## Price goes up for preliminary regional compost plans?

By ROB KELLY The Champion

The bill for preliminary engineering specifications to be used by companies tendering to build a huge composting plant at Halton Region's of current estimates the price could \$75,000 to \$132,500.

Wednesday Halton's planning and the regional chairman said. " public works committee authorized the extra payment to Proctor and Redfern. "I'm not too pleased with the cost overrun," regional chairman Peter Pomeroy told the committee. But the money is needed, he added, because, "we're putting together Canada."

for it range from \$10 million to \$30 landfill. million. If the project becomes too beyond the planning stage.

Mr. Pomeroy evaluates the project ing site. cost by how much Halton will have

to charge to accept organic waste for according to its neighbours, a source tinuation of the problems with Scott at the landfill. But at the upper end tonne, I don't think we'll build it,"

Price is not the only big question in the current debate over composting. Another major issue is control over the raw material - yard and food waste — that fuels the process.

While Halton studies grand designs to build a plant, private probably the most technologically enterprise has been attempting to advanced proposal that's ever been / snatch portions of the market. Equity put on the table at any council in Investments, a Woodbridge firm Conservation Area. built, however. The cost estimates within half a mile of the regional into this natural area.

Jim Scott, a Milton entrepreneur complex and expensive, Mr. who until recently ran a pick-your-Pomeroy doubts it'll ever get own farm, has converted part of his property into an open-air compost-

It is relatively inexpensive, and,

composting. At the bargain-base- of profoundly nauseating odours. ment end of the scale, the price The Ministry of the Environment could be \$75 per tonne, half of has pressured Mr. Scott into Halton's fee to dump regular waste downsizing his operation by no longer accepting food waste.

Mr. Pomerow, who has taken a landfill in Milton has leaped from be \$200 per tonne. "If it's \$200 a prominent role in steering the art facility "so we don't have a con- household compost collection.

He has consistently stressed that he's open to private sector investment in Halton's proposal, but he's against seeing potential competitors skim away the most accessible compost sources, such as food store regional composting plan thus far, chains, while leaving Halton to unwants Halton to build a state-of-the-derwrite the cost of curbside

"If somebody wants to do it, they've got to be prepared to do it ? all," he warned.

Bidders hoping to build Halton's composting plant have invested between \$250,000 and \$500,000 in preparing their documents, Mr. Pomeroy said. Regional government in turn plans to spend approximately \$200,000 more to evaluate them over the next four months.

## This weekend at Crawford Lake

## Ramble with a llama for Earth Day

Follow a llama to the Nassagaweya lookout and help of nature's tea will be served all day in the reconstructed celebrate Earth Day this weekend at the Crawford Lake 15th century Iroquoian Village. The first 200 cars also

linked to an American composting Applejack the llama will accompany visitors on a It's still an open question whether company, has announced plans to Llama Ramble to the scenic lookout as part of activities the composting centre will ever be build a facility similar to Halton's Sunday, Apr. 18. This guided hike will provide insight

> Applejack will be on hand beginning at 12:30 p.m. until the hike departs at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required for this part of the program. Call 854-0234 to book a spot.

