

Region wants dump if it's approved

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If the Maple dump is approved, the Region of York wants to take it over.

Regional council Thursday instructed its solicitor to take this message to the Environmental Appeal Board which is now hearing the appeal of

Superior Sand, Gravel and Supply Ltd. and Crawford Allied Industries Ltd.

The companies which are now connected, hope to turn their property near Maple into the repository of most of the Metropolitan Toronto

area's garbage for the next 12 years.

The applicants have scaled down their application from more than 900 acres to 250 acres of landfill, but it is still being opposed by neighbors, Maple ratepayers and the Environmental Law Association.

The regional engineering committee had recommended support in principle for sanitary landfill in the Maple pits, quoting one phrase out of a 50-page environmental assessment by the local office of the ministry of the environment that a scaled-down project "may be technically viable."

Richmond Hill Mayor David Schiller objected to the region taking such a position, saying that it should be left to the board which has the expertise to hear the evidence.

But with the backing of regional councillor Gord Rowe, there was nearly unanimous support for the proposal to take over the pit ownership while allowing the applicants to operate it.

Engineering commissioner, Bob Hodgson suggested this might be a condition of approval by the ministry of the environment.

Vaughan Mayor Garnet Williams said his municipality was still settling its position on the landfill site "but if you want to get into owner-

ship you are talking at least \$10 million."

Councillor Ron Moran did not think that that was a problem if the price could come out of the royalties paid for dumping garbage.

The problem regional solicitor Ted Oakes pointed out is that the Region has no authority to purchase land for a landfill site as yet despite asking the province for a change in legislation to give it control over garbage for the last two years.

The vote on the question was delayed while a new resolution could be drafted in Mr. Oakes' office.

Mayor Schiller still had some additions, and suggested it might not be wise to say who should own the site at this time.

The province might kick in since "Chairman Godfrey (of Metropolitan Toronto) seems to be asking them for a landfill site every two weeks," he said.

The final resolution also asked that Metro, York, Durham and Peel dispose of 27 per cent of their garbage by recycling.

Bennett removed social services from OP - Schiller

Housing minister Claude Bennett forced the Region of York to delete the social services section from its Official Plan, Mayor David Schiller of Richmond Hill said Thursday.

Mayor Schiller, past chairman of the regional health and social services committee, was reacting to the Metro Social Planning Council's report accusing suburban politicians of neglecting human and social services.

While the report dealt directly with suburbs south of Steeles Avenue, it was bound to cause some comments at York Regional Council last week.

Most regional councillors felt that the problems enumerated in the report, rising numbers of welfare recipients, percentages of single-parent families, elderly people and recent immigrants, and a suburban concentration of restless, unemployed youth, were not York Region's problems yet.

And they hoped such problems will be avoided despite massive housing developments in the south end of York Region scheduled in the next few years.

Mayor Schiller said the health and social services committee had plans for a social services component to the regional official plan.

But the housing minister had rejected it

as part of the regional planning process.

"I think he may have been overstepping his powers since the planning act states that we must plan for the health and welfare of our constituents," Mayor Schiller said.

He suggested a letter be written to the minister asking him what his present position is, and if social services were to be deleted, on what basis? Mayor Garnet Williams of Vaughan said he agreed with the minister.

Vaughan had commissioned a social services study as part of its Thornhill-Vaughan plan. The study forecast what facilities would be needed for social services and was taken into account "when we set our lot levy," Mayor Williams said.

King Mayor Margaret Britnell said it was appropriate for suppliers of social services to comment. "In Metro, they obviously haven't and now they have deal of vandalism already in York Region."

Planning commissioner Hershel Weinbren said a social plan had been prepared "as a matter of course" when Mr. Bennett took his stand.

Regional chairman Bob Forhan said that when you read the Metro report, you can see there is more to it than a regional council alone could deal with.

Forum on drug abuse set for St. Robert's

St. Robert's Catholic High School plans to hold a forum on drug abuse next Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Parents, students and friends are invited to listen to keynote speaker Norman Panzika of the Council on Drug Abuse in the first of what is hoped to be a series of informal evenings on various topics.

Mr. Panzika's talk will be on "The Me Syndrome: Why are today's youth turning to drugs?"

Also scheduled to be on the panel are Jack Oostere, probation officer for York County,

Fran Peake, guidance counsellor for St. Robert's, one of the York Separate Trustees and an officer of the Narcotics Division.

According to a newsletter released by the school, 60 per cent of the students will try marijuana by the time they graduate and about five per cent are destined to be habitual users.

St. Robert's School is in Thornhill, about one mile south of Highway 7, on Leslie Street. For more information about the forum, please call 889-4982.

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