

Read-a-thon

More than 100 students and staff members of St. John's Middle School raised \$1,400 for the Ontario Education Society by holding a read-a-thon last week.

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Sports



The Junior boys' basketball team from Milton District edged over-looked St. C. 42-40 Tuesday. It was a nail bite.

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Marketplace



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Will Metro dump garbage in Halton?

Toronto keenly interested in securing region dump

By ROB KELLY

Richard Gilbert was a man proposing an alliance Wednesday morning, but proposing it to a suspicious neighbour.

Mr. Gilbert is a Toronto city and Metro councillor. His stated purpose in appearing before Halton Region's planning and public works committee was to impress regional government officials with the value of combining forces for waste management.

Ag. survey needs more time: rep

By ROB KELLY

The Halton Federation of Agriculture got committee approval for the \$2,000 extra they wanted from Halton Region Wednesday. Now all they have to do is find the time to use the money.

The funds are for an annual crop damage survey conducted by federation volunteers with some advice from regional planning staff. The survey points out areas susceptible to various forms of wildlife damage, as well as vandalism.

Regional politicians have been concerned at what they saw as the poor response rate, however. Last year approximately 18 per cent of those polled returned the survey.

But in the past it has always been handed out and respondents have had to hand it back in. This year, if the funding request gets full council approval next week, it will be mailed out with a stamped return envelope.

Federation secretary Peter Lambrick told the regional planning and public works committee he hopes to mail 700 surveys and anticipates a return of approximately 450.

The timing problem relates to the quickness the results must be presented. A presentation to regional council is scheduled for March 30, Mr. Lambrick said. "It's a little bit of a deadline," Mr. Lambrick said.

Mr. Lambrick said the 18 per cent response rate was not really indicative of the study's accuracy because those farmers work some huge land tracts. Therefore, their response is a more accurate assessment of overall crop damage than an 18 per cent return would indicate, he added.

There was some discussion of the region doing the survey with their own personnel, but planning director Rash Mohammed quickly pointed out that such an alternative would be substantially more expensive than using the federation volunteers.

Regional chairman Peter Pomeroy had questioned the effectiveness of the survey given last year's return, but said Wednesday, "I think we can give it one more try. If your department is satisfied Rash, (Mr. Mohammed), we'll let it go."

In the past, farmers and hunters have found the survey useful. They contend it highlights that the controversial controlled deer hunt in Halton saves substantial sums of farm money by helping to control wildlife populations.

In that manner, Mr. Gilbert said, several aims would be accomplished. One would be at least easing garbage disposal frictions which now exist between Toronto and the surrounding regional governments of Peel, Halton, York and Durham regions.

Also, he reasoned, a combination of forces representing the five upper tier municipalities would be able to contend with the provincial government in Queen's Park on equal footing.

Mr. Gilbert was not appearing as an ambassador for Toronto. They have yet to formally review his report. He will present his brief in Toronto Tuesday after having visited the surrounding five regional governments.

The response of Halton's elected officials was not hostile, but it was cool. They voted to file Mr. Gilbert's report for information. A motion by Burlington councillor Walter Mulkeewich to have Halton staff prepare a further report on the issue lost.

"Quite frankly, I'm suspicious," Milton councillor Bill Johnson said. "I really think this is some kind of ploy."

Councillor Johnson said once Metro Toronto acquired an urgently needed landfill site outside their boundaries, co-operation with other regional governments would go on the backburner.

Landfill licences are usually granted for 20 years.

"You would be more credible to me if you applied for five-year licences," Mr. Johnson said.

In his presentation, Mr. Gilbert indicated ways in which Halton was already or potentially linked with Toronto.

"There are some developments that tie Halton into the Toronto region," he said. Potentially, Halton may use the St. Lawrence Cement incinerator proposed for Mississauga.

