

Rural Ward 2 – Don't hold your breath waiting for garbage truck

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

Residents in the rural areas of Ward 2 will have to wait for municipal garbage collection.

Town council agreed Monday night to defer collection pending a comprehensive plan, which will be put together during the next several months. Garbage collection in the rural areas of Ward 2 will not likely commence until at least next March.

Councillor Wally Hunter said he agreed collection should be extended to those residents of areas surrounding the urban core of Milton, however he asked that condominium and business pick-up be included. Currently some condominium owners in Milton pay property taxes for municipal pick-up and also pay a private hauler. Commercial and industrial properties are in the same position.

"I don't think we should be moving to a large collection area in a piecemeal fashion," said Mr. Hunter. "There are significant inequities in garbage collection. We need further analysis so we can achieve equity and fairness."

Councillor John Challinor agreed, saying service should be expanded to take in all

those paying for it, or their levy should be reduced to reflect that they are not receiving the service. He was determined not to let the issue languish.

"Ward 2 is a semi-urban ward now. These people have been waiting since 1974 for municipal garbage collection," said Mr. Challinor. "We have already told them they would receive the service."

Councillor Colin Best sided with the slower approach put forward by Mr. Hunter. He said time should be taken to institute the new garbage collection correctly.



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WALLY HUNTER



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health precaution despite an outcry from citizens, the premier pointed out the province has an obligation to insure water standards are met and to secure the safety of the water supply.

"The application (to withdraw chlorination) is not part of the norm and therefore it takes a little longer," he said. "(Local MPP) Ted Chudleigh is pushing on this one. I hope it is resolved, hopefully next year."

The bid to remove chlorine is the first of its kind in the province and Ministry of the Environment officials admit to being concerned about potential liability. Premier Harris did promise to keep an eye on the issue.

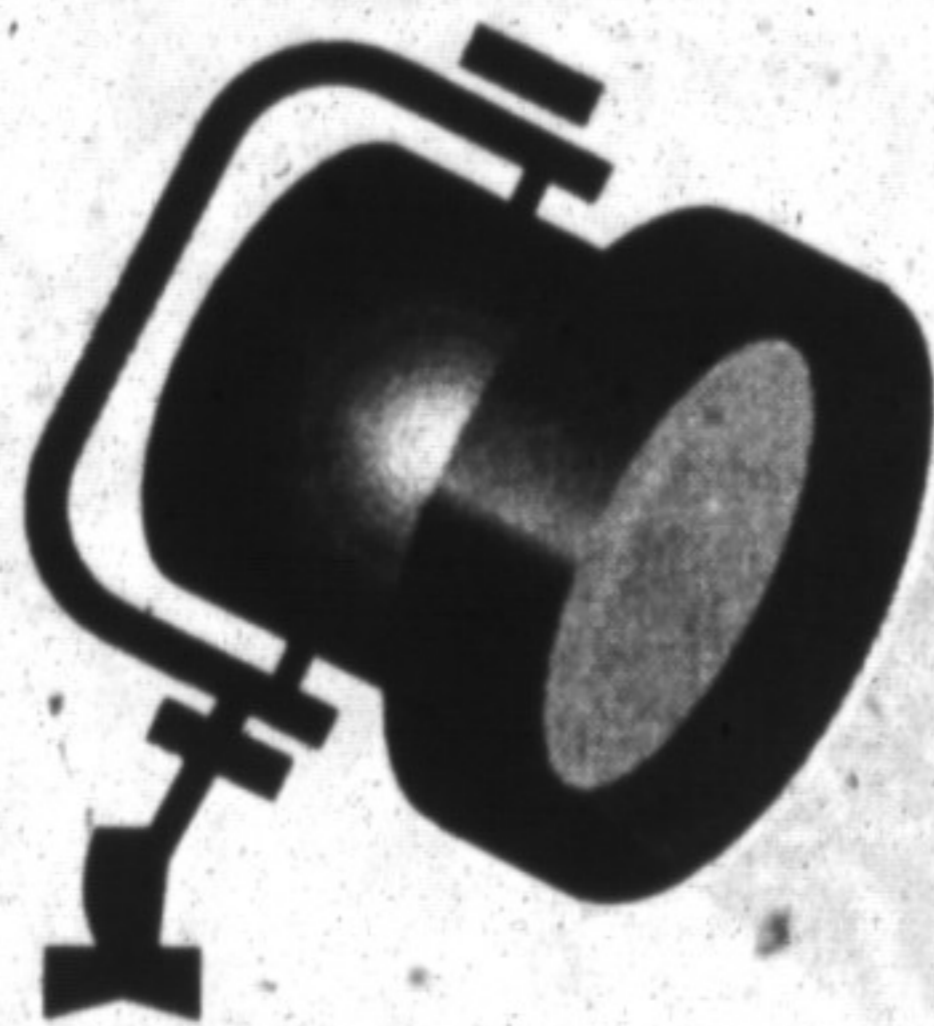
On the HUSP, Mr. Harris said there could be sharing of large infrastructure projects between municipalities but the local governments would be responsible for the total cost.

"It will become clearer when the province gets information from the Who Does What panel," he said. "Any fast tracking (of HUSP) won't happen with the province's financial involvement."

Regarding a plan to have the province pre-pay building development charges on land it owns in Halton to get the ball rolling on water servicing, the premier reiterated that provincial financial involvement is not an option. In addition he said, "it's not a good use of provincial dollars or necessarily a good use of provincial land."

During a speech to party supporters the premier did list a number of reasons the Tories had to celebrate, including "the lefty of all lefties, Gerard Kennedy, leading the Liberal leadership race."

With regard to medical funding, "If someone says Mike Harris is cutting health care it isn't true," said Mr. Harris. "We've increased health care spending \$300 million. Only (Prime Minister) Jean Chretien is reducing health care spending, to the tune of \$2 billion in Ontario, but we will meet our commitments."



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