

After several years, garbage site remains in limbo

After 10 years and an estimated \$7 million, Halton region remains without a garbage dump and is likely to remain so until 1986.

The dump is one of six sites selected by the Toronto consulting team of Walker-Wright, but which one of the six sites it is will not be known until January.

The year began with the consulting firm announcing that the six garbage dump sites would be part of a public-input series of meetings which were scheduled for the spring.

The six sites were released in the Walker-Wright "2-B" report. Of the six sites (three in Oakville and one in Burlington) two were located in Milton. One is the former Site F at Tremaine and Britannia roads and the second is in the southwest corner of the Highway 25-Britannia Rd. intersection.

Outrage was immediate as the announcement was swiftly followed by release of the sites for Ontario Waste Management Corporation's planned toxic waste treatment facility.

A public meeting was held in Milton in April on the garbage dump. First scheduled for the Holy

Rosary Hall, the meeting had to be moved inside Holy Rosary School when a crowd of nearly 600 people showed up.

Dr. Peter Wright, head of the consulting firm, took questions for more than three hours, and incidentally, suffered much abuse.

All the input from those meetings is now being written into the "2-C" report.

During October, November and December, regional council has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars (\$667,600 on Walker-Wright alone) studying the many alternatives council must look at in the new year as regards waste.

As Halton prepares for the many environmental assessment hearings expected with the selection of the final dump site, councillors will also be looking at a timetable which has many of them worried.

If all goes smoothly (no major objections or court cases) approvals

for the next dump might come through by the end of 1986. At the same time it is known the current dump in Burlington will run out of capacity at that time and there is no physical way of extending the size of that dump.

So it is crucial for the region to get speedy approval.

But it is well known at the region that Milton intends to use what Mayor Gord Krantz terms "every means at its disposal" to stop any form of garbage dump coming into the town.

Because of the fear of having tons of garbage and no place to put it, Halton, at the end of December, decided to enter into an agreement with Occidental Chemical Corp. of Niagara Falls, N.Y. This firm will take 400 tonnes per day of Halton's garbage during the winter ad 100 tonnes during the rest of the year and burn it to produce energy.

While several regional councillors

are opposed to the idea is that it takes away from the emergency of finding a new dump, the agreement was approved during the final regional council meeting of 1984.

At the same time on the waste front, Halton is also trying to find a solution to the problem of sludge. At one time sludge was being used as fertilizer on Halton farms but there is more than the farms can take and there have been some problems.

In June the region approved plans for massive sludge storage lagoons to be located in the north Oakville area, just south of Milton's boundary and to the east of Highway 25. These lagoons will be used to house sludge until it can be disposed of.

There was, at the end of the year, an agreement signed with Hamilton-Wentworth region whereby one-third of Halton's sludge will be incinerated at a waste plant in

Hamilton. Halton also continues to encourage source separation projects. Residents across the region are urged to set aside paper, glass and metal from their garbage at curbside.

The plan was first put into effect by the member municipalities of the region but it is now being turned over to Halton to be run on a regional scale.

1984 in review

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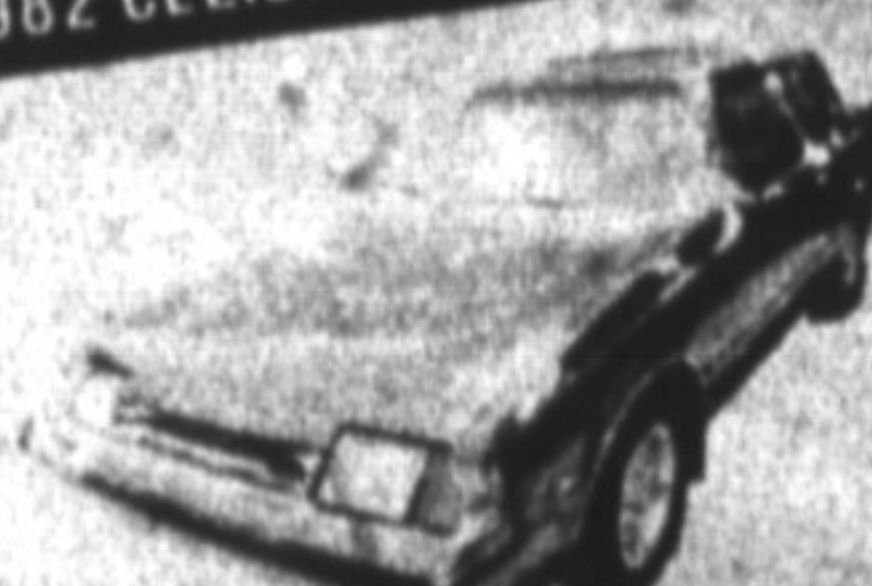
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