

Waste treatment plant topic of public session

Simcoe County politicians and residents packed a meeting room at the Continental Inn in Barrie last Wednesday evening to hear about Ontario Waste Management Corporation's (OWMC) proposed industrial waste disposal facility slated for West Lincoln in the Niagara Peninsula.

The West Lincoln site was announced last year and will be built within the next few years if it passes an environmental hearing. The site will handle the 1.5 million tons of toxic waste produced in Ontario each year.

This was the seventh such public meeting held in the province in recent weeks and OWMC's Michael Scott was on hand to explain the workings of the proposed facility and outline its safety features to concerned citizens.

At the meeting there was widespread agreement that Ontario needs this type of facility. Scott said this has been the case at each such meeting, as have questions as to why it has taken so long to build one.

"There has been failure after failure in North America to site a waste site," he said. "It's been dur-

ing to try to do it too quickly, too secretly and without enough technical study."

Scott said almost half of the toxic waste produced in Ontario is not being properly disposed of. This waste comes from thousands of small and medium-sized plants and factories. Many discharge toxic waste directly into sewage systems or dumps not designed to handle it. Almost all of this happens legally, as there is no facility in operation where these wastes can be safely discarded.

Scott stressed this is not because the technology for such a facility is not available.

"Ontario is playing catch-up ball," he said. "It is trying to put into place what many other countries have had for years. The technology is there."

Scott said there is public concern in West Lincoln for community safety. People there want to know what safeguards the facility will have to protect residents. Scott said anything built today would not duplicate mistakes of the past. Nothing like an industrial waste dump is involved. Instead the proposed facility would treat all waste.

One Tiny Township resident asked if OWMC could retrieve leachate (contaminated water) from an aquifer (an underground water source).

"If leachate ever got into an aquifer it would be game over," said Scott. "If there was any indication that leachate was going to get into the aquifer we would pump it to the top to be treated."

Scott said the West Lincoln site was not chosen because it is close to problem areas, but rather because it has a thick clay base.

However, he added, "I can think of no better solution to the problem than to put the site where most of the waste is produced." More than 70 per cent of Ontario's industrial waste is produced in the Golden Horseshoe area along Lake

Ontario.

One person asked what guarantee there is that once the plant is in operation manufacturers will pay to use it when they can continue to dump their waste in sewers and landfill sites.

"Once an alternative is in place the ability to tighten up and strengthen regulations and policies will be more practical," said Scott. He said there will be penalties for those who don't use the facility.

He also said the cost of using the facility will encourage companies to look into waste reduction and recycling as a way of cutting costs. Part of OWMC's mandate is to assist industries in reducing waste through recycling and better waste management.

Among those at the meeting were Tiny Township's reeve and deputy reeve.

"We wanted to see how they handle toxic wastes because we want to see what sort of standards we have to use for household wastes which are much less toxic," said deputy reeve Peter Brasher.

He also said he was happy to hear about the facility because it will alleviate some of the township's problems. A waste site has been targeted for Tiny. However, if a waste disposal treatment facility is built in West Lincoln it should cut down on the type and amount of wastes dumped in the proposed Tiny site.



Everything old was new again

Nurses at the Penetanguishene General Hospital got into the swing of things for the hospital's 75th birthday party on Saturday afternoon by getting into a few of the old nursing uniforms worn by the Florence Nightingales of the past. (From left to right) Joan Brooks, Jeannette Brunelle and Ricky Beulter helped some of the staff go for a walk through memory lane modelling outfits from three different eras.



Arpin fills hall

While his music filled the Burgandy Room at the Highland Inn, so did the crowd, as only a few seats were left vacant for the two hour performance of jazz and ragtime pianist John Arpin. Arpin, a Port McNicoll native, came home for the weekend to tickle the old ivories in a benefit concert for ESPSS Concert Band. The 600 people on hand were treated to everything from the sounds of St. Louis Blues to the theme from the Broadway Cats, Memories.

Mental Health Centre gets research boost

Researchers at the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre have been awarded a health research grant of \$35,281 to compare the long-term outcome for people found "not guilty by reason of insanity" with that of people found "guilty" of similar offences. Health Minister Murray Elston announced today.

Health research grants are given annually to support studies which evaluate aspects of Ontario's health care system with a view to improving effectiveness and accessibility.

Grants for the 1986/87 fiscal year, which total \$4.36 million, will support 20

new and 46 continuing research projects in Kingston, London, Ottawa, Waterloo, Toronto, Brampton, Burlington and Hamilton, as well as in Penetanguishene.

The Penetang project, which is being conducted by Drs. M.E. Rice and T.G. Harris, will study two groups of people who were assessed at the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre between 1975 and 1981.

It will compare 300 people found "not guilty by reason of insanity" with 300 others found guilty of similar offences to determine whether the two groups differ in length of in-

carceration, response to treatment and success after release.

"Excellence in research is a cornerstone of our health care system," Mr. Elston said. "These awards reflect our continuing commitment to maintaining quality health services."

The projects were recommended for funding by the Health Care Systems Research Review Committee, an external advisory committee of health research professionals from across Ontario.

The committee is chaired by Dr. Ian McDowell of the department of epidemiology and community medicine at the University of Ottawa.

Honey Harbour resident sentenced life in prison

Honey Harbour resident Neil Joseph Lamoureux has been sentenced to life in prison, twice, on two counts of manslaughter.

Lamoureux was found guilty on the two counts on March 24, the third day of his trial at the Spring Assizes of the Supreme Court of Ontario in

Bracebridge, but was remanded in custody to the Penetang Mental Health Centre until his sentencing on Thursday.

The Honey Harbour man was found guilty of the two counts in connection with the deaths of 11-year-old Robin Corbiere and her nine-year-old sister Antoinette, in a house fire on

Oct. 24, 1984.

Autopsies performed on the children following their deaths showed the youngsters died from smoke inhalation when they were trapped in their upstairs bedroom by a fire that gutted their home.

The children's mother, Linda Corbiere, three

younger siblings, and Lamoureux managed to escape from the burning home.

Along with the sentence of life in prison, on both counts, His Lordship Mr. Justice Robert Montgomery recommended Lamoureux receive treatment in the Mental Health Centre.

Tulip tea

The Hazel Street, Waubaushene, Rebekah Hall will be the scene of a Tulip Tea and Bake Sale on May 14, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.



Three cheers for volunteers

This group of volunteers were only a handful of those workers honoured last week at a special afternoon tea at Georgian Manor. The staff and administration took time to organize the event to say thanks for a job well

done. These volunteers were given special recognition for long hours of service at the institution in various areas of the hospital.