

Neighbours complain about landfill, illegal dumping

Halton to review landfill issues

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
The Champion

Halton Region will re-examine a handful of issues regarding its Milton landfill site, including the \$5 user fee, possible extended hours, site monitoring and a review of compensation for nearby residents.

Complaints about the dump just north of Lower Base Line surfaced twice at Wednesday planning and public works committee meetings.

"We're very, very discouraged and we don't know where to turn," said 15-year Lower Base Line resident George Tell.

Mr. Tell complained about a "dramatic" increase in garbage dumping on his and other properties near the landfill. He said the \$5 user fee and 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. dump hours were sources of the problems.

He said construction debris and even loads of propane tanks have

been dumped on fields, usually at night. He believes most contractors need to dump debris after 5 p.m. and before 8 a.m. — when the dump isn't open.

"There's excess dumping of garbage. It doesn't matter where, people just don't care. I think they're doing it in order to avoid payment of the \$5," Mr. Tell said school groups that used to do clean-up projects aren't any more because they too encounter the \$5 fee. Mayor Gord Krantz confirmed that two weeks ago a school group faced paying the fee. "It's discouraging the volunteer," noted Mr. Krantz.

"I've never seen such a big maze just to dump a garbage bag," said the resident. Mr. Tell said he has even picked up dumped garbage and then faced the \$5 fee, that landfill site personnel "just standing around not doing much," that 16 Mile Creek is littered with garbage and tires, and that area residents put up with the smell of garbage.

Milton regional councillor Barry Lee, chair of the region's waste management committee, said Mr. Tell

was "echoing widespread concerns of the community."

Regional Chair Peter Pomeroy suggested staff visits to the area.

Burlington Councillor Bob Brechin said the problem was destined to worsen as the province directed Halton to reduce its waste by 50 per cent from mid-1980s levels.

Burlington Councillor Joyce Savoline said the issue shouldn't be blown out of proportion since, at budget time, the region favoured the user pay system. If the management portion of collecting waste (not landfill operation costs) weren't covered by the fee, \$500,000 would be spread across the urban area taxes, she said.

Regional staff will report back on the issues raised by Mr. Tell.

Landfill area resident Ross Runnalls was on hand later in the day, complaining about what he sees as decreased property values near the dump.

He had earlier presented a petition to the region from area landowners requesting a compensation program.

Halton's policy currently follows Ontario law as covered in the Expro-

propriations Act, in which compensation payment is provided for both lands expropriated and those, although not expropriated, impacted by the construction of a public work. All legally mandated expropriations have been

done. Staff will review regional policy and report back.

Mr. Runnalls suggested a professional appraiser determine property value with and without a dump nearby.

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