

Trouble at garbage depot

Region admits police called; operators threatened

By NORMAN NELSON

Operators of Halton Region's garbage drop-off facility in Milton have been threatened with baseball bats, says regional councillor Bill Johnson.

Halton's director of waste management, John MacKay, agreed the police have been called out a couple of times in the last two years but stressed there have been no serious incidents.

The drop-off centres — the Region has one in each municipality — are designed to accept small residential loads.

Mr. MacKay said the arguments usually centre around two points; whether the load is under the 150 kilogram limit, and whether its origin is residential or commercial (commercial waste is not allowed).

"Usually they're rejected for a combination of both reasons," he said.

Oversized commercial loads must be taken to the Region's main transfer stations in Burlington and Halton Hills, where full facilities for weighing, handling and charging for the garbage are available.

In a report to Wednesday's planning and public works committee meeting, Mr. MacKay noted that attempts by users to "bend the rules" are almost directly related to the distance from these two main facilities.

The Milton station, he said, "is the most remote, and commercial haulers and people with overweight loads will make more attempts to use the (Milton) station than anywhere else in our system."

Improved control of the facility is needed, he agreed, saying that it is being accomplished with increased staff

time being made available to assist the contractors that run the facility.

He suggested council might want to consider taking over operation of the facility when the contract is up at the end of next year.

In any event, he advised that the facility will be operated at the new regional dump slated to open in Milton in early 1992, and that "some of the issues raised by councillor Johnson will hopefully be eliminated by this change in location."

Initially raised in a report by Mr. Johnson last summer, the matter resurfaced Wednesday with staff's follow-up report. Also a key concern of Mr. Johnson's was the issue of rural residents freeloading at the facility, and he suggested implementation of a user fee.

The staff report agreed that "many rural residents have stopped having their garbage picked up by a contractor and have, instead, started taking it to a container station where there is no charge."

"As councillor Johnson points out, rural residents who do not pay for local municipal waste collection services, through their property taxes, do not contribute to the costs for operating the station nor disposal costs for the waste."

Staff, however, recommended against user fees for a number of reasons including high administrative costs and a concern that "illegal dumping will escalate."

A better way to address the matter of rural residents paying for waste services, suggested the staff report, is "through a surcharge on local rural mill rates."



Photo by JOHN WARREN

Greetings

A Hallmark cards and gifts store recently opened at Milton Mall and store owner Maryliou Phelan (right) gave away some gift certificates to celebrate the occasion. Wendy Pollex (left) was one of the lucky winners.



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Royal Commission on National Passenger Transportation will be holding public hearings at

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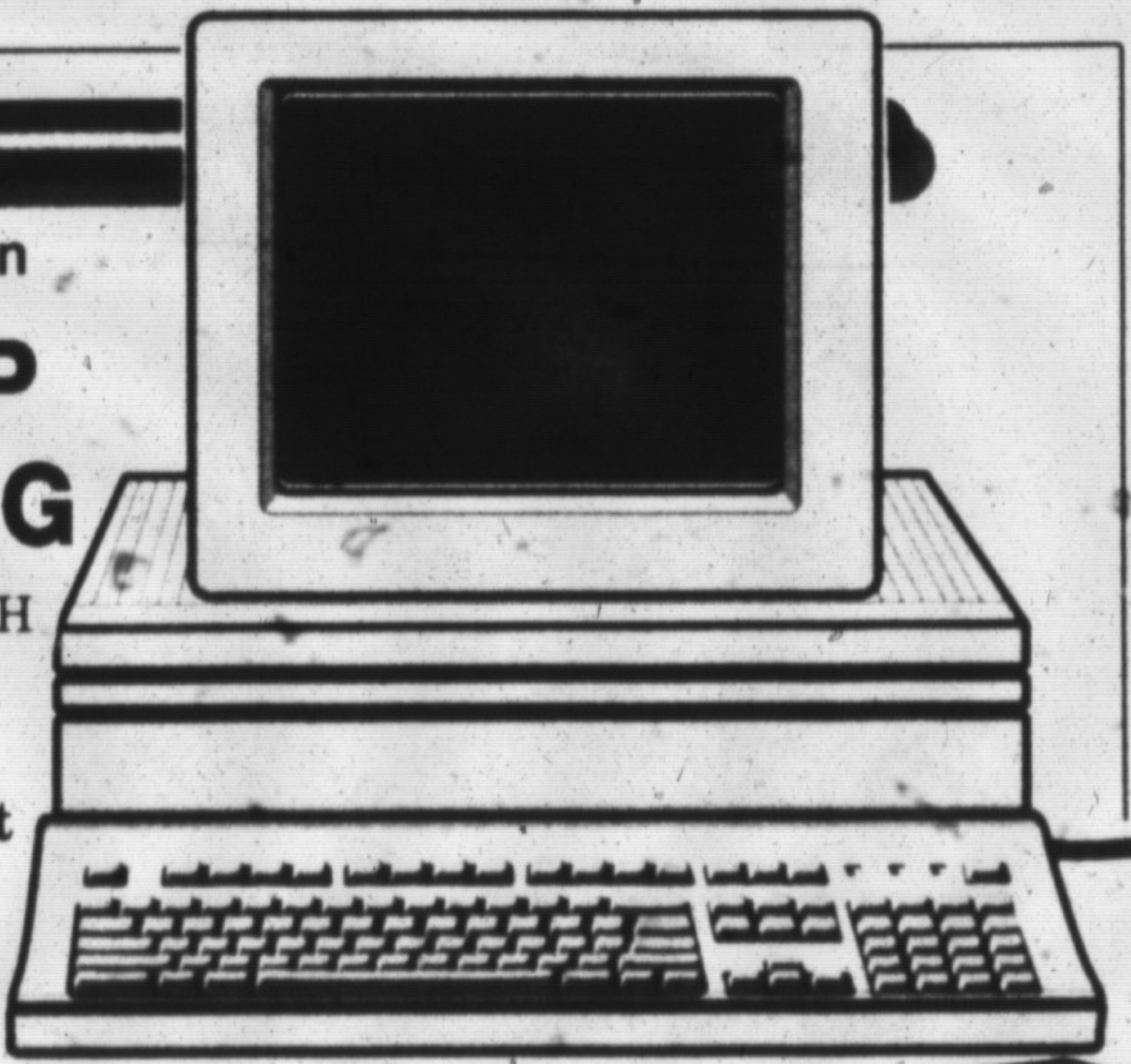
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