

Compromise reached on disposing of abandoned plant

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
The Champion

Halton Region isn't exactly waiving tipping fees associated with dumping Pigment & Chemical Inc. demolition debris at the regional dump — instead it wants the \$11,000 cost tacked onto the site's tax arrears and will write off its 15 per cent share should taxes not be collected.

"I don't understand why we should increase our liability. We should get paid," said Oakville Councillor Kevin Flynn at last week's regional administration and finance committee.

It was there that a Town of Milton request surfaced for the Region to waive the estimated \$9,000 to \$11,000 tipping fee associated with disposing of the Pigment & Chemical debris at the regional dump.

The vacant Pigment & Chemical buildings on Main Street East will be torn down before February.

The Town will proceed with the \$100,000 demolition after an order to rectify an unsafe building wasn't met, and the Town reached a demolition financing agreement with the Royal Bank of Canada, which holds the first mortgage.

Under the agreement, the bank will pay the \$100,000 demolition cost up front while an equivalent amount is added to the site's tax bill. Should the taxes not be collected by November 15, 1997, the bank will write off \$50,000, while the remaining \$50,000 will have to be repaid by the Town.

The Town hopes to recoup the taxes through sale of the property.

Town staff estimate the demolition will see between 50 to 60 tonnes of rubble and another 10 to 15 tonnes of zinc oxide-contaminated soil dumped.

The regional landfill is approved to receive the soil.

"Any write-off would be absorbed on the same basis as total taxes raised by the Region (15 per cent), the school boards (57 per cent) and the

Town (28 per cent)," said regional treasurer Joe Rinaldo.

The issue — the advantage of adding the cost to the tax bill as opposed to collecting up front from Milton — proved confusing for some committee councillors.

"It seems to me this is Milton's problem and Milton is now making it

a regional problem," said Oakville Councillor Liz Behrens.

"I support it. It seems messy and convoluted but I support it," said Halton Hills Councillor Bill Robson.

"There is a great likelihood the amount will not be fully recovered," advised Mr. Rinaldo. Pigment & Chemical is in receivership.

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Community service message:



Pictured Here From Left to Right: Aubrey Ramprasad, District Manager Halton H & R Block; Anne Buckle & Pamela Stokes from Halton March of Dimes. H & R Block Tax School presented a cheque for \$300 to Halton's Outreach Program.

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