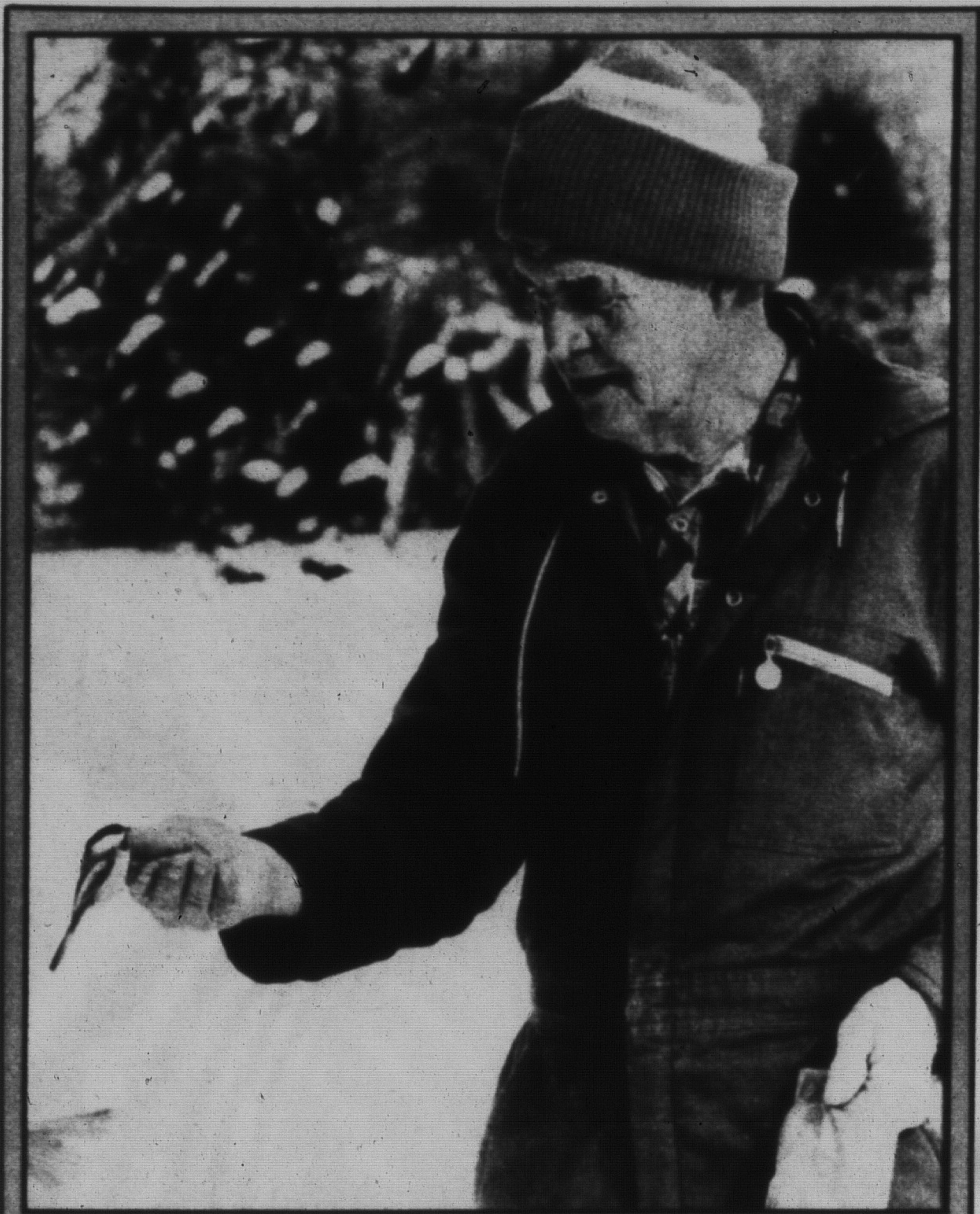
Another possible development is the opening of a large-scale private landfill site in Halton Hills at the former Indusmin quarry.

The site, now known as United Aggregates, "if it comes about has a capacity so large it will not be used only by Halton," Mr. Gilbert said.

Halton Hills councillor Marilyn Serjeantson said she was "horrified" at hearing that. "I knew there would be a catch. Metro is looking at Indusmin. We will be the landfill site."

"Metro will have a site outside Metro," Mr. Gilbert replied. "There's no question. The question

• see METRO on page 7



A bird in the hand...

Milton Heights resident Bill Corp gets along well with his chickadees. In fact, they'll eat right from his hand. The retired Mr. Corp says there are about 10

chickadees around him at feeding time with each one patiently waiting their turn. For more on the story, turn to page 3.

Biggest open house ready to go

Anyone who thinks Milton is a quiet little town where there's nothing to do might want to take in the seventh annual Community Open House Saturday at Milton Mall.

The open house — the largest yet — will run all day Saturday at the newly expanded mall. A total of 57 groups and services will be featured in the display-type activity which

runs until 4 p.m.

Judy Howard, the co-ordinator of the event, said the expansion of the mall has permitted six more groups to participate over last year.

Many of the groups use the open house as a means of attracting new volunteers. Each group will have its own display featuring its activities.

In addition, many sports organizations will be located together and

hold registrations or information sessions.

The groups are separated into service groups, museums, senior citizens' groups, arts groups and sports organizations.

A large turnout is expected as representation has traditionally been strong by the service groups as well as interested residents.