

Seek sludge storage approval

By Steve Arnold
Halton councillors have agreed to start down the tortuous road leading to approval of a temporary sludge storage lagoon in Burlington.

Councillors agreed last week to start the approval process, even though the temporary facility may never be used or needed.

In a report to members of the planning and public works and administration and finance committees, public works director Bob Moore said the facility, when constructed, would

be used only on an emergency basis.

He explained that the recently concluded year to year agreement with Oakville farmer Harold Lawrence assures the region of a temporary storage facility for its sewage sludge.

If that lagoon should become unavailable, in the future however, another facility would be needed, at least until the permanent enclosed tanks can be located and constructed.

Dennis Perlin, Halton's chief administrative officer, told councillors that the terms of the

provincial Environmental Protection Act make the Burlington dump the only place temporary lagoons could be located without a long and expensive environmental impact hearing.

Despite Mr. Perlin's repeated urgings to make the emergency arrangements, some Burlington councillors opposed the recommendation because of public pressure.

Councillor Walter Mulkeiwich (Burlington) attempted an amendment requiring regional staff to study several alternative locations for

the temporary emergency lagoons.

"Obviously we have to do something to deal with sludge in a positive way," he said, adding that public meetings in the area of the Burlington dump have raised great concern over the possibility of locating sludge lagoons there.

"The situation has changed since the time when we first considered this," he said. "We no longer face the situation that the staff said had our backs to the wall."

Before the Lawrence agreement was reached, regional officials had faced the possibility of having no location for temporary storage of the sludge during the periods when it could not be spread on farm fields.

"This proposal will certainly spend a great deal of the taxpayers' money because it will be opposed," Mr. Mulkeiwich added.

"This amendment," he said, "is an attempt to get us back on a proper planning approach. Obviously we have to look at a number of sites."

Councillor Joan Little

(Burlington) also opposed the recommendation, saying "an open lagoon in a residential area makes no sense at all."

She said it would be better for the region to start working immediately on the process needed to get approval for the permanent enclosed tanks.

Burlington Mayor Roly Bird also lined up with his councillors in opposing the recommendation and supporting Mr. Mulkeiwich's amendment.

"I'm not prepared to put my community in jeopardy by not having a proper public hearing. I'm not afraid to go through a proper process," he said.

Mr. Perlin said the region could expect to spend up to \$40,000 on the initial stages of the approval process for a permanent facility.

The actual hearings couldn't be expected to start before January and they would be followed by a review and appeal process.

"Regional council has had experience before with trying to get long

term facilities in place. It's a long process that's involved here and there's no guarantee that somebody won't object," he said.

"This long term solution will take a very, very long time to get involved," he added.

Councillor Bill Johnson (Milton) said the objections being raised by the Burlington members were simply another example of the north-south conflict in Halton.

"The south seems to want all the population but they don't want the garbage that goes along

with it, they want to shove that off onto the people in the rural areas," he said.

"If anything was to happen to Mr. Lawrence we would have nothing for some time and we need a temporary storage facility near where this stuff is generated," Mr. Johnson added.

Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy took the same vein in his comments.

"It's strange," he said, "how when you talk about putting urban sludge in urban areas the urban councillors get all excited."

Region rejects amendment to official plan

An amendment to Milton's official plan, approved by the local council, has been rejected by Halton regional council.

Councillors voted last week to reject the amendment which would have added 72 acres to the Milton-401 Industrial Park.

Brian Armstrong, lawyer for the Oshawa Properties Ltd. which owns the site, urged councillors to approve the proposal, which had been rejected by the planning and public works committee.

Mr. Armstrong said

the principle objections to the amendment raised by regional staff concerned difficulties in providing water and sewer services and the need to preserve farm land.

"There is a misconception," he said, "that this official plan amendment is in the nature of a Johnny-come-lately scheme, an effort to tag along for a free ride."

Mr. Armstrong tried to explain to councillors that his client had been involved in the planning of the area since the beginning of the scheme but had signed a later agreement with the town because of special protracted negotiations over the development.

"Our development agreement parallels exactly those of the other landowners in the Official Plan Amendment Seven area. What we are dealing with is an adjustment to the plan," he said.

The industrial park, which will attract up to 15,000 jobs to the town, will be located at the junction of Hwy. 401 and 25. In total it involves 1,400 acres of land.

Mr. Armstrong said

the 72 acres owned by his client would increase the size of the total park by only five per cent.

"The staff report conveys the impression that this would be a change in direction or policy for the region," he said, adding that because of the provincial Minister of Housing has not made a decision designating the land for a particular kind of development, this amendment does not represent a change in direction for the region.

"In my submission," he said, "these lands are not to be viewed as prime agricultural land. They have no regional significance at all."

"My clients have no intention of maintaining this land in agricultural production," he added.

Mr. Armstrong added that the type of industry being considered for the land, bounded by the Frankel Steel plant, Hwy. 25 and the hydro corridor, would be able to function on rural services.

"By talking about servicing concerns the staff is raising what is most properly characterized as a red herring," he said.

