

Debate continues despite deal to fund farm water

The Canadian Champion, Friday, July 17, 1992

From HALTON on page 1 and fall of 1991 were the causes of the Winters' problems. Thursday Mrs. Winter said Mr. Meneray's report is deeply flawed. Now that she has seen the previously confidential text, she will be sending what amounts to a rebuttal to Halton

regional chairman Peter Pomeroy, she added. Although councillors voted 17-2 to provide trucked-in water for the Winter farm until an-depth investigation can hopefully determine what the underlying problem is, Burlington councillor Doug Greenaway

triggered a debate by saying he was against the move. "I'd like to go on record as opposing this method to solve the problem," councillor Greenaway said. According to Mr. Meneray's report, "the problems were there before we started" landfill construction. Mr.

Greenaway urged fellow councillors to "turn this down." But Halton Hills councillor Marilyn Serjeantson, who chairs the regional committee which initially endorsed supplying water to the Winter farm, said councillors are facing "a delicate situation."

Because of controversy in other areas of Ontario about potential dumpsite locations, "people from all over the province are looking at how we handle this. We don't need all this adverse publicity," councillor Serjeantson said. "It's time that we solve this problem. There's a lot at stake."

"Where's the cutoff point?" asked councillor Greenaway, in reference to how far Halton should go in assuming responsibility for water shortages near the landfill. "At what point do you stop?"

Councillor Serjeantson said the Winters' dairy operation was the "only case" in which such actions are proposed.

Oakville councillor Kevin Flynn stressed the underlying message in approving only a temporary move to assist the farm family. "This may not be our problem to solve," Mr. Flynn noted. "If it is not our fault, I don't think we have an obligation to fix it."

But Burlington councillor Bob Brechin said councillor Serjeantson "hit the nail on the head. If I lived where the Winters did I would certainly be pointing at the region" as the source of difficulties.

Mr. Brechin, like Mr. Pomeroy, appears to be leaning toward straightening out the Winters' problems at regional expense even if it means digging a new well, something that Mr. Meneray estimated could cost \$15,000.

"For the amount of money involved I don't want to consume our energies, that of (regional) staff, the Winters. I'm prepared to stop the bickering."

Halton has agreed to pay for a consultant's study aimed at finding out if the landfill has reduced underground water flows to the farm. The Winters are free to hire any qualified firm they wish to undertake the work, and both parties have agreed to live by the findings.



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Be a greener consumer

How to be an environmentally friendly shopper will be the topic of next week's Wastewise Consumerism Seminar.

Known as entertaining speakers, Ken Arnold of Kea and Co. and Suanne Kelman, creator of CBC Ideas two-part series "Shopping Spree," will address the hot issue on Wednesday, July 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Watching for misleading labels on packaging will be one of the warnings presented by Mr. Arnold, said Marina Biasutti, a summer student at Wastewise.

"He'll talk about (environmentally friendly) logos on products and which ones to believe," she said. He will also discuss packaging.

Meanwhile, Ms Kelman will address the "underlying basis of consumerism," added Ms Biasutti, and "preventing waste from root."

Wastewise is a non-profit community resource centre which opened in Georgetown in April last year.

Funded by all levels of government as a pilot project, the facility is equipped with a waste reduction education centre, a repair area for appliances, a flea market, and a depot for recyclables not accepted by the Blue Box Program.

Wastewise is located at 36 Armstrong Ave. (the second right north of Guelph Street off of Mountainview Road.)

For reservations or more information, call 873-8122.