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50 Million Tons Of Metro Garbage Hangs Over Maple

By HAL BLAINE

"I don't know. I can't answer that. It must have something to do with original sin," M.A.D. Committees Chairman John Backer of 9901 Keele Street, Maple, told a citizen at the Maple Ratepayers Association meeting Wednesday of last week at St. Stephen's Anglican Church Hall. The Maple Against Dumping Committee chairman had just been asked why Vaughan Town Council keeps failing to be effective in its efforts to stop even illegal private garbage dump operations and why council keeps talking with a dump operator who has a history of violating municipal bylaws, provincial laws and agreements.

The M.A.D. Committee called the meeting to warn citizens that applications have been made to the Department of the Environment and town council to extend existing illegal dumping north of Teston Road. The applicants want to fill huge worked out gravel pits on Major MacKenzie Drive and Keele Street with 50 million tons of Metro garbage, a process expected to take 50 to 100 years and make quiet former Maple Village into what was termed the garbage dump of Ontario.

CITIZENRY WARNED
The meeting was warned the empty pits the owners wish to fill with garbage are sitting on top of the underground aquifer or water body which feeds Dufferin and Keele Street municipal wells. These wells supply water to the Maple area of Vaughan and Southwest Richmond Hill, including York Central Hospital, Richvale and BAIF Subdivision. Urging the community organize a tremendous resistance to the tide of Metro garbage that threatens to sweep into the Maple area by rail and truck, Tom Connolly of 10122 Keele Street, M.A.D. Committee and Ratepayers Association vice-chairman, half seriously said he was prepared to be civilly disobedient about the whole thing. He indicated he was upset even to the point of taking some rotten apples to Vaughan Town Council meeting and heading them at the municipality's chosen seven.

UNANIMOUS CONFIDENCE
The 45 ratepayers in attendance unanimously passed a vote of confidence in the M.A.D. Committee and declared support for it in the future fight to stop the garbage dumping plans. The meeting also unanimously endorsed a motion approving affiliation of the Maple Ratepayers Association with other Vaughan ratepayer groups to more effectively fight for local good government.

A church collection plate was passed around and it was filled with donations, mostly paper money, for the committee to use in the garbage fight. The meeting was chaired by ratepayers association Chairman Roy Hawkins of 34 Netherford Road. More memberships were sold.

Vice-Chairman Connolly informed the meeting the association's recent motion against dumping of Metro garbage had been only received by town council and hadn't been adopted as appeared to have been the case in news reports in the past. He said most M.A.D. Committee members and active supporters were already familiar with the situation and weren't at the meeting, since it was called mainly to provide information to citizens only now aware of the looming threat.

WORST HAPPENED
M.A.D. Chairman John Backer said his committee met during the summer with various authorities and interested groups to keep informed on the situation. He said town council indicated the committee shouldn't be alarmed and they'd tried to keep quiet, only to find the worst had happened and they had to fight.

Becker said the owners of two huge pits, Crawford-Ontario Sand and Gravel Company and Superior Sand, Gravel and Supplies Limited, have applied to the province for landfill permits. He said technical study for the applications is now far advanced within the Ministry of the Environment.

"It's become clear that the quality of sand and gravel now available in the pits is low and not attractive to continued extraction. Most material is now trucked into the Superior site for processing. These are two very large sites with a combined capacity of 50 million tons of garbage. Metro is producing about 1 1/2 million tons of domestic and industrial garbage a year. This would mean it would take 25 years to fill the pits if they received all Metro's garbage, but they will clearly only receive a certain fraction of it, meaning operations would

extend over a much longer time," said Becker.

He described the two pits as forming a very big site, much larger than the much fought-over proposed sites in Pickering and Hope Township in Central Ontario.

BIG MONEY BACKING
"These proposed operations have a fair amount of financial backing... the rail-way lines have a commercial interest... the site is ideally located on a CN rail line. This means we have a very large threat. At least the Superior site is sitting on an aquifer that feeds Maple and Richmond Hill (public water supply) pumping stations. This is a hazard, if not properly and thoroughly examined, to local water sources and from methane gas seepage to the surrounding area," he said.

A citizen pointed out to the meeting that it is well known major United States corporations in Illinois and Texas have taken control of most major local private firms with waste disposal operations or potential in the Metro area. These firms are widely involved in such operations in the U.S., he said.

Becker agreed that it was known the Maple applications involve railroad and Illinois interests.

ILLEGAL DUMPING
Connolly said Disposal Services continue to dump in spite of July closing deadlines set in agreement with the town. Disposal Services got an extension to finish and clean up through September, but haven't stopped and still continue to dump, in spite of the fact Vaughan Town now owns the dump site.