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Drug war

The Halton Board of Education is the most advanced board in Ontario in accepting responsibility and taking a stand in dealing with drugs and alcohol, according to a representative of the Addiction Research Foundation (ARF).

Dick O'Brien, community consultant for the Halton Region, told board members Thursday evening that "this board is the most co-operative in taking a definite stand," in the war against drug addictions.

He and his co-workers have also been very impressed with the co-operation from board staff, he told trustees, especially people like Em Lavender, director of education, R.G. Stoness, superintendent of instruction, Bob Williams, Jack Richardson and June Thompson.

The ARF, in conjunction with the board, has set up a training program for 18 teachers to train others in how to deal with the drug problem, particularly in health courses so the teachers have the confidence and competence to deal effectively with the students.

A resource package will be made available in every library in all schools in Halton, O'Brien said, to make the information readily available to the students.

Students around the region were asked to comment after reading the package. One grade nine student said "I found that this course helped me understand the drug problem today. It has discouraged me from trying drugs."

A grade seven student said she was afraid to discuss drugs with family members, but now she can learn it all at school.

A grade four Acton student thought the film offered was very good. "Now my mom is trying to stop smoking," she wrote.

Board Chairman Bill Lawson said programs have been aimed at the secondary level, but there is a definite need to have it in the younger grades.

O'Brien showed a Walt Disney cartoon with a cigarette addict Goofy, who is trying to quit. At the conclusion of the cartoon, Lawson remarked, "As a smoker, I have no comment."

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Region Water denied

Two Derry Rd. families are going to have to endure a while longer without an adequate water supply to their homes.

Regional council last week refused a request from Joe Shea and Enio Scisizzi who claim their wells have dried up because of construction work at the nearby Timberlea subdivision.

Members of the planning and public works committee had recommended against allowing the homes to connect to the regional water main because they are outside the urban area of Milton.

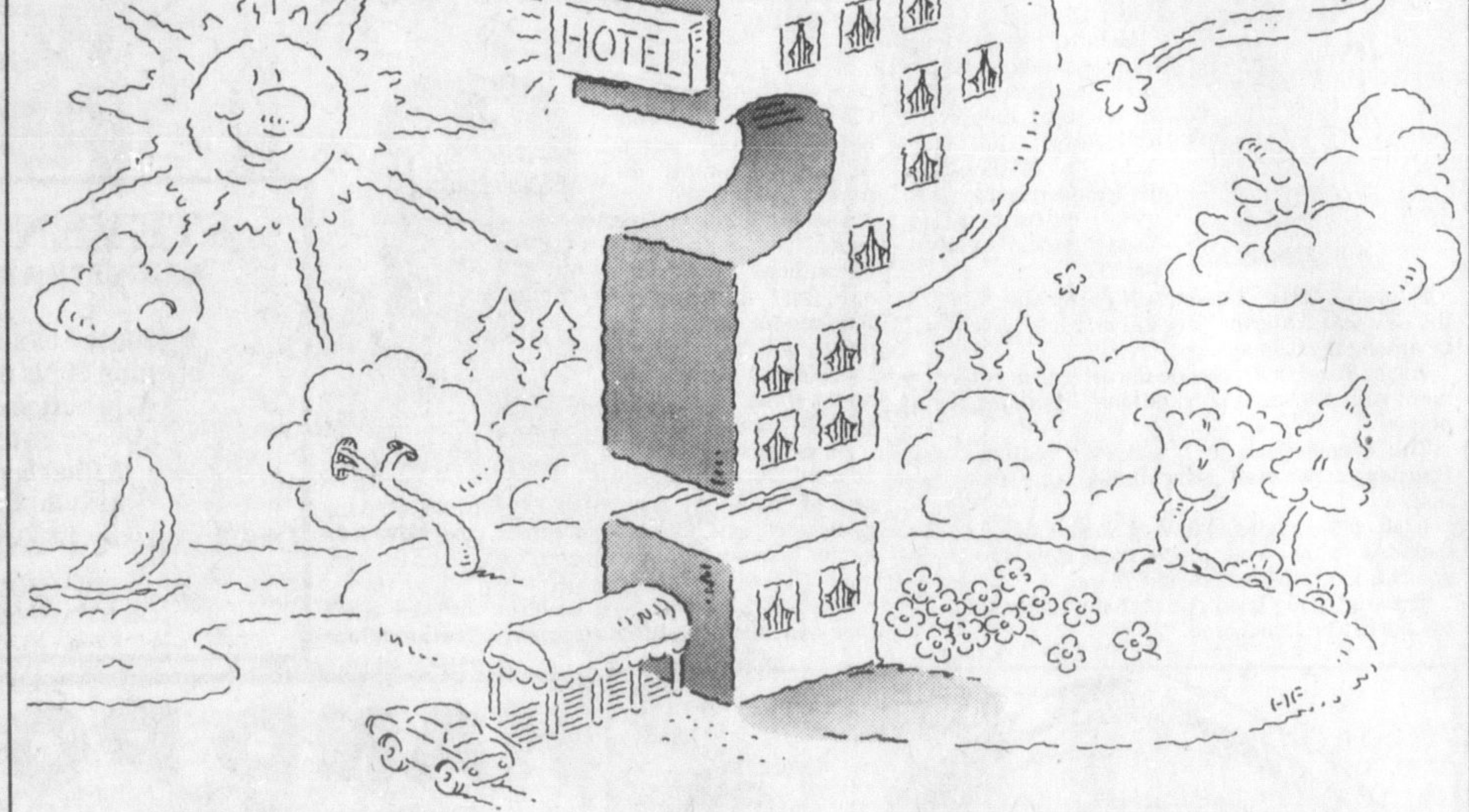
A final decision was deferred.

