

Region is ready to buy out homeowners

Negotiations are underway with several Milton landowners whose property must be acquired to pave the way for a 4-million tonne garbage dump.

The Supreme Court of Ontario recently upheld the decision forcing Halton's regional landfill on Milton, and the period with which an appeal could be filed ran out earlier this week with no takers.

The landfill will be constructed on about 300 acres of land presently owned by about a dozen different individuals.

"A number of properties have to be acquired," explained the region's

chief administrative officer, John Fleming, in an interview yesterday. "The normal approach is to attempt to negotiate at fair market value."

If an agreement can't be hammered out, he added, expropriation has to be considered.

As to when the region hopes to conclude negotiations, he said, "I'll be vague... As quickly as possible. It's a difficult area because it has to do with negotiations. I wouldn't like to comment any further than that."

"Land has to be acquired. In the best of all worlds, everyone will agree on the conditions of (acquiring the property)."

South overpowers north...

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Wednesday when the matter is dealt with by full council.

A motion at committee to categorically reject the idea of turning the escarpment mining operation into a massive garbage dump was defeated 4-3 with the vote split along north-south lines.

Regional chairman Peter Pomeroy, Halton Hills councillor Rick Bonnette and councillor Johnson all wanted to send a clear 'thanks but no thanks' message to company officials. They, however, were defeated by councillor Oliver and Burlington councillors Rob Forbes, Barry Quinn and Pat McLaughlin.

The four then put through their own motion to 'receive and file' the Dufferin proposal, which basically means that no action was taken.

"I'd like to have more information," said councillor Quinn. "It sounds to me like it could be feasible."

Halton Region is already trucking its garbage to two quarries, in St. Catharines and Flamborough "but we don't want to put it in our own backyard," he contended.

Quarries offer great disposal opportunities, he added, "providing it's the right quarry and designed properly."

Councillor McLaughlin said "we have to look at every option — let's get the facts first." He noted that he's opposed to another proposal by an Acton company to turn its quarry into a landfill because there's "too much risk."

Chairman Pomeroy urged the idea be categorically rejected for two reasons.

First, he said there's no way that Halton Region now or at any time

would want to "accept 30 million tonnes of waste at a quarry or anywhere else."

Second, he believes that any support from the Region would give the landfill proposal a false sense of credibility. The only way to achieve such credibility, he said, is for the company to take it through the lengthy and costly environmental assessment process which Halton Region recently had to undergo in order to obtain approval for its 4-million tonne regional dump in Milton.

"They know the process," he said. Company officials, however, have continually said, and did so again at Wednesday's meeting, that they don't wish to proceed with the proposal unless they get support from the host municipalities of Milton, Halton Hills (where a small part of the quarry is located) and Halton Region.

"I think maybe what was not understood in previous meetings is exactly what it is that we're proposing," said Bill Townsend, the senior vice-president of St. Lawrence Cement (the parent company of Dufferin Aggregates).

Exactly what the company is proposing, he told committee members, is to help solve a recognized and growing provincial waste management problem in an environmentally sound manner that would be profitable to all partners.

The shape of that future partnership — whether run totally by the municipalities or on some sort of joint venture — is "completely negotiable."

Chairman Pomeroy, who called the aggregate company "a good corporate citizen", expressed appreciation at the straightforward manner in which they seem to be pursuing the proposal.

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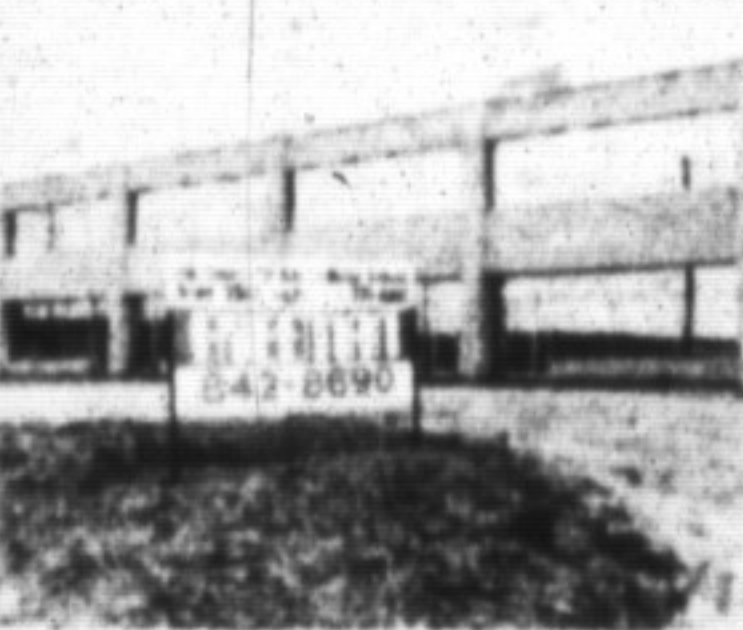
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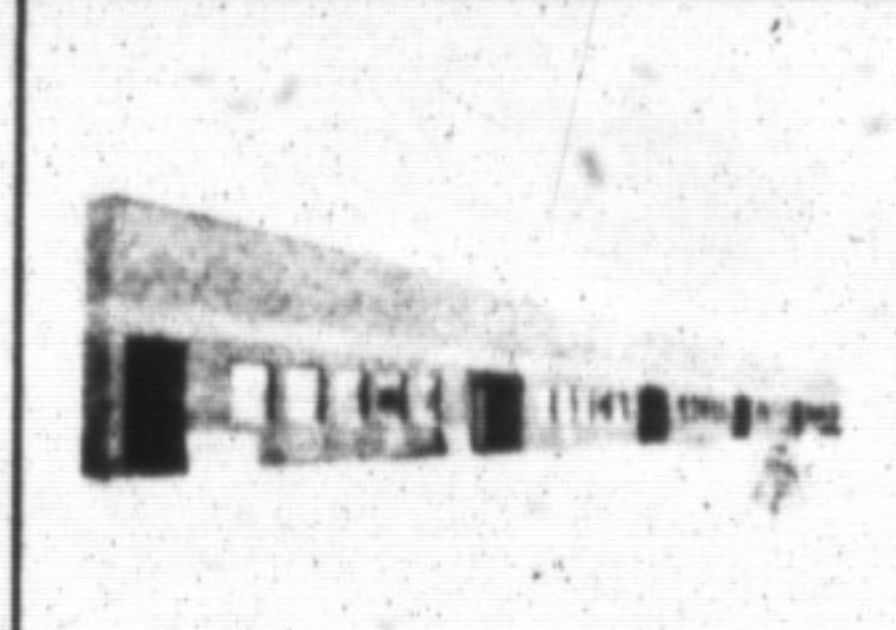
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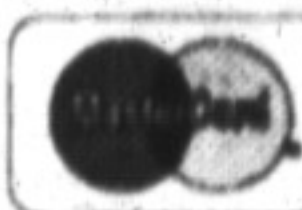
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