Disposal Services has now applied to continue dumping until December 15 on their private dump. The firm also wants an extension of the Teston Road dumping zone northward into a new area to provide enough space to continue until the Superior and Crawford pit applications are approved. Then activity can start on a large scale.

"This (the zone extension) is the thin edge of the wedge... the ratepayers should inform council of their opposition," said Connolly.

Becker said the Disposal Services dumping is going on in spite of provincial license violation.

MUST ACT NOW
"Unless the town digs its heels and stops violations... nips the situation in the bud... launches an all out effort to stop it, then the ratepayers will have to pay."

"Next week (the week ending this Saturday) is a very crucial week. Council must make sure the dumpers don't find any easy pickings in Vaughan," said M.A.D.'s Becker, noting the town council ordered an injunction to stop illegal dumping, but wavered and didn't go through with it. Then talking resumed.

A citizen said the town council has a long record of favoring garbage dumping by prevaricating, stalling and letting dumping slip through. "The only way garbage dumping was actually stopped last

year in nearby Kleinburg area was by decisive legal action by private ratepayers, it was said.

WEAKEST MINISTER
"For that we have to have somebody who can raise \$4,000 with 10 telephone calls as was done in Kleinburg," said Becker. "We are dealing with James Auld (Minister of the Environment), probably the weakest member in the Cabinet," he said, pointing out the ratepayers needed to persuade council to oppose the garbage dumping since the Environment Board (formerly chaired by an MLA) and provincial government are always going to depend to a large extent on the position taken by the local council.

"If we can't stop this little extension (of the Teston Road dumping zone) and violation, then I'm afraid there'll be no contest at all on the bigger operation. Only if resistance pressure is kept up will the province continue to increase spending on research into, and promotion of, recycling technology."

"Private interests with this terrible history of arrogance and being 'out for a buck' are making these applications for their own gain, not because of any altruistic interest in the problems of Metro," said Becker.

MAPLE IN JEOPARDY
Connolly warned that if the dump applications are successful, they are going to change the nature of the Maple community. "Property values aren't going to keep up. Buyers knowing the situation are already frightened. If this comes, Maple is going to be known as the garbage dump of Ontario," he said.

(Continued on Page 3)



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Hospital Auxiliary Appeals For Volunteers

To keep pace with the expansion now in progress at York Central Hospital, the hospital auxiliary is urgently in need of more volunteers. Any person with two or three hours or more a week or a month to be helpful to others can find a place in the auxiliary, either dealing directly with the patients, or working in such places as the gift shop. However remote their work may seem from the bedside of the patient, the work of the volunteer is important to the patient's comfort and well-being.

Above, Mrs. Ruth Coxford shows other volunteers how to adjust the wheel chair occupied by Tom Studdy, son of Mrs. Joyce Studdy, director of volunteers. Others in the picture (left to right) are Volunteers Ruth Biggin, Martin Stanley, Debbie Coles, Cindy Anderson and Frank Ferguson.

Anyone wishing to help the community as a hospital volunteer may get further information from Mrs. Studdy, 884-1171 local 347.

York Region Buckles Under When Two Employees Threaten To Leave

Holding the threat of resignations over the heads of the administration, resulted in pay raises for two members of York Regional planning staff last week.

The raises for Scott McMillian and Richard Gordon, two junior planners, from \$10,222 to \$11,250, were approved by council on the recommendation of Chief Administrative Officer Jack

Rettie, and Planning Commissioner Murray Pound.

In a report to council they said that the two men were dissatisfied with their salaries and were considering leaving the region.

McMillian and Gordon have been working on a \$162,000 transportation study, which is expected to be completed by August, 1974, six months past its original

date.

The two men, who have been reclassified as intermediate transportation planners, have been with the study one year. Both have master's degrees in transportation planning and engineering.

Messrs. Rettie and Pound said the men wanted raises because of attractive job opportunities available, the fact that their jobs are only on a temporary basis, and because of what they felt were their low salaries.

Replacing them would be a severe setback to the study, the report said.

The study is being carried out jointly with the provincial Ministry of Transportation and Communication and is 75 percent provincially subsidized.

Mayor Evelyn Buck of Aurora gave it a good try, but was unable to get the information she wanted when she queried council about conference expenditures.

"How much are we spending to send people in all directions?" asked Mayor Buck after viewing a recommendation of the planning committee to send six of its members to the American Institute of Planners Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, October 22.

When Mrs. Buck asked again about the total amount of money spent by council in sending staff or council to conventions, Chairman Wright said the figures had all been approved in the estimates.

He later ended the matter by saying that the figures were available from the treasurer for anyone who wanted them.

