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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

DECISIONS, DECISIONS: Lesley Fraser was just one of many eager gardeners out over the holiday weekend — the unofficial start of gardening season — shopping for her home. Here, she browses through an oasis of colour at Taylor Nursery on Fifth Line Saturday afternoon.

Provincial approval of EFW not ironclad

Environment minister changes her position

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The Region doesn't have the ironclad approval it thought it did from the Province for an energy-from-waste (EFW) facility.

Director of Legal Services Mark Meneray delivered the news at the planning and public works committee meeting Wednesday.

He explained that Minister of Environment Laurel Broten's position has changed when it comes to the EFW facility the Region wants to build at its landfill on Regional Road 25 in Milton.

While all along it's been thought that the joint board's decision in 1989 to approve the establishment of the landfill also gave the go-ahead for an EFW facility, a letter from Broten

said the verdict simply "anticipates" the implementation of EFW.

"I need to clarify, based on further analysis of the joint board's decision, that implementation was not contemplated with respect to a particular energy-from-waste proposal at the landfill site," Broten's letter reads. "The Region can move forward with a specific proposal to establish an energy-from-waste facility through the new Waste Management Projects Regulation."

Meneray told the committee that Region staff haven't felt comfortable using studies that are almost 25 years old (from the original landfill process) for the EFW.

"Staff are supportive of this (new) approach," he remarked.

He also reported to the committee that legal

services staff feel the new process provides the Region with an opportunity to secure an approval for an EFW that will meet the most current environmental safeguards and requires studies that would've been undertaken anyway.

"As such, the change in the minister's position does not create undue barriers or any unforeseen requirements in the development of an EFW alternative for Halton's waste management system," he said.

No committee members commented on the information presented by Meneray.

After the meeting, Regional Chair Gary Carr told the *Champion* he's glad that the matter has been clarified.

"I think a lot of council would've wanted this (process) anyway," he said.

He went on to reiterate his campaign position — see REPORT on page A11

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Signed "Tom" Border Collie
Dear Tom, It is not too late to get your heartworm test done. Some heartworm preventing medications also prevent fleas. Fleas are a real drag, because every flea you bring into the house, can lay thousands of eggs. Take care Tom.
Signed "Dolly"
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