

## Milton firm is ready for newsprint recycling and knows it will work

Story and pictures by Jim Robinson

In a matter of weeks, the Ontario Paper Company will announce a major campaign to encourage Ontario residents to get behind the largest program of old newsprint recycling attempted in the province.

Using a cuddly canine cartoon character called Ralph the Retriever, the program will centre on a \$280 million plant Ontario Paper has built in Thorold, Ont., and the process it has developed in "de-inking" newsprint so it can be ground back to pulp and recycled into rolls of newsprint.

Although Ralph the Retriever is described as "friendly, lovable, and a conservator of natural resources" the newsprint firm will be looking to humans who want to conserve resources and will love and be friendly to an Ontario-wide concept.

Key to the program is the collection of old newsprint and that is the reason why John Campbell, of J.C. Waste Management Company Limited in Milton, is seen as a very important part of getting paper from the people to the plant.



Recycling is simple. The University of Guelph is now recycling up to 90 per cent of its fine paper thanks to the system instituted by John Campbell, President of J. C. Recycling of Milton. His rules are a tray on each desk for fine paper and a container with a burlap bag in every office. If people put fine paper in the tray or bag when through with them, the paper has been recovered. Mr. Campbell, shown with one of the bags he uses, says he has found that once people get used to the idea of retrieving good, used paper, the function becomes almost automatic.

In a report produced for Halton Region by Resource Integration Systems, it was estimated Halton produces about 11,312 tons of old newsprint per year which is heading straight to the landfill site in Burlington. Halton, which is running out of landfill room, is anxious to get behind the Ontario Paper program.

Halton also is set to announce its own garbage-waste source separation program which will ask residents to separate recyclables such as newsprint and leave them out for municipal and/or regional collection.

Halton already has set targets for the amount of recyclables it would like to glean from regional garbage. If its source separation program ever gets instituted, it is hoped that by the end of a five-year term, 75 per cent of old newsprint would be recovered from homes and offices and recycled, primarily through Ontario Paper's plant.

Halton produces enough fine paper such as computer printout sheets and manilla to also present a significant saving to the taxpayer.

In short, used paper is worth money. If it can be recycled anyone helping out is going to be paid for his or her efforts. For Halton, it means revenue which can be used to offset the cost of waste handling while staving off the time when what landfill area that remains will be filled.

Paul Oulahan, of Ontario Paper's Willowdale office, estimates Milton produces about 600 tons of old newsprint per year. Mississauga is good for 14,000 tons per year; Brampton, 6,000 tons; Oakville, 3,200 tons; and Burlington, 5,800 tons.

That is only a small percentage of the 100,000 tons per annum Ontario Paper is aiming at now.

Nevertheless old newsprint works out to about six per cent of the garbage that goes to landfill or to be incinerated. Ontario Paper wants half of that newsprint and it believes it can happen.

"There's no doubt in my mind at all," said Mr. Oulahan, as he visited John Campbell last week at his Milton newsprint and fine paper recycling centre on Main St.

Mr. Campbell started about eight years ago in the recycling business when he became interested in the prospects of recovering fine papers.

In 1979 the Ontario Ministry of the Environment started Project Paper Recycling, an in-house program, to save fine papers. With John Campbell, the program started modestly with 13 offices participating.

By October of last year, 10,000 Ontario government employees in 21 buildings were collecting 240 tons of fine papers which resulted in the government making about \$25,000 on the sales.

In terms of the environment, it means that a 15-acre forest or about 3,000 trees were saved. That would completely fill every nook and cranny of a normal, two story home.

One ton of paper is equivalent to 17 trees, Mr. Oulahan notes.

The Ontario Government uses about 34,000 tons of fine grade paper to run itself during the year. Although 240 tons have been set aside for recycling all are agreed to a 10 per cent recovery rate in the first year of operation is an accomplishment worthy of note.

Mr. Campbell is aiming higher and he believes there is every reason for continued growth patterns.

The formula is, according to Mr. Campbell getting people to co-operate and "getting to the person who makes the decision."

By applying his concepts, Mr. Campbell estimates the University of Guelph is now recovering 90 per cent of its fine papers.

The tools, he says, are simple: A basket on each desk and a bin with a burlap container in each office area where employees know they can deposit papers when they are finished with them.

In short, it works.

