but it is said that there was none coming to Mr. Waldbrook as the boring was done at a considerable distance from the point fixed on by him. Many scientists ridicule the divining rod as a water-finder and the test here will be interesting in view of the manner in which the Waldbrook divining ended.

...

Landlord McGibbon of the Hotel McGibbon, will have the lot in rear of his hotel, on West Mary Street, prepared for a bowling green by

**Milton
Time
Capsules**



removing the old dwelling which stands on it, levelling and sodding.

...

W. Blacklock threshed 3,537 bushels of wheat in three hours at Adam Alexander's one day last week.

...

Work is progressing on the new addition to P.L. Robertson Co.'s machine shop. Bricklayers are busy at the walls and the boiler has been built in. The contractor, his men, and the officers and employees of the screw factory still have to wade through heavy clay mud in going to and from their work. The streets and walks committee of the town council has done nothing so far towards laying the promised plank walk or cinder path. The delay isn't appreciated by those who suffer on account of it.

...

Thieves raided Messrs. Bastedo & Co.'s store. They lit a coal oil lamp and carefully selected the finest of the furs, gloves and neckties in the store and a couple of overcoats worth about \$12 each which they took in exchange for a couple of old ones. They walked out with about \$500 worth of goods. Detective Reburn was here on Tuesday morning to look after the case.

December 1908

An action for damages was brought by the widow of the late Stewart Moorehead who was killed by a Dualin blast at the works of the Toronto Pressed Brick and Terra Cotta Co. last February. Dualin is an explosive similar to dynamite and much of the evidence was on the action of explosives. Verdict under the Workmen's Compensation Act for the widow was for \$1,050, three years wages.

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

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