

dump view

By MARILYN GREEN
Milton Environmental Advisor Group
It is unfortunate that toxic waste disposal has become a black and white issue. "If it isn't here," many people say, "then it will have to go in someone else's backyard."

This appears to be true only because of the initial decisions that the OWMC has made about its proposed facilities and selection of candidate sites.

But it simply isn't true. If Milton does not have it, it does not have to go into some other small rural community.

What is true, though, is that the OWMC has refused to consider any alternatives to its present position, and it has firmly closed the door to anyone who wishes to suggest or pursue other solutions to the problem.

Consider this: at least 30 to 50 per cent of industrial waste can be re-used or recycled on site.

In fact, the big chemical companies are already using some of their waste to generate energy which is re-used right on site. These same companies have said that transporting waste is totally unnecessary because it can be dealt with on site.

There is the technology available for treatment on site, but this is an alternative the OWMC has declined to consider in depth.

Consider this: there is no proof that a centralised mega-project, like that suggested by the OWMC, is the most suitable, the most economic, and the safest solution to disposing of or treating toxic waste.

Decentralised, smaller units could be as safe, if not safer, particularly if they were operating right in industrial areas. And certainly they would be cheaper to set up. The technology for such systems exists.

The Plasma Ark system proposed by Bill Johnson is one and the vault suggested by Julian Reed is another. Both systems are in place and operational elsewhere at least as safe as any system proposed by the OWMC, but this too, is an alternative is has declined to consider in depth.

Consider this: there are at present, waste treatment facilities operating in Sarnia, in Quebec and in Lewiston, New York.

They are licensed to accept most chemical, and they are operating under capacity.

They could be treating the waste the OWMC expects to treat at its own facility. Perhaps the private sector is capable of handling all our toxic waste and the Ontario government need not be involved.

This, again, is an alternative that has certainly never been publicly dealt with.

Meag members are often asked what alternatives they can suggest if they are opposed to the OWMC's propositions.

But the sad fact is that the OWMC is not interested in alternatives and has allowed for no discussion of alternatives in its public consultation programme.

We have been told many times: the public must play the game by the OWMC's rules, or not at all.

No matter how strongly citizens' groups could prove that the decision to put the facility in the Golden Horseshoe was not the best decision, the OWMC has provided no opportunity for them to argue their case.

No matter how strongly the citizens' groups could prove that smaller units located in industrial areas will have none of the dangers and provoke none of the public antagonism of the present proposals, the OWMC has provided no opportunity for them to argue their case.

Consider this: in the early planning it was suggested that OWMC should recover all its costs, including set-up costs (which will amount to over \$20 million) from its operation.

This is still an unresolved issue, but if the OWMC must recover costs, private sector industries will no doubt undercut their prices and inevitably drive them out of business.

The private sector seems to be handling toxic waste treatment reasonably well. What they say is needed is an agency to enforce that this waste is treated properly, and that it is not indiscriminately dumped. This could have been a truly useful role for OWMC but unfortunately, it is not an enforcement agency.

If and when its own facility comes into operation, it will not have the power to ensure companies use it.

Which way . . .

Every wonder which way the wind blows in Halton?

In a recent report on the feasibility of and energy-from-waste (EFW) plant for Halton, consultants compiled a study of which way the wind comes from. This was done because an EFW plant will have a stack and they want to know which way the fallout would travel.

Using a site in Oakville the consultants found winds came from the: north 13%; northeast, 8%; east, 12%; southeast, 13%; south, 11%; southwest, 9%; west, 17%; and northwest, 17%.

Adding west and northwest, that's the direction we get the wind one-third of the time.

Choristers starting up

Milton Choristers will start getting in tune for this season's three concerts next week.

Rehearsals at Milton District High School each Tuesday evening starting Sept. 11 are open to new members.

Anyone interested in joining the local choir should call Ann Lander at 878-7055 or Bill Smelser at 878-1616 for more information.

Milton Choristers will present concerts in December, next March and May.

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2. Milton Mall Sept. 15, 1984
3. Sue Hunt 878-5216



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Wed. Sept. 12th at 7 p.m.

There will be an informal rehearsal on Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Sept. 13th at the Presbyterian Church.

REQUIREMENTS

- Single Girls 16 years of age and over
- Wear street length dress & formal evening dress for judging—contestants to be at Presbyterian Church for judging at 6:00 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14, in daytime street length dresses and to bring a long formal dress for formal dress judging.
- Must live in the area serviced by Acton, Rockwood and Limehouse Post Offices and or attend Acton District High School.

— Entries accepted by members of the Miss Acton Fair Committee —

MISS ACTON FALL FAIR COMMITTEE 1984

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