The Milton depot employs six people. Some of them are Vietnamese who have worked out extraordinarily well. Mr. Campbell says Vietnamese come from a culture where more things are done with paper and they have a knack for more readily recognizing any of the 55 accepted grades of paper used in Canada. This ability to fine sort helps in the separation program.



Bundles of money. It may not look like wads of dough but these bundles of shredded newspapers are worth money. Ontario Paper Limited, of Thorold has developed a process in which the ink from the printing process can be removed. The de-inked newsprint can then be turned back into pulp and processed back into

rolls of newsprint ready to use. Ontario Paper is looking to firms like J. C. Recycling of Milton to supply the 100,000 tons the company wants from Ontario annually, John Campbell, President of J. C. Recycling, left, is shown with Paul Oulahan of the Ontario Paper Recycling company of Willowdale.



Fine paper is valuable. John Campbell is shown with computer printout sheets which are sent to him for recycling, by the Ontario Government. He is putting printout into a slot in a sealed bin which can only be opened by a government supervisor or Mr. Campbell. The printout is fed directly into the baling machine.

Mr. Campbell uses the paper sorting skill of Vietnamese in this process because of their ability to spot the 55 different grades of paper now on the market. Mr. Campbell started his business eight years ago with fine paper but is now expanding to include old newsprint.

## Scouts get newsprint collection rights—for now

Milton Boy Scouts will be the "sole organization allowed to pick up newspapers" in the town—at least for the next year.

Councillors recently considered a new bylaw on the pickup of old newspapers which was prepared by Deputy Clerk Bill Roberts.

It was prepared in the form of a "scavenging bylaw" which would prohibit the collection of newspaper by anyone other than members of the scouts.

Specifically Mr. Roberts noted that part of an existing bylaw provides that "no person shall pick over, interfere with, disturb, remove or scatter any material placed out for collection other than the person who placed the material out for collection except and until the material is collected by the Town of Milton."

If the bylaw section was enforced, Mr. Roberts said, it would mean the month collection of old newspaper by the boy scouts would be illegal and they could be charged.

Since newsprint collection is one of the main sources of income for Milton scouting, it was thought best to give the scouts "sole" authorization.

## Milton district ups its tonnage

progress to date.

He said the object of any such program is "to make it run economically" and that would be one of the areas probed by the region.

When the regional report is finished, it will go to the Regional Planning and Public Works Committee and its chairman is Milton Councillor Bill Johnson.

Mr. Johnson told fellow councillors that he liked the idea of the boy scouts continuing to collect old newspapers, but he thought the bylaw being proposed should have a time limit of six months to a year in duration, after which it could be renewed or terminated.

Mr. Roberts, in his report, noted the boy scouts in Burlington have already experienced a problem with "individuals picking up newspapers left out" but this was "remedied... by entering into an agreement which states, in effect,

that all newspapers left out at the curb may be picked up only by the boy scouts.

"If council wishes to prohibit individuals picking up newspaper from the curbside, left out for the boy scouts, then an agreement similar to the City of Burlington's could be entered into."

