

Hydro asks Township decision on preferred route

Ontario Hydro officials told an overflow meeting of ratepayers in Nassagaweya Tuesday they would follow an alternate route for a 500,000 volt transmission line through the township if Council felt it would lessen the impact on the township.

J.M. Shedden, property planner with Ontario Hydro, emphasized the utility still favoured a diagonal line across the township, but was prepared to follow an alternate route advanced last year by Nassagaweya Planning Board and Council. The alternate route would enter from Puslinch, cross between lot 23 and 24 and go north on the west half of the fourth concession.

The power line is part of a 140 mile long 500,000 volt transmission line linking Nanticoke and Pickering and tieling in with a supply line from the James Bay area. The line crosses 16 municipalities. The province, in a document released August 1971 has indicated the line

will cross Nassagaweya Township. Officials of the township had earlier hoped the line could be included in the proposed utility corridor further toward the lake.

Hydro officials explained the right of way sought would be 610 feet wide with 120 to 130 foot high towers located approximately 1,000 feet apart. Plans called for a single line in the right of way now, a second in approximately 10 years and a third some time later.

W. D. Peters, Hydro forester reviewed the change in policy that sees only selective cutting on the right of way rather than total clearing. "We leave as many trees as possible," he emphasized. At road and river crossings a screen of trees 100 feet in width is left as are trees in the valleys of the right of way he told the crowd.

Mr. Shedden told the meeting the hydro route would enter the township at lot 23-24 and cross in a diagonal line leaving at high-

way 7. It would require removal of two dwellings, two sets of buildings, affect 39 property owners, be five and a half miles long and affect a minimum amount of bush mainly in the vicinity of the Blue Springs Creek, the Lee estate and the Ackman property. He said 400 acres of land would be involved.

The alternate route, approximately as suggested by the township last year, would affect one set of buildings, be a number of buildings, be a mile and a half longer, add several very expensive angles, affect the Halton County forest, cross two of the highest points of land in the township, affect the view in the Blue Springs Creek area, reduce the visual impact from the road by being between the lot lines, retain a diagonal direction at the northern corner of the township and cost approximately \$1,000,000 more.

Henry Best, at the opening of the question period urged more information on the burying of the



along hydro lines

line or laying it in the lake noting that anyone within miles of the overhead line would be affected by it. Hydro officials maintained there was nowhere in the world

that a 500,000 volt line was buried other than possibly for a very short distance. Calling for consideration of the kind of land affected by the

alternate and hydro routes, Joe Powadluk, noted some people depend for their living on the land and removal of a house can also mean removal of a livelihood. He protested he didn't know of earlier meetings on the subject and suggested no early decision could be reached by the township council on the route it would endorse.

Planning Board Chairman John Kitchen reviewed the discussions and committee report preparation of last year that led to the proposal of alternate routes largely following the fabric of the township roads and lot lines, rather than the diagonal route advanced by Hydro officials.

In answer to questions, Mr. Shedden emphasized the Hydro did not intend to sterilize the land on the right of way. He maintained the land would be leased back to the farmer at \$1 a year plus taxes. Keith Moore protested that he didn't like farming around posts and

wondered if Hydro would buy the whole farm so he could locate his dairy farming elsewhere in Halton.

Mr. Shedden suggested Hydro would buy the whole farm only if there was serious effect on the farming operation. It would be a matter of negotiation he suggested.

Bruce MacOdrum representing the Sierra Club, a conservation body, urged Hydro to make studies available that were used to convince the provincial government the transmission line couldn't be placed in the utility corridor proposed in conjunction with the Toronto Centred Region report.

To a question regarding the impact on health and radio and television interference, E.M. Wadge, supervision project engineer said there would be no effect on health. If radio and television interference occurred Hydro would have to eliminate it even to the extent of installing a new antennae.

R.A. McPhail, district forester with hydro said all trees possible would be left along the route. If trees came within 10 feet of the line they would be pruned. Trees would reach about 25 feet in height at the line's lowest point.

Hon. George Kerr told the meeting the line was absolutely necessary and he cautioned ratepayers about listening to "a lot of scare statements". He suggested the property separations required for the line would have to be heard by the local committee of adjustment and would be subject to appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Citizens attended the meeting from Rockwood, Puslinch, Guelph, Eramosa and King townships as the crowd of more than 250 spilled into the hall at the Brookville school. Representatives were also present from Pollution Probe, the Ontario Federation of Naturalists, the Sierra Club. Reeve A. MacArthur presided for an orderly meeting.

Hinton appointment challenged at county — then postponed

Charges of unfair procedure were made at Halton County Council Tuesday when some members of council attempted to re-appoint H.H. Hinton of Acton as the county's representative to the Sheridan College Board of governors for his second four year term.

Reeve Allan Masson of Oakville said the matter of the appointment had already been ironed out before the meeting started. He and Esquering Reeve Tom Hill said no time had been allowed for possible candidates from other municipalities to come forward.

Milton Reeve Ron Harris said Mr. Hinton is a knowledgeable and enthusiastic man. He said he had risen to the position of vice-chairman and might go higher if he was left on.

discussion Reeve Masson withdrew an amendment to a resolution that suggested Jim Peat of Oakville be considered for the post.

Consider Later Council agreed that the matter be left until the December meeting of council and at that time those two persons and any others who come forward in the meantime will be considered for the post.

The appointment carries no salary or honorarium with it.

