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cc:
Subject: Sewage Treatment Plant
Expansion..where is the vision?

Dear Mr. Hashid, Mayor Mulvale and Councilors:

I am concerned that the planning targets for the expansion of the sewage treatment west of Third Line have not had full and complete direction from either the Regional or Oakville Town Council. It seems, from what I have read, that design parameters have not been clearly given to the designers. The huge increase in capacity should certainly be a trigger to look into the details.

What are the operational contingency plans? Are councilors aware, for example, that the massive sewage treatment in east end Montreal (7.5 million cubic meters /day) had to discharge raw sewage into the river for a period of 4 or 5 days because of a "process upset". The same occurred in Winnipeg for 2 days due to a "mistake" with the operation of a valve. What would the approximate 150,000 cubic meters of raw sewage from the proposed Mid-Halton facility do to the lake and the shore line? What are our contingency plans? Are we good stewards of Lake Ontario?

The fact that sewage needs treatment cannot be ignored. Why are we apparently prepared to accept less than the best possible standards for sewage treatment? This limited view will miss an opportunity to deal with the consequences of growth without continuing to degrade the quality of the water in Lake Ontario. It costs money but at least we would know we did our best to be responsible. I simply do not want to pass this problem on to my children.

I have no special expertise in waste water treatment but there at least two companies Zenon and WABAG (in Austria) who have leading technology to treat and purify raw sewage. The web site for WABAG is www.wabag.com Their technologies do not require massive doses of chlorine or other chemicals. This is the standard now required in most of Europe. I was informed by my business contacts in Austria and Switzerland that the highest standards of treatment are used there. They report that virtually all of their lakes are still of drinking water quality because of the insistence on high treatment standards and best practices.

So I ask; "Why not here in Oakville?" What's our reason for settling for less? Did Council direct the engineers to use only the best practices and did you set the highest international standards of treatment? If not why not?

Yours Truly,
Keith Pomeroy
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