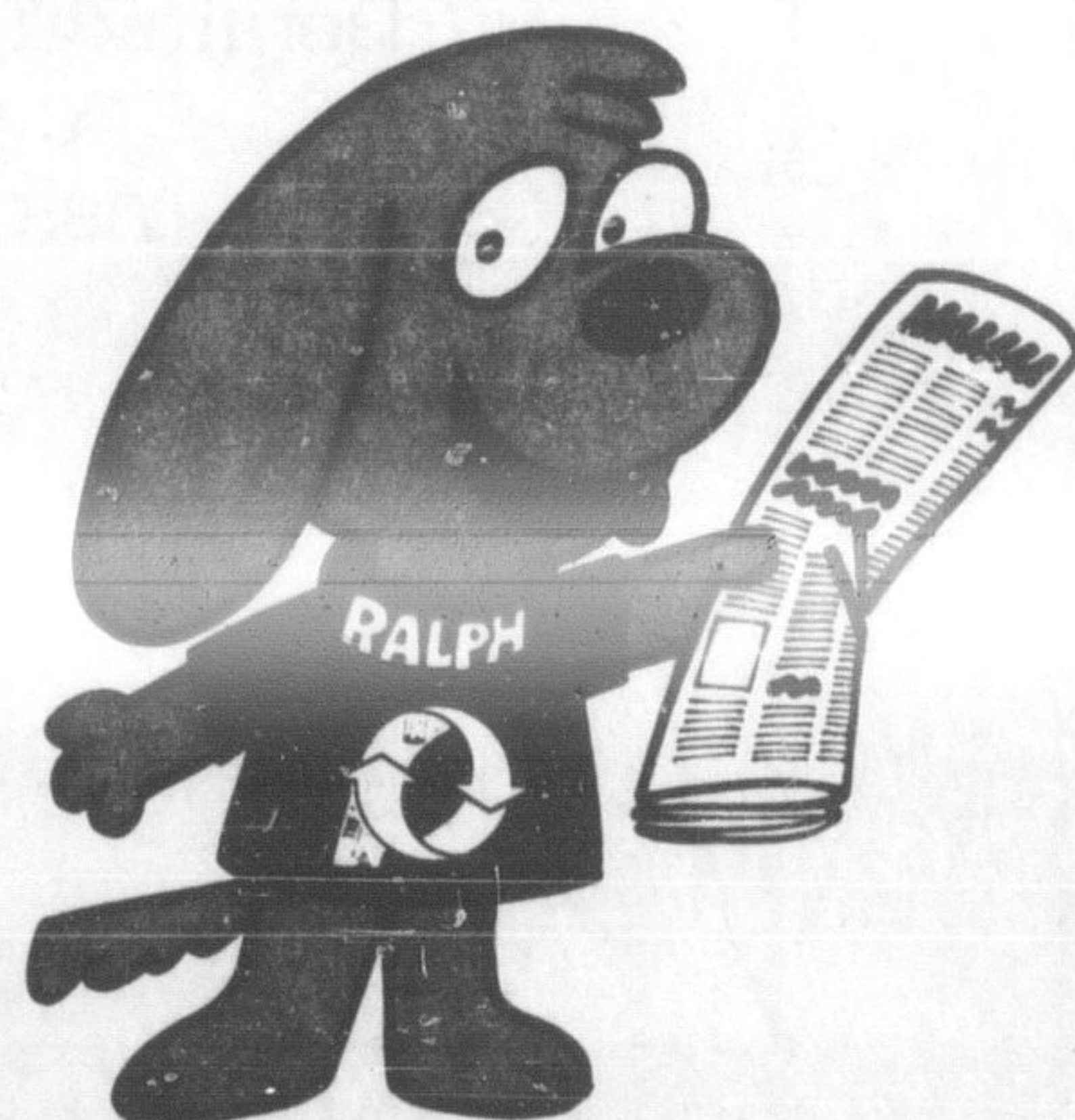
Support for the creation of a bylaw like that suggested by Mr. Roberts came from Catherine Goulding of the Milton District Boy Scouts Paper Drive Committee.

"On numerous occasions during the past year we have had reported to us that people have been picking up paper put out for the scouts before we start our drive at 9 a.m. on the day of the drive," she said.

She said the scouts pick up 21 tons per month for a total of 252 tons per year which is considered to be about 22.5 per cent of the total newsprint available in the town.

"This collection of newspaper is our main source of revenue and as such it behooves us to increase our monthly collection to 45 per cent in the coming year."

"We have the capacity to accomplish this at the present, with once a month pickup," she said.



Meet Ralph the Retriever. This cartoon character will be used as the symbol of a program to collect up to 100,000 tons of old newsprint per year in Ontario.

## Go slow Clerk says

Milton staff will "report further on the possibilities and ramifications of implementing a program of garbage resource separation as is being suggested by Halton Region."

Milton Clerk Roy Main said the region is ready to embark on a program of asking residents to separate and set aside old newspaper, glass, fine papers, and old corrugated containers.

Although Mr. Main said the concept is fine as an idea, "the region may be proceeding a little too fast." Mr. Main was to be among a group of senior staff invited to Halton Region last Wednesday to review Halton's progress to date and the contents of a "Solid Waste to Source Separation Market Development Program" compiled for Halton by a consulting firm.

"The concept of solid waste source separation is one that staff could support from a theoretical position, but would require considerable discussion prior to implementation of such a program," Mr. Main said.

Mr. Main said he would be going to the Halton meeting and that "until such time as discussions have been held, that no adoption of a report be granted by Milton Council."

"In lieu of adopting the report at this time, staff would recommend that council endorse the concept of source separation and direct staff to report further on the possibilities and ramifications of implementing such a program."