Debate looming on flag oath push

BY BRAD REAUME

The Champion

If it sounds like a nice idea it will likely spark considerable debate.

That principle held true Wednesday at Halton's administration and finance committee meeting when Oakville Councillor Kevin Flynn suggested endorsing a federal private member's bill to establish an oath of allegiance to the flag.

The bill, introduced in the House of Commons by Guelph MP Brenda Chamberlain, passed the committee and will now be debated by full regional council.

The discussion at committee quickly

shifted to serious debate but councillors agreed to stifle their concerns until the measure reaches council.

Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson said she would rather have the pledge be directed to the county than the flag because the flag is merely a symbol:

Mr. Flynn said he wanted standards of conduct set for the flag because "it is treated pretty poorly compared to flags of other countries,"

Oakville Councillor Keith Bird shifted the debate when he suggested that Canadians now pledge allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II.

"I thought we pledged allegiance to the Queen and now you want to do it to

the Queen and a piece of cloth?" he

Other councillors refused to be drawn into a dehate over whether the Queen should be included in the pledge.

"In this critical time in our history, it is important for Canadians to consider the importance of the flag in our lives. An oath could be used at schools. before meetings, such as city council meetings, or anywhere the flag is prominent," Ms Chamberlain wrote.

She asked for suggested oaths to be sent to her Ottawa office at Room 152, Confederation Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6. Postage is not required.

"It is treated pretty poorly compared to flags of other countries."

> Halton Councillor Kevin Flynn



Free compost at the regional landfill site

With the success of last year's free compost giveaway program, another will take place this year at the Halton regional landfill.

The promotion has already kicked off and will continue from 8 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. until Saturday, Sept. 28.-It has been expanded to include an area where backyard composters will be sold.

Halton residents will receive a coupon for up to 10 bags of compost provided they bring in an item of items for the household hazardous waste depot or Halton/Amity rouse centre. Information on backyard composting will also be available.

Compost in the giveaway has been produced from leaves. grass and other yard waste brought to the site as part of the region's yard waste collection program. In total there are 2,800 cubic metres of compost with the first 800 going to Halton residents. The remaining 2,000 cubic metres will be sold to the highest bidder.

Last year more than 1,000 people visited the compost site and facilities during the promotion. Those who want compost have to bag it themselves. Shovels and bags are not provided. The site, on Highway 25 near Britannia Road, is closed Sunday, Sept. 22.



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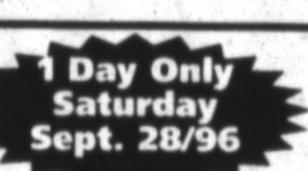
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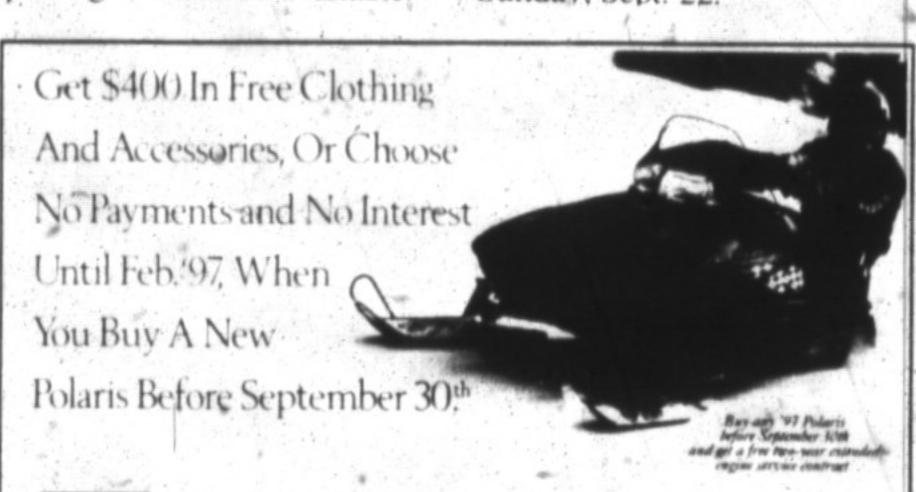
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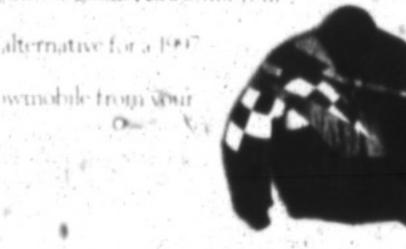
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