

C.V.C.A. Pursues Project to Eliminate Flooding

At a special meeting of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority last week, members voted that a committee meet with the Department of Energy and Resources Management to have as much of the flood control plan as possible with provincial financing started immediately.

The Authority will request approval from the Minister to secure preliminary engineering and feasibility of cost of flood control measures at Glen Williams; preliminary report, design and field supervision for construction of the Orangeville dam reservoir and preliminary design to create a reservoir at Meadowdale.

Many Problems
The problem of where conservation ends and recreation begins has created many a heated argument everywhere from "over the back fence" to the floor of the legislature. The recent decision of the federal government Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources not to participate in the financing of the \$4 million Flood Control Plan

of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority has brought this argument out in the open again. Through the years since 1954 when the CVCA was first formed, the aim has been to conserve and rebuild the Credit River Valley; recreation was only incidental. During the past three or four years, many acres of land have been acquired by the Authority. Most of this 1,848 acre total has been retained in its original state. Only Terra Cotta and Belmont Conservation Areas are used for recreation and these only partly.

Acquired Land
Starting at Orangeville near the headwaters of the river, 500 acres are owned by the CVCA.

This land will be flooded if and when the Flood Control Plan is ever implemented. It was acquired for this purpose and any recreation that accrues would simply have to be accepted. Just south of Orangeville in north Caledon Township is 450 acres including several small lakes. Most of this land is swamp and bush and it will be kept that way. In the same general area is the Wilcox Conservation Area. Heavily wooded, this land is used only for Boy Scout camping and has been partially reforested.

Four forest conservation areas covering a total of 415 acres have been the scene of much activity and over the past few years, more than a million trees have been planted, both on public (Authority owned) and private property. A subsidy is paid to all landowners planting trees under the guidance of the Authority and the Department of Lands and Forests. Two free planters and the staff to run them are available.

Belmontain Conservation Area is used for recreation and the dam originally built there many years ago has been repaired. This is not a large dam but the location is scenic and historical.

At Terra Cotta, five lakes make up a large percentage of the 150 acres contained in the area. Bush covers much of the rest of the area and is carefully preserved for nature trails laid out by Prof. A. F. Coventry. More than 75,000 people visited the area last summer and 80 campsites are available for campers. The lake levels are constantly checked and fish stocking is done through the Department of Lands and Forests.

Area Not Developed
Meadowdale Conservation Area, 116 acres bought last year, has not been developed yet, but a complete scheme has been prepared for the Department of Energy and Resources Management, which has the final say in any scheme proposed by the CVCA. Much of this area is to be preserved as conservation land. At Bridle Creek Conservation Area where havoc has been caused by the river in past years, the old hydro dam about 100 feet high was blown to clear the channel and a series of weirs constructed to prevent erosion cutting into the stream banks.

Original Plan
Originally, the Flood Control Plan was suggested by the Department of Planning and Development when its engineers presented the Credit Valley Conservation Report in 1956. Action was started when a committee headed by chairman R. K. McMillan and R. R. Parker, chairman of the Flood Control and Pollution Administration, presented the Plan to the 16 municipalities of the watershed early in 1963. Formal approval was received from all the municipalities and the committee was given the green light to proceed to the provincial level.

Provincial approval was verbally given subject to the federal government participating. During this time, several sets of engineers and planners revamped the original Plan and eventually it arrived at the Department of National Resources in Ottawa.

By this time, the Plan bore little resemblance to the original one, headed by chairman R. K. McMillan and R. R. Parker, chairman of the Flood Control and Pollution Administration, presented the Plan to the 16 municipalities of the watershed early in 1963. Formal approval was received from all the municipalities and the committee was given the green light to proceed to the provincial level.

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