A check with Regional Treasurer John Hlynski showed that the total amount budgeted for this year was \$68,200, of which \$33,824 has so far been spent. However, \$8,700 of this was spent on training programs.

Members of the planning committee are Chairman Gladys Rolling, and Councillors Lois Hanesy, Richmond Hill, Bob Adams, Markham, Robert Pollock, East Gwillimbury, and Mayors Robert Forhan, Newmarket and Garnet Williams, Vaughan.

Formerly 6 Areas

Set Uniform Water Rate Vaughan Town

Vaughan Town Council in session October 1 agreed to a uniform mill rate over the entire Vaughan Water Area, that will see 700 mills for residential purposes and 823 mills for industrial and commercial purposes.

At present, the mill rate varies from 200 mills in the

Thornhill area to 1,700 mills in the Kleinburg area.

The matter of uniform rates was first broached at a council meeting last June, which agreed to the one rate system and with bringing the six different areas in the town under one jurisdiction.

The proposed rate amendments will go into effect January 1, 1974.

Under the present system, the water user rate is as follows: 5/8" service, 9,000 gallons per quarter, \$11.11 minimum rate per quarter; 1 1/2" service, 150,000 gallons per quarter, \$339.50 minimum rate per quarter.

The next 500,000 gallons at 40 cents per 1,000 gallons. The balance at 33 cents per 1,000 gallons.

Unpaid water accounts: \$11.11 minimum bill with 10 percent discount for prompt payment.

Recommended: Minimum rate of \$10. for the first 10,000 gallons. Balance at 60 cents per 1,000 gallons.

Unpaid water accounts: \$10. minimum bill with 10 percent penalty for late payment.

In its report council, the works committee headed by Councillor Fred Armstrong said that "the problems related to pre-billing and consumer deposits have not been realized and must be presented at a later date."

Woman's Body Found In Hill

The badly-decomposed body of a Toronto woman was found in some bushes at the Langstaff Jail Farm, Highway 7 and Yonge Street, Sunday afternoon, by some young boys who were playing in the area.

The woman has been identified as Beryl Elma Wilson, 53, of Tichester Street.

York Regional Police said that the woman, who lived on her own, had been reported missing once this summer, but later turned up on her own. Her second disappearance in July wasn't reported.

So far an autopsy has failed to reveal any cause of death, and no indication of foul play has been found.

Further tests are being conducted at the Ontario Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto.

Mrs. May Gould

Woman Killed At RR Crossing

Funeral services for Mrs. May Gould, 73, of 294 Lennox Avenue, Richmond Hill, who was killed last week in a railroad crossing accident on Markham Road, were held Saturday at the Marshall Funeral Home, 126 Yonge Street North.

Interment was in Richmond Hill Presbyterian Cemetery.

Mrs. Gould was killed when the car she was driving was in collision with a southbound freight train at the crossing, about 4.50 pm.

The Gould vehicle, which was proceeding west at the time, was carried 4,868 feet down the tracks before the train came to a stop, York Regional Police said.

Mrs. Gould was pronounced dead at the scene by Coroner Dr. Bernard Granton.

The deceased is survived by her husband, Leonard, two sons, Desmond and Kenneth, and three grandchildren.



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Picketers Tom and Leila Connolly, of Maple, hold up their signs to truckers from Disposal Landfill Services dumping garbage at the landfill site at Concession 3 in Vaughan.

Both members of M.A.D. — Maple Against Dumping — the Connollys were two of about 35 protestors from the area, who are fighting to keep outside dumping interests from operating in the town.

Down In The Dumps

Gracie Fields used to sing about "the biggest aspidochora in the land", and now some Maple ratepayers are starting to shout about "the biggest garbage dump in the land."

That's what members of M.A.D. — Maple Against Dumping — say Vaughan will become if the town council lets Norm Goodhead's Disposal Landfill Services move its present operations to the neighboring Avondale site.

The company's lease on Concession 3 expired in June, but it is still there and hopes to get an extension

until December, after which it would set up permanent operations in Avondale.

However, if M.A.D. has its way there'll be no more garbage brought in from outside the community. And just to make sure no one mistakes their feelings, a small group of them, armed with placards and children, descended on the Disposal operations Friday afternoon about 4 o'clock and waved their cards under the noses of the working men.

One of the chief picketers was Councillor James Cameron — the only councillor on hand — who claims that

In the past seven years, trucks were going by his place 24 hours a day, Mr. King said.

He said the smell from the dump carried for more than a mile on hot days.

While the picketers paraded, the trucks rolled in and bulldozers covered the garbage practically as soon as it was unloaded.

And except for a few papers blowing about, it was hard to discern that the vast area was a garbage dump.

But the picketers all know what it is without any urging; in fact they call it "Mount Goodhead."