

OPINION

A burning issue

A recent poll of Halton residents about the prospect of a high-tech, energy-from-waste (EFW) method of disposing of the region's garbage offered few real surprises.

When polled about EFW technology, respondents to the Toronto Star/Decima survey were told about one technology still in the testing stage that exposes waste destined for a landfill to very high heat in order to break it down. The process reportedly creates no air emissions and produces a non-toxic, glass-like byproduct that can be used to build roads.

Presented with what sounds like a miracle technology, is it any wonder 89 per cent of those asked supported the concept as a potentially win-win solution to the limited lifespan of

Halton's landfill?

But previous incarnations of EFW technology involving incineration have been met with mixed reviews.

With the environment already feeling the stress of global warming, vanishing greenspaces and all the current forms of pollution that contribute to greenhouse gases, most laypeople have great difficulty picturing anything being burned without some form of toxic byproduct. That means selling the concept of trading in our landfills for EFWs is going to require a lot of educating of Halton's masses between now and 2009.

The last thing any of us want is a significant financial investment in a technology that could pose risks to the air we breathe or can't deliver on its promised efficiency.



ReadersWrite

Send your letters to miltoned@haltonsearch.com or drop them off at 875 Main St. E.

Carelessly discarded beer bottles aren't appreciated

DEAR EDITOR:

I hope that you, the vandals and, ideally, your parents, will read this and understand what mean-spirited and cruel acts you delight in carrying out.

On November 3, my daughter came home from Toronto for a visit. For the past four years she has worked as a registered nurse in oncology at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. She spent much of her time baking chocolate chip cookies and banana bread to take to work, helping my wife with our weekly grocery shopping and a few other constructive activities.

In summary, we look upon her as a contributor to society and a winner. She didn't notice the beer bottle abandoned on our street until she heard the sound of glass being crushed under one of her tires. The tire didn't go flat, and I'm hoping it's not carrying around a shard that might still do some damage. I hope the fact that she hasn't missed a 12-hour shift tending to children with cancer at the hospital on account of your irresponsible behaviour won't disappoint you.

On November 6, I backed out of my driveway and was headed downtown when I realized that I had a flat tire. Unfortunately, having undergone major colon and liver surgery over the past few months and having been fitted with a — hopefully — temporary medical appliance, I'm in no condition to get down on my haunches to change a wheel.

So against my better judgement, I

continued the few blocks to Midas where I learned that the tire was ruined. I had planned to have all four tires replaced as soon as the first snowfall threatened, but I have now had to order new tires somewhat earlier than planned. The cost? — \$955.27.

When I returned home, I then saw that several shards of glass held together by a beer bottle label had been strategically placed on the driveway, right where I would be guaranteed to run over them with my rear wheel.

The following day I had an appointment to visit Credit Valley Hospital to undergo my 11th chemotherapy treatment. Would it have pleased you if I had not used my car until today and had become stranded, missing the treatment?

A few weeks earlier, the rear windows of four cars in my neighbourhood were smashed during the silent hours. Could that have been you or your friends who were responsible? I pray, quite sincerely, that your parents have smelled beer on your breath, that they're suspicious and that you're called to account for your numb-skulled vandalism. That just might prevent a serious accident on a highway, resulting in death.

I'm curious about what you might plan to do with the rest of your life in the way of a constructive contribution to society. Or do you long for a criminal record and incarceration?

**RON BEZANT
HARRISON ROAD**

Roundabouts would ease traffic congestion

DEAR EDITOR:

I read with interest the letter from Ida Civiero entitled 'Getting out of town tough these days', which appeared in the October 20 Champion.

May I suggest a solution to the growing traffic problem? Rather than construct four-way stops or lights — which I believe only serve to add to the congestion — perhaps it's time to incorporate roundabouts that will unclog the town's arteries.

It costs \$180,000 to construct a set of lights and \$250,000 to create a roundabout. However, when you factor in the cost of electricity, the roundabout quickly becomes the more economical solution.

Studies have been done by other areas, namely Ancaster, and the developers there were asked to foot the bill as a condition of development. I regularly travel on Wilson Street West in Ancaster and greatly appreciate the uninterrupted flow of roundabouts.

Other benefits of roundabouts include: Reducing pollution (as the most wasteful things cars do is come to a full stop and then start up again), replacing ugly overhead lights with beautiful inner gardens (which are more in keeping with the traditions of Milton and its surrounding countryside), ending or delaying the need to widen roads (necessitated by stopped and congested traffic), increasing safety by ending the problem of cars running red lights, reducing traffic noise, saving drivers money due to more efficient use of gas, eliminating gridlock, ending road rage caused by being stopped repeatedly by red lights and ending the temptation to speed up as drivers approach an intersection in order to catch the green light.

Official plans may have been drawn up that don't include roundabouts as an option. As these have only been cast in paper, it's not too late to seek amendments through your regional representative.

**PATRICIA BROWN
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