

West Burlington Citizens' Group

J. M. Anderson
685 Inverness Ave.
Burlington, Ontario
L7T 3S9

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Hamilton Harbour Water Quality
Remedial Action Group

Dear Stakeholders:

The West Burlington Citizens' Group (W.B.C.G.) is an organized ratepayers' group comprised of citizens who live on the north shore of Hamilton Harbour, (otherwise known as Burlington Bay) one of the most polluted areas of the great lakes. It is a group with a long history in West Burlington, and since its inception has been active in responding to the various concerns of the local Residents, more recently becoming deeply involved in some of the major environmental issues that threaten the community and the City of Burlington as a whole.

In keeping with this tradition the W.B.C.G. has been pleased to participate in the Stakeholders' process in developing a remedial action plan for the Harbour because we share the Harbour from the North Shore and, therefore, have a keen interest in its future.

For some time the W.B.C.G.'s chief concern has been the impact of leachate pollution from the West Burlington garbage dump sites. Two sites, the City of Burlington Bayview Site, and the Region of Halton Landfill Site, are in the Falcon and Indian Creek watersheds and are situated on fractured shale on the slopes just below the ridge of the Niagara Escarpment. The first of these, Bayview Park, is currently under a Ministry of the Environment clean-up order to catch contaminated leachate springs and in compliance the City of Burlington has just completed an extensive leachate control works which should control to a great extent the effect of leachate on surface and shallow ground water. However, we are aware that leachate from that site has migrated off site, perhaps as far as the Bay already, and the works constructed will not control the leachate pollution of deep ground water.

The extent of off-site contamination from the existing Region of Halton Landfill Site has not yet been determined. It is many times larger than the Bayview Park Site, is only partially engineered, already has problems with surfacing leachate springs, and now contains fifteen years of garbage. For the past five years there has been no flow-meter to measure leachate flow, or to even guess as to how much leachate has seeped into the ground, but we do know the spreading plume is there.

Leachate from both these sites is now being pumped to the Burlington Skyway Sewage Treatment Plant, which in turn, puts effluent into the Harbour. Plans

President: June Anderson

for the Halton Regions' proposed landfill, Escarpment Site F, call for the leachate to be pumped into the sewage treatment system as well. We are also aware that there are landfill dump sites in the Hamilton Wentworth Region which affect the water coming into the Harbour.

Some three years ago the W.B.C.G. presented a petition of nearly 4,000 names to the Region of Halton, the City of Burlington, and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, objecting to any further garbage landfill sites in West Burlington. Academic authorities argue that the geology of this area makes it one of the least suitable locations for landfilling, and yet, we are now faced with the spectre of having a third dump placed right between the two existing ones, on fractured shale, which is to receive the entire Halton Region's garbage for the next twenty years. We believe, that if we are to take seriously the remedial action plan for the Harbour, we should not only clean-up the problems of to-day but stop further sources of pollution into the Harbour.

However, the Halton landfill search and Environmental Assessment process has finally narrowed down the choice to two sites, Site F in West Burlington, and Site D in Milton. This process will culminate in Consolidated Hearings Board hearings sometime in 1987. The W.B.C.G. and the City of Burlington will oppose Site F at those hearings.

We view the establishment of a major Regional Landfill Site at Escarpment Site F in West Burlington, as detrimental to the long term attempt to clean-up and keep clean this unique body of water, Hamilton Harbour.

We have examined the Interim Report of the Stakeholders Proposal on Hamilton Harbour's Water Quality, and generally, are pleased. We feel that the Stakeholder's proposals would be strengthened by taking a stronger position on the matter of further garbage landfill sites anywhere in the watersheds which empty into the Harbour in our two Regions. Therefore, we suggest that the Stakeholders adopt a statement that would discourage the location of any new landfill sites in the Hamilton Harbour Basin, especially if alternate sites are located elsewhere.

Since it is going to be quite some time before the Remedial Action Plan is finalized and becomes fully operational, and the fact that the preliminary hearing for Halton Region's proposed landfill sites is scheduled for January with a full hearing in the Spring, we are requesting that the Stakeholders prepare a statement to the above effect, that could be submitted for the Environmental Assessment Hearing.

Yours very truly
WEST BURLINGTON CITIZENS' GROUP

June M. Anderson
President