

# Bad smell lingering for some with compost deal

By BRAD REAUME  
The Champion

To some onlookers the Town of Milton's settlement with compost farmer Jim Scott did not pass the smell test.

Town officials have agreed to a settlement with Scott's Composting Farm, ending almost four years of legal battles. However, several area residents were unhappy with the compromise, saying the issues surrounding noxious odours have not been addressed.

Britannia Road resident Clifford Jones complained to councillors last week that they were "throwing in the towel" by accepting the settlement.

"It's something that really galls me. You've made a mistake and you are not rectifying it," he said. "Where is the spine and backbone of this council?"

Initiated through negotiations begun late last year, the settlement agreed to by council includes landscape improvements to help hide the composting operation from view, a limit to the area of the operation, and an end to all legal proceedings.

In addition, Milton will pass an amendment to its agricultural use bylaw prohibiting other large-scale composting operations, and will allow Mr. Scott to operate on his present site as long as he has a certificate of approval from the Ministry of Environment (MOE).

Another resident, George Powers, called

for air monitoring stations to be installed as part of the settlement. He said he was afraid of disease because the odour must signify that something unwholesome is in the air.

"The reason we are all sitting here isn't because of landscaping, and it isn't because of site plans, it's because of air quality," he said. "It's bad enough that it smells but we really don't know what is there."

In 1992 Mr. Scott began operation of a composting facility on his family's Britannia Road property. At the time large scale composting was relatively untested in North America and Mr. Scott underestimated the potential for powerful odours, which could disrupt the lives of his neighbours.

Complaints in the summer of 1992 started investigations by the MOE and the Town of Milton. While a number of legal challenges took place Mr. Scott honed his composting expertise and was able to largely control his operation. Council heard there have been no complaints to the MOE from local residents in the last 18 months.

According to Milton's director of planning Mel Iovio, Mr. Scott's operation will be limited to its present size.

"Anything beyond that will require another zoning amendment," he said. "In addition, Mr. Scott has filed a site plan and landscape terms will be built to mask the

• see COMPOST on page 5



Jim Scott



Photo by GRAMAM PAINE

Halton Regional Police Sergeant Lee-Ann Ansell demonstrates the two methods of communication, radio and MDT, from the dispatch centre to the field cruiser.

## The communications lifeline of Halton's public and police

By KAREN SMITH  
The Champion

It's more than a matter of pressing a button for Halton Regional Police Service communicators when it comes to dealing with thousands of callers every year.

While communicators can transfer an emergency call to the proper authorities in a split second, the majority of calls, including 9-1-1 calls, are not emergencies, said Sandra Godfrey, communications supervisor for the service.

Workers at Halton Regional Police's communications centre at regional headquarters in Oakville answer calls from noise complaints to life or death situations and dispatch officers to the scenes.

The process is straightforward, however the public is often confused by the fact that all calls to Halton Regional Police are answered at the Oakville headquarters on Bronte Road, whether the caller has dialed 878-5511 or 634-1831, the two main numbers.

Some Milton callers get annoyed when they call police for assistance at an address on Main Street and the communicator asks, "Main Street in what municipality," Ms Godfrey said.

Callers using the Milton number mistakenly assume their call is being answered by the front desk clerk at the Milton police station. "They get upset that we don't know exactly where they are," she said.

Clearing up such confusion is one of Halton police's goals during National Police Week, which kicked off

