

# Regional compost site could 'step on toes', says Mulkwich

Now that they're on the road to establishing a regional composting program, some Halton councillors are beginning to get nervous about hitting potholes along the way.

In a letter to councillors, Burlington mayor Walter Mulkwich outlines a few concerns that he has about the project, namely the legalities of running a composting site that may possibly be in direct competition to ones owned by the private sector and local municipalities.

He also suggested that a marketing plan for the compostable materials be established, which should include ways of educating the public on its importance.

Burlington rep Barry Quinn agreed, adding that the region must make sure it's "not stepping on each other's toes."

"We need to run an efficient program, but before we step in on this let's make sure we are moving in the right direction," he added.

His colleague Bob Brechin warned against Halton set-

ting up its own monopoly on composting, noting that it would be healthy for it to compete with both municipalities and the private sector.

But, an exasperated chairman Pete Pomeroy explained these concerns are the very reason for the region conducting a pilot project.

"It is to give council as much information as possible before we go on to the next step," he said. "I encourage all input, but it's not the intention of the region to get into a situation that compromises the private sector or municipalities... If we were assured that every person and business does what they should do with their compostables and other waste, then we wouldn't have to do this."

The consulting firm Proctor and Redfern have been hired by the region to work out the details of a composting site to be set up at Halton's new landfill in Milton.

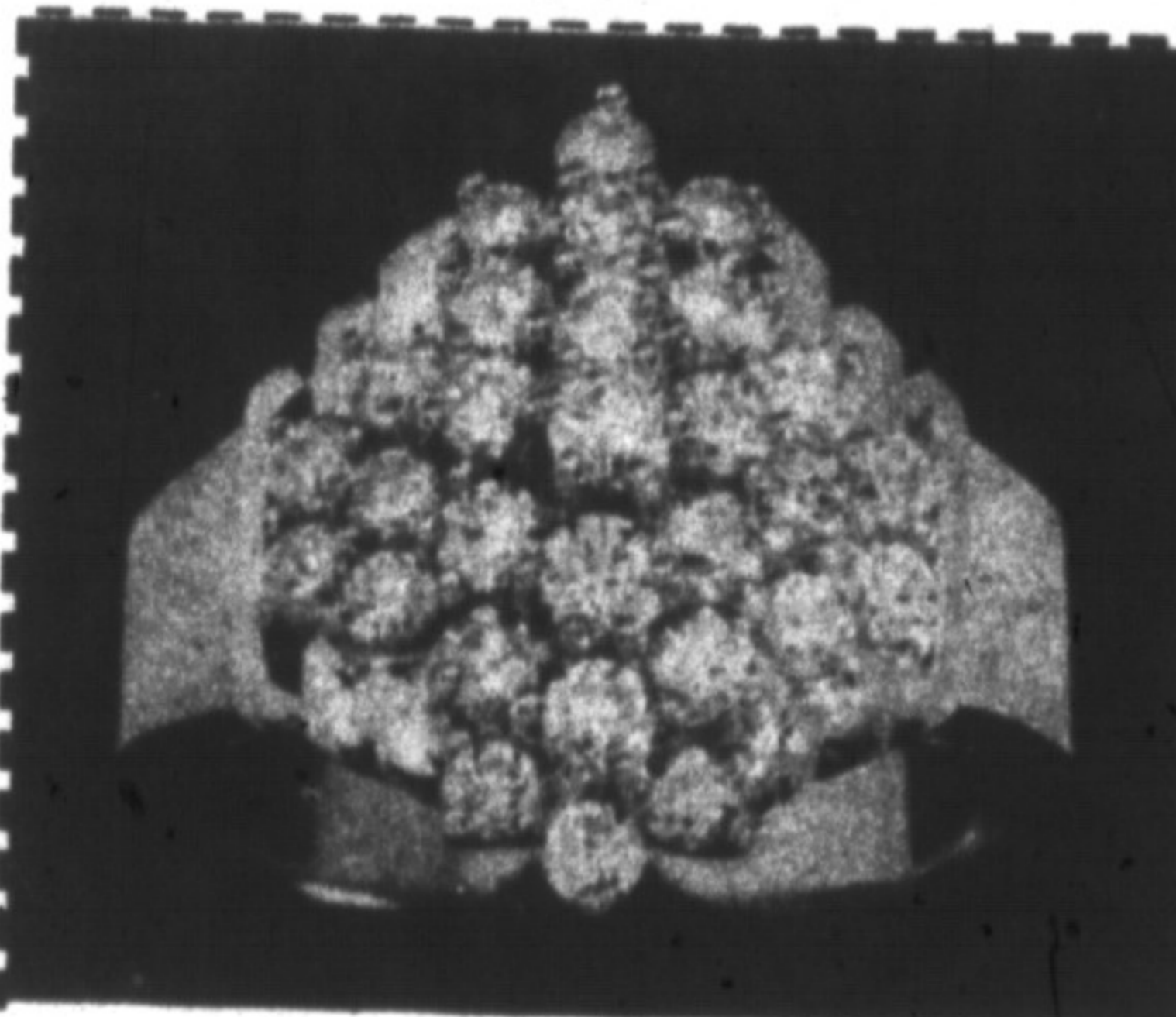
The region is redirecting its focus from burning some of its waste to composting it, since incineration was banned by environment minister Ruth Grier last year.

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