

# Company targets Hornby for new composting plant

By LISA TALLYN  
Special to The Champion

If all the approvals go through without a hitch, Larry Hurley of Equity Waste Management plans to have his \$10 million compost facility up and running in Hornby by the fall.

Equity Compost/Research Facility is to be built on about 20 acres in Halton Hills on the south side of Steeles Ave. east of Trafalgar Rd. and west of the Eighth Line.

## Date set for hearings on landfilling on escarpment

The public hearing into Halton North MPP Noel Duignan's bill to halt landfilling on the Niagara Escarpment will begin on Valentine's Day.

The bill passed second reading in April and the hearings are being held February 14 and 15, with a day set aside to go through it clause by clause on February 16.

"It's an historic situation that a private members bill is taken seriously as part of government business. Normally it goes to committee of the whole, and no action is taken," Mr. Duignan said. Public hearings for two other unrelated private members bills, one from the Liberals and one from the Conservatives, are also taking place in February. This is a new approach to the bills, Mr. Duignan noted.

"This is a really major hurdle, for the bill to go to a public hearing is a major, major step," he said. From there, it will go to the third and final reading, but no date has yet been set for this.

The Halton Region Conservation Authority has thrown its support behind the bill and asked all other conservation authorities to do the same.

He said he proposed the resolution of support for the bill and asked other conservation authorities to do the same because the limestone base of the escarpment is prone to leakage, and could contaminate the water supply.

It's too early to know whether the other conservation authorities will

Mr. Hurley has applied for site plan approval from the Town of Halton Hills and a certificate of approval from the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MOEE) to operate the facility. This is the third location in Halton Mr. Hurley has considered.

Previously sites on First Line south of Britannia Rd. in Milton and one on the Sixth Line near Steeles Ave. were considered.

An information session, focusing on the facility to be located on

Steeles Ave., was held for area residents last month.

The proposed operation will be enclosed, unlike another one in the Hornby area, Scott Farm Composting on Britannia Rd.

Mr. Hurley explained the composting of food waste and yard waste will be done inside a building. The annual capacity of raw materials will be about 50,000 tonnes.

The material will be stored for 21 days in 216-foot long concrete bays. The mixed material will be agitated, aerated and composted as it is slowly conveyed through the bay. An agitator, which operates automatically, will move the entire contents of the bay at a rate of 12 feet per day.

Temperature and ventilation controls will maintain aerobic conditions and optimum temperatures for composting.

Mr. Hurley estimates about 21,000 tonnes of finished compost, or 1.5 million 30-litre bags, will be produced at the facility each year.

"There are 17 similar systems operating in the U.S.," said Mr. Hur-

ley. "The closest is in Lockport, New York and there is one in Aldergrove, British Columbia."

He added those facilities are running successfully.

Mr. Hurley said residents who live near the facility in Hornby will not experience any "obnoxious" odors due to the aerobic conditions in the bays and a biofilter, which will clean the air escaping from the facility.

John Budz, district manager of the Halton-Peel MOEE office, said they have some concerns about the Equity proposal.

"We have received a number of letters from adjacent property owners," said Mr. Budz. "We are quite concerned about the proposal because of the bad experience we have had with the Scott Farm composting facility."

There have been severe odor problems with the Scott facility, precipitating Ministry sanctions limiting composting, followed by a lengthy environmental hearing. The hearing officers are expected to deliver a ruling on the future of Mr. Scott's operation this month.

Mr. Budz admits the MOEE has had little experience with the composting industry but they have discovered open windrow operations can be a major source of odor.

"But no matter what technology you use, there are still going to be odors," said Mr. Budz.

"We have had little experience with in-vessel (enclosed) operations. That disturbs us. We have little data, so it is hard to compare to open windrow facilities."

Mr. Budz said the composting issue puts the MOEE in a difficult position because while it promotes and encourages composting, it has environmental concerns (odor) about composting facilities.

The MOEE is currently reviewing the Equity proposal. Halton Regional and the Town of Halton Hills will have an opportunity to comment on it.

The MOEE can request a hearing be held under the Environmental Protection Act, where it would be up to board members to decide whether a certificate of approval should be granted.

The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, February 2, 1994

## Bergsma's Paint & Wallpaper

OVER 500  
WALLPAPER BOOKS

20 TO 60% OFF

LARGEST SELECTION IN MILTON!  
EXPRESS YOURSELF WITH PROVINCIAL WALLCOVERINGS

ALL IN-STOCK  
WALLPAPER



UP TO  
50% OFF

SALE  
ENDS  
THIS  
SATURDAY



### PREMIUM PAINTS BY PARA

Every finish you will need to complete every room in your house. ALL ON SALE (white & pastel colours only)

No Splatter • Great Coverage • Thousands of Colours

FREE  
Coffee & Donuts  
Every Saturday

MANY MORE SPECIALS THROUGHOUT THE STORE

HURRY! SALE ENDS SATURDAY, FEB. 5TH 5:30 P.M.

## BERGSMA'S PAINT & WALLPAPER

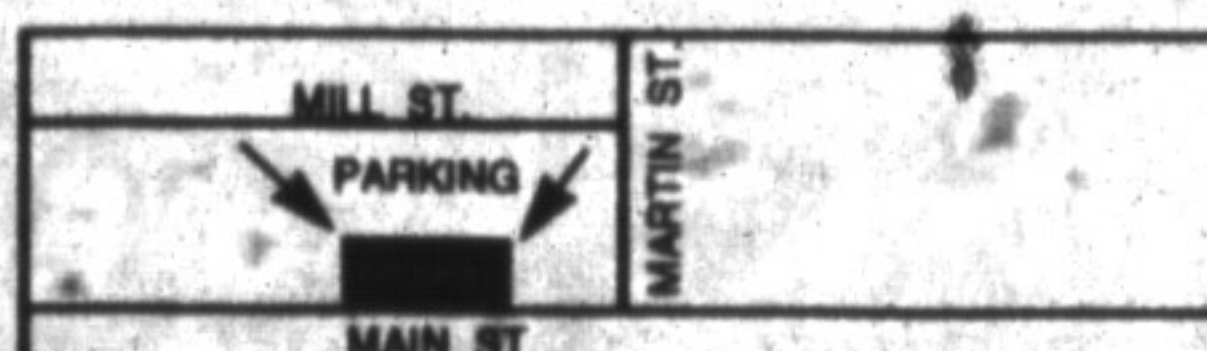
Serving Halton's Decorating needs  
Since 1968

DOWNTOWN  
MILTON

217 MAIN ST. E.

876-4922

and Entrance at the Back



Plenty of Parking

### SHARON PRESSE

R.N., LL.B.

Barrister & Solicitor

Suite 301  
205 Main Street  
Milton, Ontario

876-4656

FAMILY LAW  
& DIVORCE

### INSERTS

#### INTOWN & RURAL

ALTERNATIVES (P)  
RICHARDSON  
GREENSHIELDS (P)

SEARS (P)

WHITE ROSE

WOOLCO (P)

#### RURAL ONLY

HARD BALL ROCKS

NIGHT CLUB (P)

VALDI

Circulation Department: 878-2341