

Making a molehill out of a mountain

By NORMAN NELSON

Area home builders are planning to make a molehill out of a mountain of garbage.

They want to cut back on the 2.5 tonnes of waste presently generated by the construction of every new house — most of which presently ends up in our rapidly depleting garbage dumps.

The Toronto Home Builders Association (THBA), which sent a delegation to Wednesday's regional planning and public works committee meeting, says the construction industry accounts for 16 per cent of all waste in landfills, with the home builders responsible for two or three per cent of it.

"Imagine sitting in the SkyDome and seeing the entire field covered in wood to a height of five storeys," said Claudio Cinapri, chairman of the association's government liaison committee.

"That is the amount of lumber waste produced in low-rise residential construction each year in the GTA (Greater Toronto Area). The rest of SkyDome would overflow with the drywall masonry, tile and other wastes we generate."

The association estimates that 54,000 of the 90,000 tonnes of waste it generates annually ends up in area landfills.

The study determined that a quarter of the waste volume is comprised of wood, followed by drywall at 15 per cent, masonry and tile at 12 per cent and corrugated

cardboard at 10 per cent.

The provincial government's widely publicized plan to achieve 25 per cent recycling by 1992 and 50 per cent recycling by 2000 is very much on association members' minds, and they hope to lessen the impact down the road by acting on waste management issues now, he stressed.

"We want you to know that we intend to do everything possible to reduce the volume of waste which we contribute to the waste stream so that your existing sites last longer and so that future sites do not fill up as quickly," added Mr. Cinapri.

The Toronto Home Builders Association represents approximately 900 builders in the greater Toronto area, including many in Halton. "We've always had a mandate in this neighbourhood," said Stephen Dupuis, the association's government relations manager.

The home builder's study, entitled *Making a Molehill Out of Mountain*, was completed late last year and circulated (on recycled paper) to area members earlier this year. It outlined a number of recommendations which include:

- Taking a leading role in dealing with the industry's wastes.
- Developing and adopting a waste management code of practices.
- Identifying and investigating potential end markets for the industry's wastes.
- Introducing an ongoing waste management information system for members.

Pet of the Week

Four-year-old Jemma needs a home. The female German shepherd-hound cross is waiting at the Oakville Humane Society to be adopted.

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