



on December 31, 1979. It was only after an organized protest that residents around the Beare Road dump in Scarborough were able to force the dump's closing in 1978. Until then, the dump was receiving most of Toronto's liquid waste. An estimated 8 million gallons a year had been disposed of there, plaguing residents of the area with countless leakage and odour problems. Now the waste which used to go to Beare goes into the sewage system.

The closing of such landfill dumps forced shipping costs up 500 per cent and led to two

Technology for innovations, "just being developed"

things, according to Probe's Bill Glenn—illegal dumping to escape costs and, more sophisticated ways of handling waste.

Glenn feels the problem centres around the fact that technology for innovations in recycling wastes is "new or just being developed." But the prospects are promising. Industries are now considering different operational approaches.

"The *Toronto Star* used to have a tremendous operation of waste ink. Now it is reprocessed," Glenn noted. "They have found that the used ink is a better product and they're saving money."

Through a process of "material balance" Union Carbide measured everything that went into one of their operations. After discovering an emission of

a colorless, odourless gas, the company was able to tap it and save \$20,000 a month.

There are no government incentive programs or funding for the recycling of industrial waste. "The method is for pollution abatement systems to be installed," according to Paul Isle of the Waste Management Branch. "What were wastes at one time are being re-used. Manufacturers are selling their wastes to be re-refined and then buying them back. This is especially common with solvents and lubricating oils."

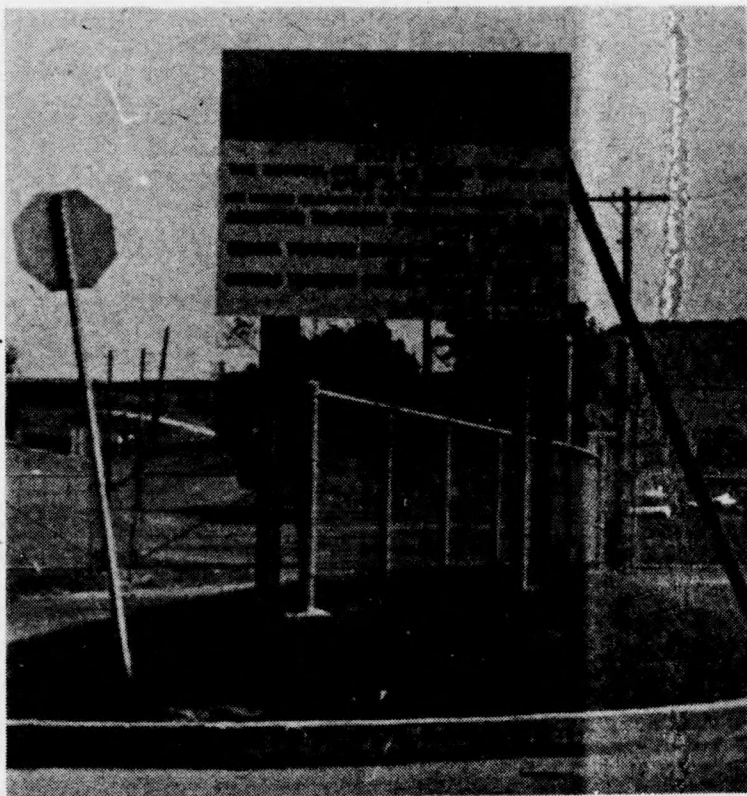
In July of 1979, the Ministry requested proposals from the private sector to set up interim facilities for inorganic wastes. As a result, two waste disposal companies, Walker Brothers and Browning and Ferris, were chosen to provide the facilities

until long-term major facilities are available in Ontario.

Another proposal currently undergoing public hearing, involves the conversion of the existing Ajax sewage treatment plant to process 8.8 million gallons of waste a year.

Last week, the U.S. Senate Finance Committee moved toward passage of a "superfund" designed to clean up hazardous waste sites. A total of \$4.1 billion will be raised through fees assessed against companies that manufacture toxic substances is expected to be approved by the committee and sent to the Senate floor.

These latest American controls are "much more comprehensive than anything we have here," according to Bill Glenn. "Although Ontario's system is the most advanced in Canada."



Lydia Pawlenko

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