• see WORKING on page 11

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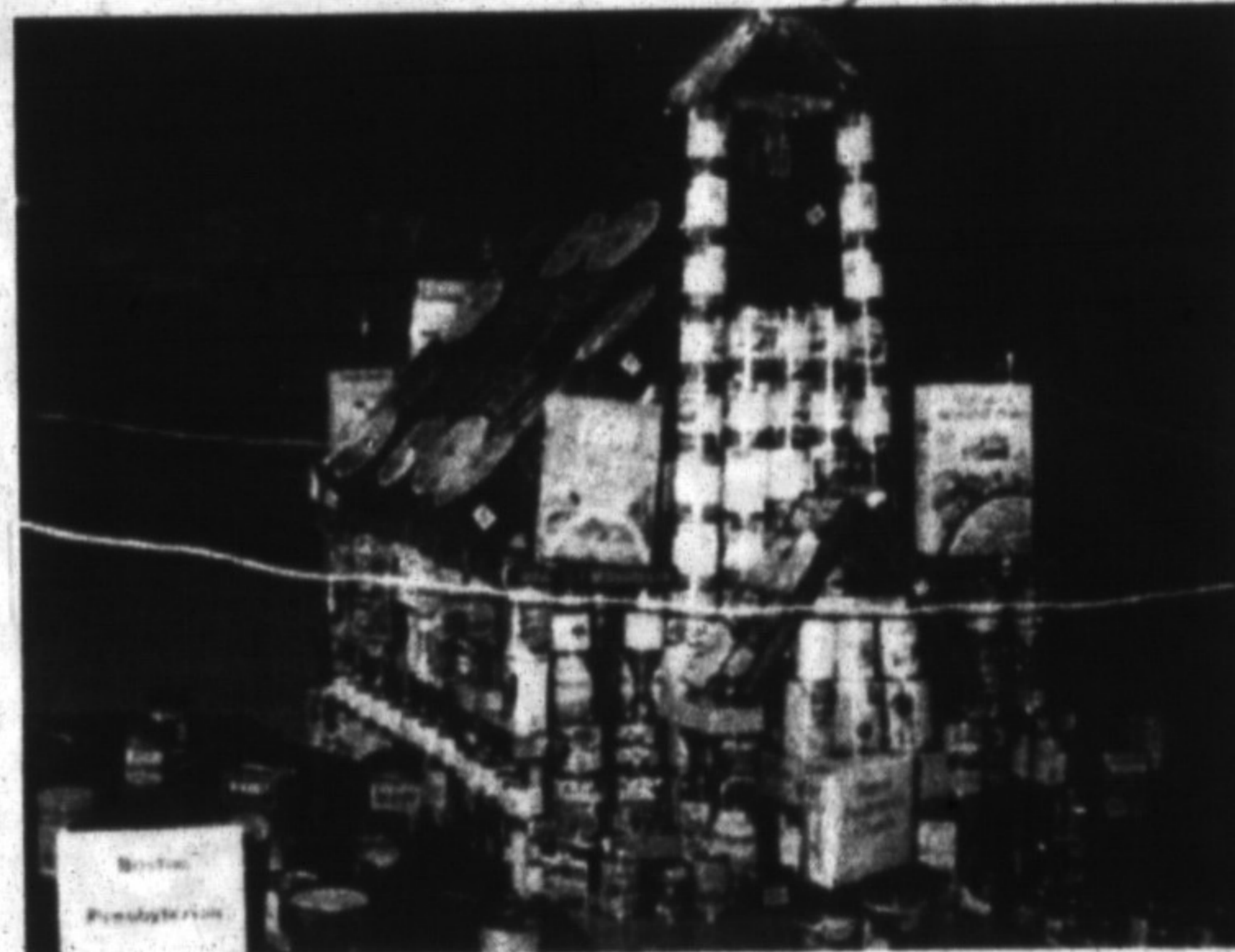
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**Raise food for the Salvation Army Food Bank. Receive recognition for your organization or business. Win cash for a charity of your choice.**

All non-profit organizations and business' are invited to create art with canned and dried goods in the Milton Mall from Tuesday May 21, 9:00 am to Friday, May 24th at 2:00 pm. Judging will take place on Saturday, May 25 at 11:00 am. There will be two categories of judging. One for the non-profit groups and the other for businesses.

A total of six (6) organizations will receive a Cash Award for their work of Art. First prizes will receive \$150.00 each; Second prizes \$100.00 each; and Third prizes will receive \$50.00 each.

All organizations who participate will receive a



10'x10' area to create their canned sculpture. Organizations are invited to place a sign with their name on the exhibit in their allocated space.

After the judging, on the

Following Monday all the canned and dried goods will be taken to the Food Bank at the Salvation Army.

**Challenge your neighbour or competition!**

**Should your organization be interested in participating in this fun and very worthwhile event please contact the Milton Mall Administration Office at 878-3900 to book your space by Tuesday, May 21, 1996.**