

Sludge storage problem over --for now

A one year agreement with an Oakville farmer has given Halton Region at least a temporary solution to its sludge storage problem.

Members of the planning and public works and administration and finance committees agreed last week to continue a lease with Harold Lawrence of Oakville, who operates the only temporary sludge storage facility available to the region.

Chief Administrative Officer Dennis Perlin told committee members that the lagoons provided by Mr. Lawrence are needed for storing the sludge during the winter and other months when it cannot be spread immediately on farm fields.

Halton operates a program under which sludge from sewage treatment plants is spread on farm fields as a fertilizer.

The terms of the agreement reached with Mr. Lawrence provide for an annual rental fee of \$1 for the land on which the lagoons are located and for a servicing agreement.

This year, the region will be obliged to pay \$15,000 toward the cleaning of the lagoons before they can be used again.

Mr. Perlin added that the land containing the lagoons is leased by Mr. Lawrence, but the owners have no objection to the arrangement as long as Mr. Lawrence operates the system.

Bob Moore, the region's director of public works, said the concerns expected to be raised by neighbors of the lagoons are the same as in other areas of the region—bad odors and traffic.

He stressed that the lagoons would be used only for temporary storage during certain times of year.

"This arrangement isn't something we can do without," Mr. Moore said. "During the winter we have to be able to do something with the sludge."

Mr. Perlin added that the region hasn't made a commitment to contribute toward the cost of cleaning the lagoons for next year, "but you can expect to be asked," he said.

Committee members were reminded that the Lawrence arrangement was only a year by year agreement, while efforts were made to complete a long term storage facility on regional land.

As a contingency, councillors also approved seeking all the required provincial approvals for establishing another sludge storage facility at the regional dump on the

North Service Rd. in Burlington.

Mr. Perlin said any other location in the region would require a full environmental assessment before such a facility could be established, "and that is a time consuming and costly process."

Because Mr. Lawrence cannot guarantee the availability of the Oakville lagoons for more than one year at a time, Mr. Perlin said regional staff were taking a cautious approach by

recommending that the process be started now to set up the Burlington location.

The storage facility in Burlington, he added, would only be used if the permanent tanks, planned for construction following a study of long term sludge handling options in the region, were not completed before the Lawrence agreement was terminated.

While an environmental protection hearing would still be required for the Burlington site Mr.

Perlin said that could be avoided with good advance public relations programs.

"We will be trying to allay the concerns of people before a hearing becomes necessary," Mr. Perlin said.

Councillor Terry Mannell (Oakville) applauded the steps being taken by the staff, saying "this is certainly

the reasonable way to go. We should have taken this step a year ago."

He urged a hearing should be avoided if possible, because the facility is only intended for emergency use.

"We should not go through an expensive hearing if we don't have to," he said. "The taxpayers money could

be saved."

Some consideration was also given to establishing the lagoons at the Mid-Halton Water Pollution Control Plant to be built in north Oakville.

Mr. Perlin said he doubted such a plan could slip through the provincial grandfather clause that allowed already planned

projects to proceed without an environmental assessment hearing.

Councillor Walter Mulkevic (Burlington) said he intended to oppose this arrangement because of the concerns it was causing among residents of the area.

"There is a residents committee that is investigating this thing

and they are going to insist on the full due process," Mr. Mulkevic said.

"There are some real concerns about this area and they are large enough to convince the region to think about some other arrangements," he said.

Councillor Bill Johnson (Milton) repeated his opposition

to a suggestion that sludge be buried in landfill sites when it could not be spread or stored.

Mr. Johnson said when sludge is properly spread in rural areas the heavy metal content does not leak into the water system. Buried sludge poses this problem constantly, he added.

Don King, a consultant with Simcoe Engineering, which is handling the development of the region's long term sludge management program, told Mr. Johnson that provincial standards rigidly regulate the amount of metal allowed in farmland sludge while no standards cover the material that is buried.

Highly respected councillor dies

Oakville council will be asked within the next 60 days to fill a regional council vacancy caused by the death last week of Councillor Gord Reade.

Mr. Reade died following a year-long battle with cancer. Funeral service was held Saturday at the Evangelical Pentecostal Church on Rebecca St., Oakville.

Wayne Vickery, Oakville's deputy-clerk, said the terms of the Regional Municipality of Halton Act allow the local council to appoint someone on council to fill Mr. Reade's place on regional council and then to fill the vacant local seat either through appointment or by-election.

Mr. Vickery said he was sure the local council would be able to fill the vacancy within 60 days, but would not act immediately out of respect for Mr. Reade's family.

Described by his colleagues as hardworking, determined and a factfinder, Mr. Reade is survived by his wife Betty and two daughters.

