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December 15, 1980.

The Editor,
The Canadian Champion,
191 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont.,
L9T 1N7

Sir:

Re: Your Editorial, "Site A suitable", Wednesday, December 3, 1980.

I must protest that your editorial has misled your public.

Your conclusions appear to be that "Site A is suitable", that the Site A proposal (which is a proposal by a private developer, a point you neglect to mention) may "hold the promise of terminating forever the current favorite site in Milton", and that the "Halton Region is doing a very competent job and should be congratulated for making sound, long reaching decisions" with respect to garbage. Your conclusions are all premature. Your conclusions do nothing to promote a rational and reasonable discussion of the Halton garbage problem. Your conclusions are based on editorial content which is in fact wrong and oversimplified.

You say that the Dr. Cherry Report "confirmed what many people had suspected for a long time" ... that the National Sewer Pipe Land (referred to as Site A) is "suitable for landfilling". You neglect to say that any site in Halton is "suitable" for landfilling from a hydrogeological point of view if you give the engineers the money and go ahead to build the "appropriate" leachate disposal works.

After a careful analysis of the Dr. Cherry Report I have concluded that the engineers can build leachate control works, as they can for any location, but, that an approval of this Site A location for the disposal of all of Halton's garbage cannot be supported under present conditions at least. The report underlines the dangers to the urban population of Aldershot and the waters of Burlington Bay from the former garbage dump under Bayview Park and the existing dump down the road. To assume that it is "suitable" to add a third danger at this time is unacceptable from the point of view of Aldershot residents.

You suggest that "the National Sewer Pipe lands are already dug out as the shale was used for making sewer pipes". This statement is wrong in fact. A review of the Functional Reports submitted to Council by National Sewer Pipe and dated August, 1979 indicates that the proposed lands still require the shale to be mined. In fact, it was commonly reported until a year or so ago that these lands were too expensive for garbage disposal because of the shale resource.

You say "there is existing leachate protection". This statement is also wrong. A sanitary sewer line is available nearby. That hardly constitutes an existing leachate protection. Dr. Cherry's report indicates that far more would be required. And, there has been no study of the impact on the sewage system of the existing sites if and when they may be connected, let alone

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adding a third site.

You say that more leachate protection can be added "simply by lining the bottom of the pit with leachate collection piping". If you had read the Dr. Cherry Report you would have been aware that the answer is not that simple. In fact, it is clear from Dr. Cherry's Report that more information will be required and that there are several alternatives for leachate protection that would have to be considered.

Then, you go on to say that Site A has "no people living in close proximity". I suggest that some 25,000 people who live in the greater Aldershot, Forestvale, and Tyanadaga areas of Burlington would disagree with your interpretation of Burlington geography.

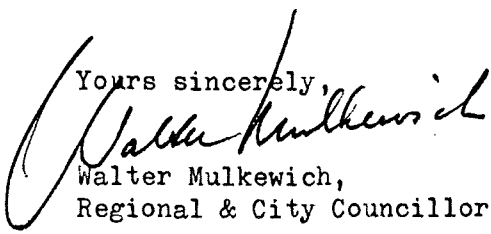
Finally, you say that Halton Region "has decided that there will be a study on which dump site is going to be the least costly to run". Perhaps, some individuals have so decided, but Regional Council certainly has not. The Region has agreed, out of courtesy to the private developer, to examine the possibilities of using that site for garbage. However, no commitments have been made to anyone and never has Council agreed to compare the costs of disposing garbage at Site A with any other site. Furthermore, the Region has agreed to explore possibilities at Site A only within the context of a comprehensive solid waste management plan and system for the entire Region. Council has made clear that such a plan is to include source separation and some form of garbage resource utilization. Until the details of that plan are in place Council can hardly make comparative studies of different landfill sites out of context. It would be an irresponsible action on the part of Council to so do.

I would agree that the last Regional Council took some real steps towards a solid waste management plan, but too little and too slow. Dr. Cherry's Report with respect to the National Sewer Pipe Lands should be an incentive to the Region to proceed more quickly and more bravely in developing a plan which includes viable alternatives to long term landfill in any site. Herein lies the real answer to Site A and Site F.

To simply argue that the garbage intended for Site F in Milton should be transferred to Site A on the edge of Aldershot and Forestvale in Burlington is falling into the trap of supporting long term landfill as Halton's solution to the garbage problem. It is a position which pits one area of the Region against another while the real issue goes untouched.

In conclusion, the facts and all recent reports have not concluded that Site A in Aldershot is any more "suitable" than any other site, including Site F. The real challenge before us is to put into place a realistic plan to dispose of garbage by means other than landfill so that the amount of landfill with all of its dangers can be minimized. Putting Site A and Site F into a competition at this point will not help us meet that challenge.

Yours sincerely,


Walter Mulkewich,
Regional & City Councillor,
Ward One, Burlington.