Endorse county waste disposal planning

Acton council has endorsed a Georgetown council resolution calling for the formation of a county waste disposal committee to discuss waste disposal on a regional basis.

Speaking in favor of the proposal, Deputy-reeve Pat McKenzie told council Holland has a group of people carrying out planning for the whole county.

"If a county can do it surely the County of Halton could do it," the deputy-reeve remarked. "It's amazing how readily people accept proper planning," he added.

Council endorsed the Georgetown resolution unanimously.



IT WAS STANDING room only at Brookville School last night (Tuesday), when Nassagaweya Ratepayers met to question Ontario Hydro officials about a proposed 500,000 volt transmission line which would pass through the township.

Hydro anxious to move — nix new Hulad proposal

When Hulad developer Joe Adamic brought a new proposal to Hydro commission at their meeting Thursday, it was speedily shot down by frustrated members. They assured him in no uncertain terms they were higher averse to anything else that would hold up the agreement on supplying services for the new subdivision.

Mr. Adamic hopes to make a start soon on the first 50 homes of a possible 250 to 300, on the Seynuck, Vyse and Griese properties.

Agreement ready A draft agreement pushed from the solicitor's office just before the meeting, was ready for Mr. Adamic's perusal and commissioners wanted to get on with the deal. The draft agreement set out costs and conditions under which the commission would supply street lighting and underground electrical distribution system for the first 50 lots.

Price set in the agreement was \$170 per lot for lighting and \$450 per lot for underground wiring system.

Exchange However, Mr. Adamic had a new scheme. He proposed to hydro commission that they supply hydro service at no cost at all to him. In return, he would assure

all-electric services in the houses for the whole development.

He said Barrie, Oshawa and London have all done this with new subdivisions.

You know the amount of consumption this would bring, he reminded commissioners.

However, his proposal was immediately challenged, and sharply.

"If there's anything that wrinkles small-town politicians", said Mayor Duby, "it's this push and pull game. The town has gone through a lot to get you moving!"

Snapped Ted Tyler Sr., "The people of Acton are not going to line your pocket! You're going to get the benefit!"

Then the buyers of the home will have to pay a "long price" because you advertise Gold Medallion homes. "Who'll win? Only you!" Mr. Tyler asserted.

Explained Mr. Adamic, "You've got this mistaken idea!"

Now a Toronto resident, he wants "to get out of the rat race."

Other business Members agreed to arrange a service contract for the new electric typewriter.

Mr. Tyler will try to attend a

district 4 AMEU meeting in Toronto Nov. 23.

Eight pages of questions concerning discipline policy were presented. Copies will be made for all members to peruse.

Another questionnaire was assessing the results of Hydro month last June. Acton hydro had a special contest and advertisements.

Crack cases

A letter from the AMEU asked that Acton commission register its nickname.

Nickname? A for instance: Guelph Hydro Electrical Commission is nicknamed Guelph Hydro.

Mused the mayor, We can't say Acton H. That's already used by the high school.

Quipped Mr. Tyler: Let's put it backwards, like Ottawa would. Hydro Acton.

The letter was filed.

Will McEachern chaired the meeting with commissioners MacArthur, and Tyler present, Mayor Les Duby, superintendent Doug Mason and secretary-treasurer Audrey Urquhart.



A FREE TWO week trip to Nassau, plus \$200 spending money awaits the lucky winner of a free draw, being offered by local merchants. Shoppers can become eligible for the grand prize by visiting any one of the participating

stores and filling in an entry blank with each purchase. Mrs. L. Degen, Cobblehill Road deposited her entry blank in the Acton Pharmacy box this week, as clerk Madeleine Gibbons looked on.—(Staff Photo)

Faint heart ne'er won 1,000 acres—mayor

"Faint heart ne'er won 1000 acres for Acton," according to Mayor Les Duby.

That's why the mayor feels council should not become discouraged, but rather should be a little more forceful in their attempts to annex land in Esquering township.

In a recent letter to council, a Department of Municipal Affairs official said several annexation applications received from the Peel-Halton area have already been discouraged. He expressed the opinion there is no reason to believe the Acton application would be considered differently.

Different story However, the mayor told council former Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough had told him personally that

municipalities like Acton should proceed as usual with their applications. Mr. McKeough was named provincial treasurer, shortly after Premier Bill Davis was named PC party leader last spring. Dalton Bales was named to succeed him as Minister of Municipal Affairs.

"I rather wish we had that in writing, Les," Councillor Peter Marks remarked. Marks felt council should write Mr. Bales to find out the reason why there would be a difference of opinion between an appointed and an elected official.

The mayor reminded council Premier Davis had dropped a hint that regional government might not be delayed much longer, at the recent Peel County Warden's dinner.

Reeve Frank Oakes, who attended the dinner as Halton County Warden, confirmed the mayor's statement.

"He did say that," Oakes said. "Whether it was in jest or not I don't know," he added.

"Was it a bad joke, Frank?" Marks asked.

"I thought it was, although it made a lot of people laugh," the reeve replied.

Councillor Norm Elliott said he thought council should apply for annexation, then if they meet a roadblock pursue that, rather than wait and see if there's going to be a roadblock.

The letter from the department will be discussed again at the next meeting of council's administration committee. Copies are to be forwarded to planning board and to C. F. Leatherland.



FREE PRESS EDITOR Hartley Coles interviewed author Jim Henderson at his country retreat on the outskirts of Acton recently. Turn inside for story and pictures.—(Staff Photo)