He had been employed for 20 years as a technical systems manager at Ford of Canada.

Mr. Reade's involvement in politics began with the West Oakville Ratepayers' Association. He served as chairman for that association and held an intense interest in planning activities,

particularly the cost and implication of new development.

A member of the Oakville Toastmasters for close to 20 years, Mr. Reade worked on the executive of the Oakwood Home and School Association, as well as the Modern Home and School Association.

Mr. Reade taught night school classes at Sheridan College on public speaking several years ago and was chairman of the Halton Renaissance group. He was an active member of the Progressive Conservative Association in Halton.

During his years at town and regional councils, Mr. Reade worked with many people who were impressed by his genuine concern for Oakville residents.

Former Oakville Mayor McLean Anderson, who was defeated by Mr. Reade in the last election for a place on regional council, said "he was a very tenacious man with a great sense of humor, making for a very interesting person. He enjoyed life to the fullest and was always concerned about people."

Mr. Reade's slide rule drew a lot of attention at council. It was used many times to make a fast calculation to simplify what might have otherwise taken a long time to straighten out. The slide rule became his trademark.

Fellow regional councillor Terry Mannell said Mr. Reade was "a tremendous asset with his slide rule in council. He'd make quick calculations to tell us whether we should be looking more closely at something. He was very interested in planning and its social implications and finances—he was a tough guy at budget sessions. He had the community at heart all the time. He is definitely going to be missed."

Former Councillor Archie Donaghey remembered the slide rule and said, "He was a very dedicated man. He did his homework and always came to council prepared to participate. We had a few differences along the way but I always enjoyed discussions with him."

Councillor Ann Mulvale also enjoyed his speaking ability. "In 1977, before I came to council, I used to go to see him speak. He was a very interesting debator. He respected everybody's viewpoint and looked out for the underdog all the time. I visited him last week and he talked about not compromising with developers, so he was determined until the very end to get the best for people here."

Councillor Keith Bird was a neighbor and friend of Reade's for over 10 years.

"He was a real, good friend. We went through a lot together with various issues on

council. I had nothing but the utmost respect for him. He certainly had a flare for oratory. He seldom went off on a tangent without having his facts and figures. I know I'll miss him," Mr. Bird commented.

Regional chairman Jack Raffis said, "He was a good friend. He was known for his expertise in finance and his very high energy level. He had an engaging personality and was well liked by all members of council."

In a special tribute presented at the funeral service, Rev. Ken Campbell praised Mr.

Reade as "a courageous champion of faith, family and freedom."

Mr. Campbell, founder of the Renaissance movement, said Mr. Reade shared the commitment felt by other members to parental control of education.

"In his dynamic commitment to the fundamental principles of freedom, I never met a greater Canadian than Gord Reade. Nor in 30 years of evangelism have I known the more complete, unqualified support of any Christian than Gord has given us in the Renaissance Crusade."

Region Decision appealed on youth centre

Halton will continue an appeal against a land severance in Milton.

Members of the planning and public works committee agreed last week to continue the appeal against a severance granted to Lawrence Scotland, of Tremaine Rd.

Mr. Scotland had been granted, by the committee of adjustment, a seYerance splitting two lots off a parcel of 4.8 acres.

Part of the land to be severed is occupied by the Golden Horseshoe Youth Centre.

Committee members were told that the youth centre has been occupying that site, free of charge, for the last 19 years and Mr. Scotland wanted to ensure that they would continue to have a meeting place.

Regional staff have appealed the severance because it conflicts with the terms of the regional official plan.

Weight for GO

Weight load restrictions on Derry Rd. between Trafalgar Rd. and Thompson Rd. will be lifted for GO buses servicing Milton.

Members of Halton's planning and public works committee agreed last week to a recommendation extending the government operated transit system's current exemption, which ends at Ninth Line.

The extension was requested by GO as part of its plan to upgrade service between Milton, Yorkdale and the York Mills area.

Progress is slow

Changes to Halton's treasury department are being made but progress is slower than expected, members of the region's administration and finance committee were told last week.

Treasurer Gerry Lawson told the committee members some of the required changes noted in the annual management letter from the auditors have been mentioned for the third year running.

Among the changes which are being worked on, he wrote in a report to the committee, are revisions to the internal security and cash handling systems of the department.

He noted, for example, that until April of this year there was no limit on the size of cheques that could be passed through the signing machine.

After changes were made to the signing bylaw, a limit of \$50,000 was placed on cheques that could be signed by machine.

All larger cheques have to be signed manually before they will be cashed by the bank now.

Under questioning from councillors, Mr. Lawson said he did not know why the annual audit uncovered so many weaknesses so many years in a row.

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