

EFW opponents have say at meeting

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A residents' group strongly in favour of the Region's GreenCart program but opposed to the potential energy-from-waste (EFW) facility came out to spread its word at a recent public information meeting.

The session at the Milton Sports Centre largely focused on gathering citizens' input on the GreenCart initiative, which collects household food waste for composting and is currently being piloted in certain areas of Halton.

But Barbara Halsall of Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER) and Milton resident Carla Biasutti, who's looking to start a Milton-based environmental group, used the opportunity to hand out flyers that claim technologies like the ones the Region could use in its proposed EFW facility are "incinerators in disguise."

According to Halton though, EFW plants are not the incineration plants of old, but rather facilities that use advanced thermal technologies that produce safe, clean and renewable energy.

For Halsall, there are plenty of other alternatives. "If we do a lot of waste reduction, we don't need one," she said.

She noted that she's also in favour of expanding the GreenCart program, and Biasutti shared similar sentiments.

"We want to make sure the GreenCart is implemented region-wide," Biasutti said.

Several other residents the

Champion spoke with at the meeting were also in favour of the GreenCart initiative, like Miltonians Jim and Shirley Steeves. In addition, the couple said they'd like to see the Region switch to bi-weekly garbage pick-up and weekly Blue Box collection.

"It makes a ton of sense to me," Jim said. "I think it's a very smart idea."

Fellow Milton resident Lisa Vandervliet said she'd also prefer having Blue Box pick-up each week and a region-wide GreenCart program.

And at this point, she said she doesn't think the EFW option should be ruled out either.

But not everyone in attendance was in favour of the GreenCart, like local resident Gary Ellis, who continues to contend the cost of the program will far outweigh any benefits.

"I don't see that we're going to save the planet by separating our garbage (into the GreenCart)," he said.

He said he'd like to see the Region continue to pursue the EFW option.

"I think the economics will prove that's the way to go," he said.

A business case on the EFW proposal will go before the Region's planning and public works committee May 23.

Results from the public information centres held on the GreenCart will also be on the agenda that day. The committee will then consider region-wide implementation of the program at its June 13 meeting.

The GreenCart program has been piloted for a year in over 5,000 homes throughout Halton. After one year, the initiative has diverted 721,350 pounds

of food waste out of the landfill — that's equivalent to 61,400 bags of garbage.

The expansion of the GreenCart program is identified as a component in the 2006-2010 Solid Waste Management Strategy to help achieve 60 per cent diversion of waste from the landfill, thereby extending the life of the Region's landfill site.

According to the Region, it would cost about \$6 million per year to have a Halton-wide GreenCart program.

For more information visit www.halton.ca/greencart.

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WAL-MART CORRECTION NOTICE

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Sanyo 42-inch HD-Ready Plasma TV (#563636) advertised in our current flyer (expiring April 27th) will not be available.

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The MinMaxx Realty Inc. Advertisement on Page C5 in today's Milton Champion reads "393 Sproat St. for sale for \$429,900."

It should have read: 357 Sproat St.

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