

Region backs off sharing Milton landfill site

By NORM NELSON

When it comes to garbage, Halton is not quite sure how much of a good neighbour it wants to be.

Regional council on Wednesday temporarily shelved a plan to offer a portion of its proposed Milton dump site for use by other Toronto area municipalities.

Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy said he's disappointed Halton would not turn the other cheek on neighbouring municipalities, although he conceded they had not assisted Halton either. When Halton sought help from Hamilton Wentworth Region a few years ago, he told councillors, "they just about beat the living daylights out of me."

He said he couldn't believe Hamilton Wentworth council "could be so uncaring about their neighbours."

Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale raised the same point but came to a different conclusion. Before Halton ran out of landfill capacity a few years ago, she said it sought help from Peel and other neighbouring regions on a reciprocal basis. "They said 'we don't want to talk about it.'"

The reason everyone is so eager to talk now is that "they're running out of their own landfill."

Burlington Councillor Rob Forbes, however, suggested Halton "forgive the sins of our neighbours."

The issue of sharing landfill space has arisen at this time because of Halton's involvement in SWISC (Solid Waste Interim Steering Committee). The group, comprised of Greater Toronto Area (GTA) municipalities (Halton, York, Durham, Peel and Metro Toronto), was formed at the urging of the provincial government to see if it could find common ways to deal with mounting garbage problems.

The toughest problem SWISC has had to come to grips with is the fact that in 1992 most of the GTA runs out of landfill space.

Thus, all SWISC municipalities were asked to come up with contingency sites that could pick up the slack between 1992, when landfill capacity runs out, and 1996, when SWISC aims to have a long term plan in place. SWISC had imposed a deadline of this Friday to name sites.

Half Pints put on basketball show

Who says the tallest guys always win in basketball?

You'd get an argument from the Canadian Half-Pints, a touring group of little people who play charity basketball games. They're slated to be in Milton tonight (Friday) at Bishop Reding Roman Catholic High School for two exhibition games against a collection of Milton citizens including representatives of Milton council and the media.

Tickets for the shows are \$5 each and are available at the door, at least in the case of the 8 p.m. game. The 6 p.m. contest is reportedly sold out.

Since the 4-million tonne Milton dump, slated to open in 1992, has already been through a long and complicated Environmental Assessment hearing (although it's still being contested by the town of Milton and other parties in court), regional staff recommended offering a small

250,000-tonne portion for use by other GTA municipalities.

Regional council, however, voted not to offer the Milton dump as its GTA contingency site until the region's role in SWISC is clearer. Mayor Mulvale said she's suspicious of the initiative and doesn't have "a

comfort level."

What also isn't clear are the implications of not putting forward a site to the GTA by the Friday deadline. "I'll find out Friday," said Mr. Pomeroy after the meeting.

Regional Chief Administrative Officer John Fleming earlier told coun-

cil that if Halton does not participate in the first stage of naming a contingency site, it will not be able to participate in the long-term initiatives.

Such initiatives, for instance, might include a common recycling plant or an energy from waste plant to serve all GTA members.

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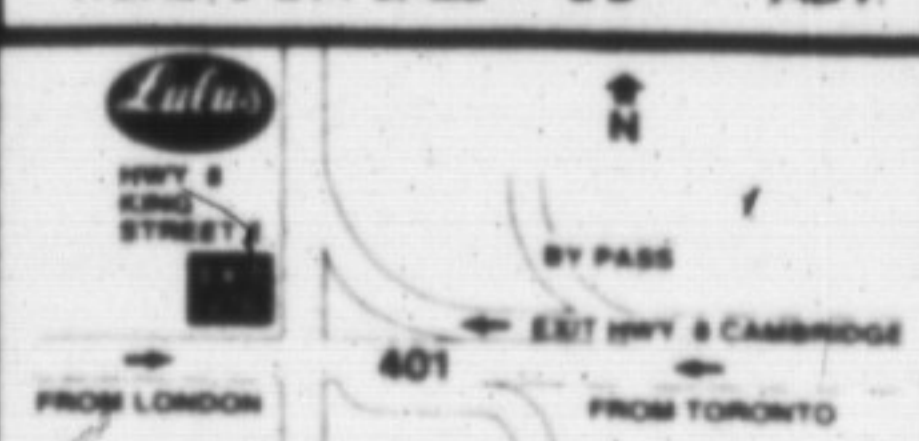
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