

Police control for council shot down by province

By NORMAN NELSON
As expected, Halton Regional Council didn't get too far in its request for more control over its police force.

The always contentious issue boiled over again this year when the Halton Regional Police Board of Commissioners came before regional council seeking a 14.9 per cent budget increase.

Many councillors blamed the police budget increase for pushing the region's overall tax increase into

double digits at 10.7 per cent.

However, in a letter to council, Ontario Solicitor General Steven Offer said he doesn't intend to change the system which gives the province a majority of seats on local police commissions, and where final approval for local police budgets rests not with the municipalities, who must hand over the money, but with a provincial review board.

The province is currently preparing a new police act, and Mr. Offer reiterated that he intends to maintain

the power vested in the provincial review board to "hold a hearing in the case of a disagreement between a municipal council and a board with respect to the board's estimates."

Many councillors feel this is unfair.

They have attributed a large part of this year's police budget increase to measures that had to be implemented following a review of Halton police by the same review body.

Commenting on the other issue,

Mr. Offer said "provincial majority on police boards allows for provincial leadership and direction... It also ensures consistent application of policies across the province."

Dufferin: We wouldn't ignore residents

Citing local opposition, Dufferin Aggregates has withdrawn its proposal to turn its 1,300-acre quarry operation on the Niagara escarpment

in Milton into a 30-million tonne garbage dump.

"We never had any desire to force our solution on the community," said

a company statement, released just prior to Wednesday's regional council meeting where it was to have been discussed.

The Toronto area's mounting garbage problems have been highly publicized of late, and Dufferin Aggregates, through its parent company St. Lawrence Cement, thought it had the ideal solution. It proposed to replace the aggregate it takes out of its Milton quarry with Toronto area garbage.

The company believed all parties would benefit — the Toronto area would have a safe place for its garbage, and the host municipalities would reap in profits that could reach \$1 billion.

"We offered this opportunity to the community through the elected representatives of Milton, Halton Hills and Halton Region with the caveat that if the community officials did not support our plan we would not pursue it," indicated the statement.

"After presenting our plan through formal channels, it has become clear that sufficient municipal support is not forthcoming."

The company's belief in its proposal, however, remains unchanged. It contends that:

- "waste disposal is not a problem that will go away."
 - "tests proved that our plan is environmentally friendly and a better solution than taking productive farm land out of production and turning it into a garbage dump"
 - "this community could benefit from the non-tax dollars that it would receive as partners in this opportunity."
 - "as a corporate citizen, whose family of employees live and work in this community, we have a responsibility to involve ourselves in the challenge of dealing with waste."
- Company officials indicated they would be willing to attend a committee meeting if councillors had any questions regarding the statement.

Flowery Friday features ideas for Mother's Day

The Multiple Sclerosis Society — gearing up for its May fundraising campaign — is seeking support from the community.

The Halton chapter of the organization is urging employees of local businesses to order bouquets of 10 carnations, which sell for \$12 each.

The flowers will be delivered on Friday May 11, just in time for Mother's Day.

Carnations will also be available for purchase during the evening of May 11 and all day May 12 at Milton Mall.

Receipts for income tax purposes will be issued for all donations.

Multiple Sclerosis is a devastating disease of the central nervous system which has permanently changed the lives of thousands of Canadians, particularly young, active adults. There is still no cure.

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