A separate report will be prepared by staff examining the effects of development on existing housing and the region's liability.

GO exemption

Halton councillors have agreed to pay a consulting firm up to \$14,175 to study the pay levels of senior staff.

Council members approved a recommendation from the administration and finance committee recently which appointed H. V. Chapman Consulting and Compensation Ltd. to carry out the study.



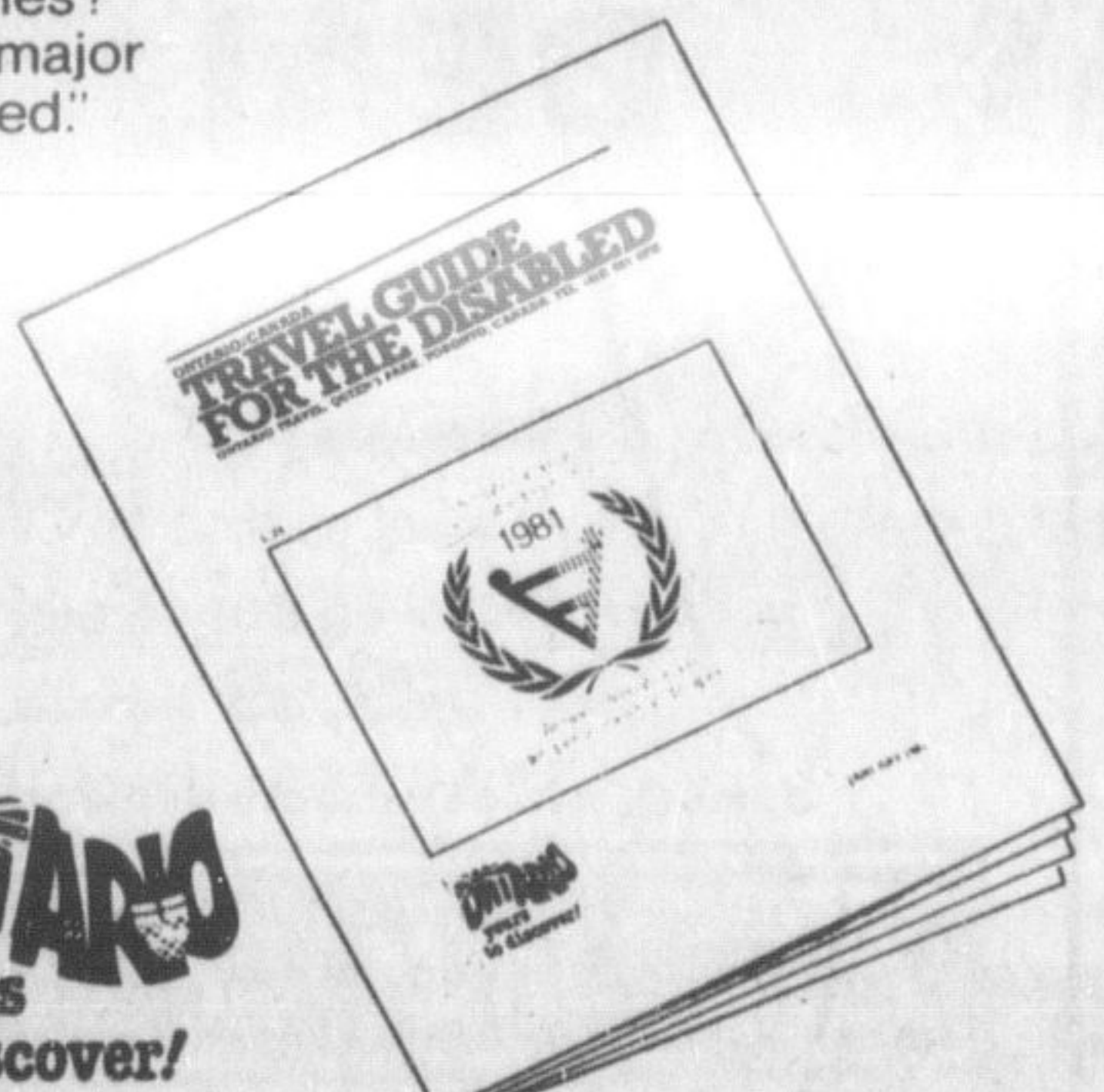
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