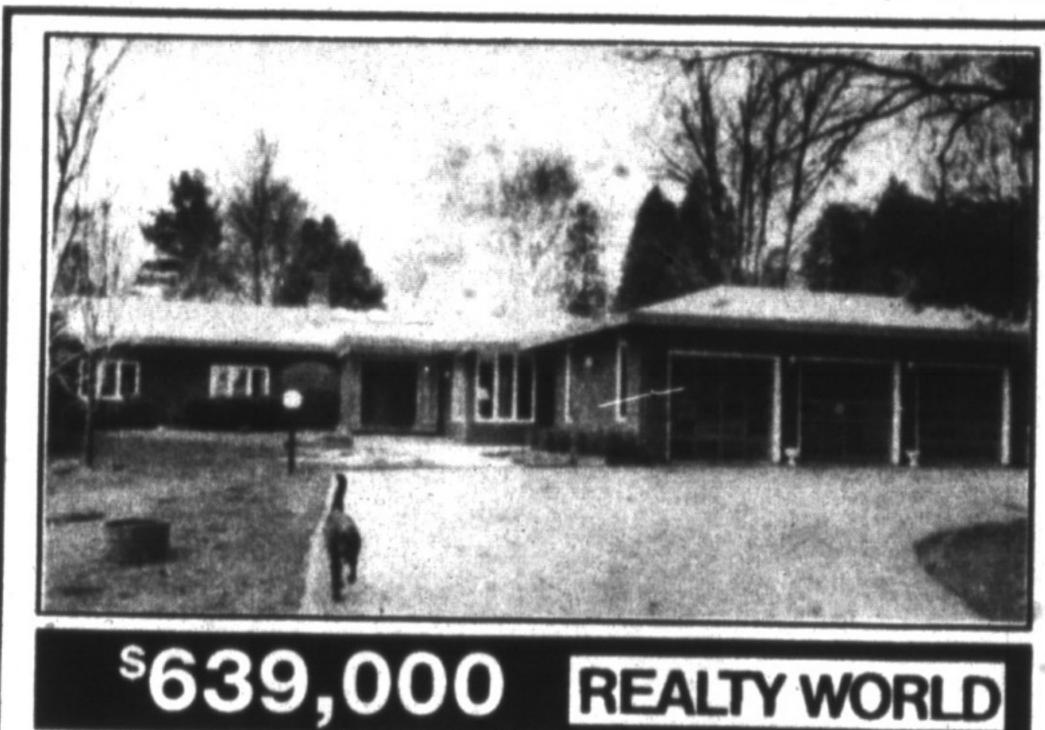
Other activities, running from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., will making buttons with an environmental message. A blend details.

receive a free seedling tree.

Well known local photographer Rob Stimpson will be on hand to present a "Hooter the Owl" nature slideshow, designed to educate about Mother Earth.

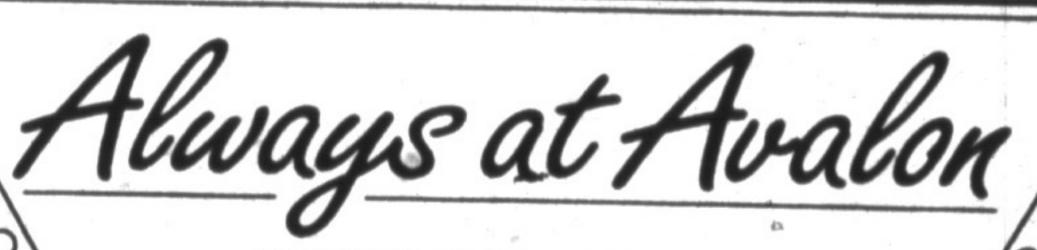
Vistors can also meet representatives from Canadian Alliance in Solidarity with Native Peoples, KEA and Co. (environmentally friendly products) and the Native Indian/Inuit Photographers Association who will be showing and discussing their work.

The Conservation Area is at the corner of Guelph Line include wildlife and nature games, a scavenger hunt and and Steeles Avenue, Call 336-1158 or 854-0234 for



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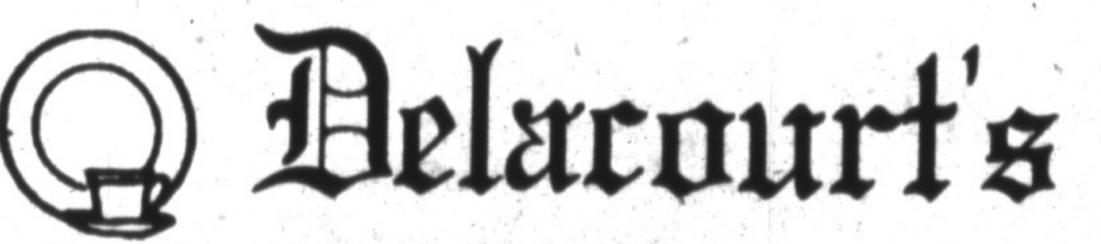
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