

No moral obligation to sell land to Alteo: Marks

Dear Sir:
I would like to offer several comments on the Town of Acton's proposed sale of land to Alteo Construction Co. Ltd. I was encouraged to read your recent editorial on the subject as it represented a constructive opinion on the transaction and because you do not disagree that the land value could be in excess of what ratepayers are receiving for it. Further, you consider the proposal of trying to stop speculation and inflation on the property to have some merit.

editorial could have developed in some ratepayers who were questioning the emphasis council is placing on our moral obligations relating to this land sale.
Your concern for a condominium housing development at prices Actonians can afford is very evident and you are to be commended for it. With information available to you, your conclusions are very sound and if I thought we could insure this development by subsidizing land costs, I would also endorse council's action.
However, the report from the town

engineer (submitted prior to the agreement) indicated that he did not recommend high density development (condominiums) on this land due to sewage handling problems. Regardless of this fact, the proposed agreement will not in any way ensure development for years and, in fact, could impede development if the cost to the purchaser is sufficiently low enough to justify holding it—thereby encouraging speculation.
The criteria being used to justify this moral obligation (which could be costing

Acton taxpayers thousands of dollars) should be clarified. It is imperative all intentions and reasons for the prospective buyer receiving the subject land for \$104,000 be understood. The purchaser and Council realized that a portion of the land would be designated Conservation. I agree that the Conservation Authority appear over-cautious in claiming approximately 30 per cent.

The purchaser and Council were aware that zoning of this land to residential was at

the discretion of Queens Park and that a zoning decision was not required to complete the town's obligations in the offer. (Council in fact refused an offer for \$110,000 because it was conditional on zoning.)
In spite of the fact our broker and lawyer clearly indicated to council, and the purchaser, that the original offer was not conditional and that because the purchaser did not close the offer on the specified date, I am not suggesting that this indicates that he did not make the original offer in good faith. However it does suggest to me that he has been labouring under a gross misunderstanding and this to me does not justify an obligation on behalf of our town to complete this transaction under the legally outdated terms.

Please understand that I respect the purchaser's business ethics and am only questioning council's business procedure. Possibly the land is not worth more than \$104,000: no one in Acton can be assured that we are receiving maximum returns on our investments until it is offered for sale

under existing market conditions. (Similar land within the town is reportedly selling at much higher prices per acre than we are about to receive.)
I regrettably cannot predict sufficient public opinion on this issue to alter council's decision and I realize the public do not want me to present a literary expression of my views on all subjects; however I feel taxpayers are entitled to complete information on an issue having such significant consequences.

Benevolence is beautiful if the cause is just—charitable donations to the developers or speculators is bad business.
I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Acton Free Press for their interest shown in local municipal government and the impartial and objective policies used in reporting and editing.

P. E. Marks,
Councillor
Town of Acton.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Town should cut down dead trees

Dear Sir:
There seems to be a lot of letters in your paper recently concerning beautiful trees being cut down. It is too bad the town wouldn't start on dead trees first.
A year ago, Nov. 20 part of a dead tree (town property) came down bringing with it our phone and electric wires, tearing them off the side of our house. The wires were put up the following day but the tree was cleaned up ourselves.
The wires from town property to our house lay on the ground until the spring waiting for one of the town's electricians to take a little of his time to make repairs—

they were phoned a number of times—poor service—small job.
This November the rest of the same dead tree came down taking with it our eavestroughs as well as the top of a pine tree, much to our displeasure.
The mess of dead wood still lies around. It helps beautify the scrub around it that could do with a cleaning up.
I have phoned the town office and gone to the office in person but—too busy with shade trees—I guess.

Sincerely,
M. Wilds

Hydro split people of township

Dear Sir:
I am one of those people who didn't get heard at the meeting between the Ontario Hydro and the people of Nassagaweya (and there were many). I waited, giving those people who were directly concerned a chance to be heard, but the time flew and it was announced that only two more questions could be asked. In my opinion many questions were left unanswered; accusations that should have been denounced were left in limbo.

The very presence of the Hon. George Kerr should have prompted Council members to ask why it took Mr. Kerr five months to reply to Council's questions on this Hydro question. After all we in Nassagaweya are his constituents and we are entitled to a swifter response than that.

The opening statement of Mr. Sheehan of Ontario Hydro should have been clarified. The statement was that Ontario Hydro had asked for this public meeting. Ontario Hydro had in fact asked for a private meeting. It was to the credit of our Reeve and Council that they flatly refused a private tete-a-tete on this very important matter.

