

## A HELPING HAND



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

Tessa Bowser, 3, tells her aunt Lisa Howard she hurt her knees when she fell to the ice during the public skate last Wednesday at rec centre. Meanwhile, Tessa's brother Max, 2, gets a sleighride.

### REGIONAL AFFAIRS

# Incineration could be option for future waste disposal

BY LISA QUEEN  
STAFF WRITER

Water and sewer rates will increase as much as 85 per cent in York Region over the next two decades.

But consultants are blaming the hike on inflation.

Hemson and MacViro was hired to determine if the region is banking enough from water and sewer rates to replace infrastructure in the future.

While the region is collecting slightly too much in water rates, it's charging slightly too little in sewer rates.

Because they balance, the consultants say, the region doesn't have to increase its rates.

Working to the region's advantage is the fact that most of its pipes and treatment plants are relatively young — between 10 and 20 years old. The average life span of that infrastructure is 65 years.

But to account for inflation between now and 2021, the consultants say the water and sewer rates will have to increase. They recommend taking the water rate from 41.34 cents per cubic

metre to as much as 59.31 cents.

Sewer rates would go from 36.89 cents per cubic metre to as much as 68.33 cents.

### YORK, TORONTO SEARCH FOR DUMP SITE

York Region is joining forces with Toronto to search for a garbage dump.

An agreement signed between the region and the city allows them to determine if the cost of disposing trash would be cheaper than if they acted independently.

The memo of understanding doesn't tie York to a final deal if the region finds a better option on its own.

Toronto and York must find a new landfill before Keele Valley in Maple closes by the end of 2002.

Regional Councillor Gord Landon, chairperson of the waste management task force, said it makes sense for York and Toronto to work together to see if a joint arrangement for garbage can be found. "There are potential benefits to the Toronto-GTA partnership, such as lower prices, a broader range of disposal options, better opportunities for pub-

lic-private sector partnerships and efficiency in meeting environmental requirements," he said.

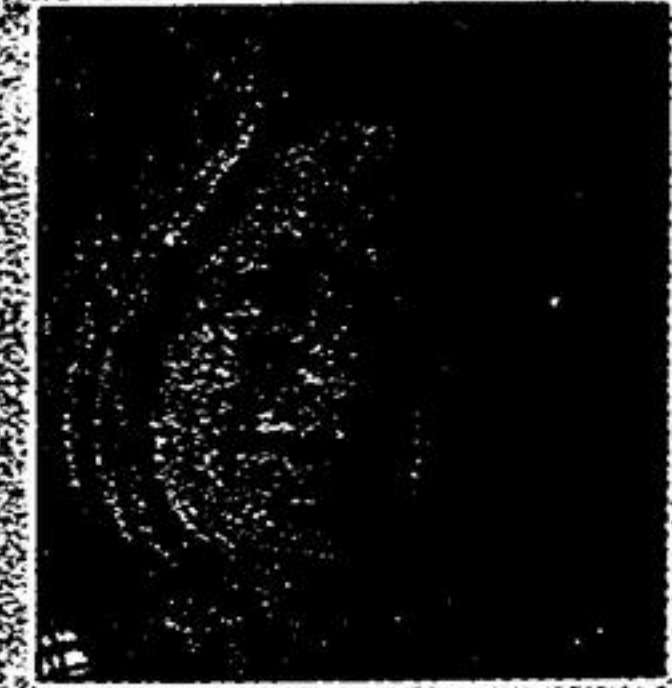
"But we want to keep our options open to ensure we offer York residents the best possible waste management service in a timely manner."

York has adopted a strategy for disposing of its waste which includes:

- no new landfill sites will be established in York
- the region will give priority to recycling and composting methods over disposal
- exporting waste to the U.S. will be considered but priority will be given to Ontario sites to support jobs and economic investment
- The region will consider incineration if it can be proven to be safer and better than landfilling.



GORD LANDON  
Region wants to keep options open



Joan Ransberry

## Time to take action against loud-mouths

Whitchurch-Stouffville finally got its wake up call. Unacceptable behaviour at public meetings has slowly been escalating for years, and the town ended up with a potentially dangerous situation last week.

Last Tuesday after a meeting, a woman was allegedly grabbed by the shoulders, shaken and accused of being on the take from the town simply for holding an opposing view about the pool/library project.

On the same night, Mayor Wayne Emmerson and councillors were compared to Hitler and told their political careers were over if they didn't abandon plans to build the \$5-million complex.

While I do not support the library/pool project being built in South Park, I accept the fact it was the mayor and councillors who were elected to make these types of decisions.

When I first started covering local council meetings four years ago, the first thing I noticed was a serious lack of respect and courtesy toward town officials.

It was obvious from the start that some people's parents didn't raise them very well. While their kids became politicians and self-appointed community watchdogs, they also turned out to be rude and intimidating bullies.

I was told by longtime residents and contacts that the way it is in Stouffville: "Get used to it and be careful," was the sentiment.

I never got used to it. And, I still can't respect anyone who tries to scare me. If a man grabbed me, he'd be singing soprano in the church choir.

I'd call the police immediately. When someone scares you, it's harder to react.

Two months ago, a drunk attended a council meeting. His foul mouth and accusations were embarrassing. Of course, no one took action. This is Stouffville.

After the meeting, the drunk approached me. He was agitated, slapped my note pad over and over and uttered one insult after another.

I was frightened. I ran down four flights of stairs to get away from him. I didn't approach staff or council for help. I didn't think anyone would take it seriously. I thought I'd just be laughed at. After all, this is Stouffville.

A code of conduct is long overdue in this town. While I've witnessed plenty of inappropriate behaviour, I've yet to see anyone get pitched out of a meeting. I've yet to hear the mayor ask for a public apology.


While I've witnessed people, including councillors, being ejected from meetings in Oshawa, Whitby, Ajax and Pickering, I've seen no action whatsoever here.

If I was a mayor and someone was threatening, I'd have the police remove the offender. If anyone compared me to Hitler, I'd demand an immediate apology.


If it wasn't forthcoming, I'd have the individual removed. If someone accused me of being on the take, I'd consider legal action.

There are times when a mayor must stand up and show leadership.

The time is now.




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