

Maple Dump

Lawyers' performance spectacular

By HAL BLAINE

Lawyers for various factions put on a spectacular three-day display of legal argument last week as the 17-month Maple dump hearing ended.

Environmental Assessment Board Chairman David Caverly said of the decision to come, "It's going to be a difficult report to write."

The scheme would involve in excess of \$2 billion and threatens to

become a classic horror-story landfill-disaster, said Richard Hassard, Toronto real estate lawyer and owner of adjacent land.

The site is unsuitable and the proposal involves untried engineering, said John Swaigen, counsel for the Canadian Environmental Law Association.

The people of Maple would be made guinea pigs on a massive scale, he said. Presenting legal argument at a

board hearing for the first time, Ontario environment ministry counsel Dennis Brown said evidence was insufficient on the applications.

The ministry wasn't able to get the applicant co-operation needed to achieve the best design.

It favored land fill but opposed the applications.

Only a reduced 320-acre area should be allowed until enough information was available for a decision on the larger 900-acre area.

Vaughan Solicitor Tom Fraser said the town would oppose the proposal unless its conditions were met in any provincial approval given.

If the town didn't get a park, royalties, Maple bypass road and future emergency trust fund — then its only benefit would be to have Maple people living near North America's largest sanitary (garbage) landfill site, he said.

Murray Chusid, solicitor for applicant Superior Sand and Gravel, said Hassard's \$2 billion value on the application was inflammatory.

Chusid said Hassard's attack was indiscriminate, wholesale and venomous, but worthless.

"It's mush, but very adroitly presented."

"It makes me think there is one hearing going on here and another one in Mr. Hassard's mind," Chusid argued.

"... he knows where he can go, to court for an order," said Chusid, calling a Hassard submission silly, wicked and illegal.

Roderick MacDougall, lawyer for applicant Crawford Sand and Gravel, said Hassard was grossly unfair, evidently thinking, "I'll just stick the knife into these fellows before I present the brief, in order to create the proper flavor..."

Hassard asked the board to reject the proposal.

But if there were to be approval, the applicants should be required to clean up all underground contamination and do a number of expensive engineering works.

The alternative was to have them dig up and remove all the garbage dumped in the old gravel pits over the years by the town and Disposal Services Ltd., then start all over again.

The applicant evidence was contradictory, vague, and chaotic. The board shouldn't even be hearing such applications, Hassard said.

"The applicants haven't even got in the ball park yet."

"Until they do, there is no case to meet."

Hassard said York Region didn't need any more disposal sites until the year 2000 so the proposed dump was for Metro only.

Consultant evidence showed the Maple pits to be an area of severe constraints.

There were better sites available elsewhere. The other sites would be more in the public interest.

Approval would satisfy only a private interest.

"It's a windfall beyond the dreams of avarice," said Hassard.

Markham builds future slums?

Is the Town of Markham in the process of developing slums?

At a meeting of York Region planning committee last week, some bantering — half in jest and half in earnest — suggested it might be.

In discussing a report of the planning department, calling for approval of a 100-unit condominium at

Clark and Henderson Avenues in Markham, Mayor George Burrows of Georgina, in referring to the units, said that "The way they're packed in, they look like instant ghettos... They're the slums of the future." "You could be right," was the comment of Councillor Alma Walker of Markham.



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Kleinburg plan revision recommended

A revised draft of controversial Kleinburg area Official Plan amendment 19 was recommended to Vaughan Town council by committee-of-the-whole Monday night.

This makes it very likely council next week will end nine years of acrimonious fighting over the development and send the draft on to the Ontario cabinet.

Ratepayers fought bitterly against the proposal.

The plan is for 410 single family dwellings on 10,000 square foot lots fully serviced with water and sewers.

All of the old area of Kleinburg would be serviced in the first stage.

The Ontario Municipal Board last year turned down developer Cam Milani's previous plan and suggested single family dwelling be built on lots of about one acre.

The OMB decision was appealed to cabinet. Council is preparing the revised draft for the cabinet's convenience.

The final decision on the Kleinburg plan will be made by the cabinet.

The draft would allow an additional population of 1,500 to 1,600.

In the first year 100 units would be built in the phase southwest of the existing village, along with extension of sewers into the old village.

Then 50 units would be built each year until the seven years of the plan concluded.

"We've been fiddling with this too long now," said Mayor Garnet Williams.

Discussion was threatening to grow lengthy in a five-hour council meeting that finished after midnight.

David Fraser, Vaughan regional councillor and town planning chairman, described the draft as a good compromise proposal.

Councillor Fraser said he expects the cabinet would send the draft to the OMB for a public hearing.

He noted there was no normal procedure to follow in the matter since there was no town experience with such a request from cabinet.

"I don't think cabinet would just go ahead and approve that document."

"They never did such a thing before. They would be approving a document that never had a technical public hearing," Fraser said.

Councillor Terry Goodwin of Thornhill refused to vote for the draft until he was assured it was fully studied and recommended by town staff.

Councillors had the draft for three days before the meeting.

The draft was prepared by Terry Kelly and Associates.

Dr. McJazz returns to Richmond Hill

"Ah, one, an ah two, an ah three..."

And then it starts, the opening bars of "At The Jazz Band Ball", marking the beginning of the fourth in a series of dixieland concerts at Richmond Hill's Legion Hall.

Known as "Jazz on Sunday", this concert will be held December 11, beginning at 2 p.m.

Featuring Dr. McJazz, the concert promises to be a sellout.

Jim Haggart, chairman of the jazz appreciation club, told The Liberal that

Some cards on sale at Mall

The Canadian Save the Children Fund has cancelled its 1977 Christmas Card program, due to water damage caused by a recent fire.

However, cards printed prior to 1977, while in short supply, will be sold by volunteers along with Hasti notes and calendar towels at Hillcrest Mall, this Saturday, and Saturday, December 10.

This Saturday, hours of operation will run from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.,

while next week, hours will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For further information, call Marilyn Schiller, York Region Co-ordinator at 884-8216.

ticket sales are going well and a record crowd is expected.

"Members wishing to attend would be well advised to purchase their tickets now," he said, "or they may be disappointed."

Tickets are available from members of the pipe band or Color Guard.

Price of the ticket includes the concert and lunch.

The fifth concert is scheduled for Sunday, January 29, and will feature The Climax Jazz Band.

Blood clinic in the Mall

For the first time in its history, Richmond Hill officials of the Red Cross Society will hold a blood donors' clinic in a mall.

In the area near the Bank of Montreal at Hillcrest Mall, nurses will set up shop, hoping Christmas shoppers will take time to give the "gift of blood."

The event will take place Thursday, December 15, from 2 to 8 p.m.

Red Cross officials would be delighted if 300 pints of blood were donated.

Weather or not...

It will be up to the weatherman whether students in York Region attend school certain days this winter, York County Board of Education decided this week.

The board approved a new policy, which gives parents the right to send their children to school, or keep them at home during severe snow storms, with or without school buses.



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