

Environment

Road Dust Study. Is road dust a significant contribution to air pollution? A Toronto consultant is undertaking a \$425,000 study over the next two years aimed at identifying the kind and origin of dust particles present in Hamilton's air and to evaluate the effectiveness of street cleaning in reducing the amount. The study has been commissioned by government and industry. Environment Canada is contributing \$223,000, Environment Ontario \$177,000, the Steel Company of Canada \$15,000 and Dofasco \$10,000. While abatement efforts by industry have resulted in substantial reductions in concentrations of total suspended particulate matter in urban areas in Canada, there appears to be a limit to the improvements in air quality which can be achieved through control of traditional sources. Hamilton was selected for the study because its industrial mix lends itself well to particulate definition and analysis.

According to C.J. MacFarlane, director of the ministry's West Central Region, industries in Hamilton have spent \$80 million on air pollution control since 1970 and as a result, particulate levels measured in Hamilton's air have been reduced by 29 per cent. Further abatement measures that could now be undertaken are increasingly costly and decreasingly efficient. Mr. MacFarlane also said that a large proportion of dust in the air is caused by non-industrial sources such as roads, stockpiles and demolitions. A field study will be carried out in the first year of the project and year two will be devoted to analysis of this data. The study is expected to result in sound scientific information on the proportion of air pollution attributable to such factors as road dust and industry. An optimum cost-effective control strategy will also be identified and eventually serve as a model for other urban areas.

Control Order. Environment Minister Harry Parrott announced recently that a Notice of Intent to issue a Control Order has been delivered to Reed Ltd. concerning the emission of atmospheric pollutants and discharges of waste causing water pollution at the company's mill in Dryden. The Notice provides for a pollution abatement program for air and water discharges to be undertaken by Reed Ltd. to be completed by 31 December 1982 at an estimated cost of \$13 million. The ministry's action follows six months extensive review of the Reed situation by the Ontario Legislature's Standing Committee on Resources Development. The minister referred the question of a control program for Reed to the committee in February 1979. Upon receipt of a Notice of Intent, a company has 15 days in which to present objections.

Health

Muskoka Committee Formed. An 11-member committee chaired by Mayor Malcolm Scott, Township of Lake of Bays, has been established to study long-term health care planning for the District Municipality of Muskoka. Health Minister Dennis Timbrell said: "My ministry strongly supports the concept that local planning groups recommend changes to Ontario's health system. Where district health councils exist, the council is the accepted planning group for an area. As Muskoka is not presently served by a council, the ministry is seeking the assistance of this new committee set-up for the evaluation of long-term care needs for the district.

"The committee is being given a mandate to develop an inventory of existing long-term care institutional facilities and community services in the district," continued the minister. "Further, it will study current and future demands on these facilities, services and programs, develop a long-term care plan to optimize the use of these and then make recommendations to the ministry to implement a long-term care plan for Muskoka. The ministry looks forward to receiving the recommendations from the committee in the fall, 1979".