At this meeting there was no mention of Hydro's Mr. Gathercole. Last year when Council pointed out to the Provincial Government that this Hydro line should be contained in the much publicised uncorridor designed to carry all utilities, Premier Robarts, Charles MacNaughton and Darcy McKeough agreed and Mr. MacNaughton referred the matter to Hydro's chairman Mr. Gathercole for a full report.

I was astounded that Allan Ackman was castigated publicly and so vehemently. Our Reeve Mrs. MacArthur and Mr. Patrick Redgrave appointed Allan Ackman to the sub-committee to study alternate routes for the Hydro line. John Kitching was

appointed chairman so in actual fact the alternate is the Kitching route and not the Ackman route. If my memory serves me right John Kitching was chosen because of his knowledge of the area, his experience on Planning Board and the fact that he was a full time farmer and understood a farmer's problems. Allan Ackman was chosen because of his knowledge of aerial photography and ability to interpret and equate photographs, maps, surveys, etc.

Mr. Don Smith was appointed an expert in Finance and Land Values, and the route chosen as an alternative was agreed upon by the Planning Board, the Council and Ontario Hydro.

Over the last few years Nassagaweya has spent in excess of \$10,000 on a Zoning By-law and Official Plan. This By-law was accepted by the Ontario Government and is law and irrefutable, and when our Council sits down and considers any Hydro route, they must act within the bounds of our zoning by-law. They have no alternative.

About three years ago a study was made on our area by the Provincial Government. Had the results of that study been accepted Nassagaweya would have been split at the 25th Sideroad. Nassagawegans were roused, petitions were circulated and 97 per cent of the people signed a petition against such a split.

Ontario Hydro managed to split the people of Nassagaweya by a simple act of craft, when they asked for alternate routes.

The Provincial politicians talked about utility corridors. This corridor was much publicised at great cost to the people of Ontario. After the election the utility corridor was forgotten.

To our credit it was Nassagaweya, the tiniest township of all affected that drew the largest protest, but don't count us out yet, not quite.

William A. Johnson



NEW BROWNIE Rhonda Parsons earnestly repeats her promises for Commissioner Mrs. Rose Hall at the scout hall Friday. Brown Owl of the Third Pack Mrs. Shirley Scott watches. There were 28 Tweenies enrolled as Brownies as parents watched.—(Staff Photo)

Talks safety to children

Constable James Redpath of Milton OPP has been conducting safety talks with area school children. The accident prevention officer visited Limehouse and Campbellville Public Schools and Georgetown District Christian School during the past week to talk to the school children about safety tips and precautions.

Members of Milton's Cub groups took a tour of the Milton OPP office recently, to see first hand how a police force works. Police have also addressed members of the Limehouse, Silverwood and Bannockburn 4-H Club about traffic safety.

Not where, but whether

To the Editor,

The meeting at Brookville School in the Township of Nassagaweya last evening (Nov. 16) to discuss the location of the new Great Hydro Line across the Township was a tragic farce. Playing upon the divergent interests of the landowners involved, the Township was split into rival factions, so that the most minimal and vague generalizations were given by Hydro in answer to pertinent questions put by unbiased homeowners.

It would be interesting to know WHO? is splitting our township in half, so that while our backs are turned to engage in personal differences, someone can "slip in the shiv" and get the line location approved. It is not a question of which location that should be decided, the decision should be "NO LINE AT ALL!". Nassagawegans, this is no time to be quarrelling amongst ourselves, this is a time to stand shoulder to shoulder to

present a united front to the invader.
So Nassagaweya is the size of a mouse as compared to the great projects on the drawing boards of Hydro, at least let us then be known as "THE MOUSE THAT ROARED!"

Why should that Giant Power, Ontario Hydro, be permitted to stomp across our or any other township in his Pylon Jack Boots in the name of Progress. Too many sins are committed under the protection of the banner of Progress today. You have only to look at the malignant bite taken out of our escarpment, without let or hindrance, by the extractive industry, to know what looters and vandals fly the flag of Progress and what a victory for Progress can mean.

We are told that the interests of the few must be disregarded for the good of the many. How often, too many of the few are sacrificed for too few of the many.

Must every utility service leave its own particular scar across our countryside?

Why can't Hydro, if it must stay above ground, use the, in the many places now unused, railway lines right of way. These were given to the railways in the first place, and should be cheap to acquire. Ontario Hydro has viable alternatives and it could use them. There isn't a thinking man or woman in this magnificent province of ours who wouldn't be happy, eye proud! to pay a little more for his Hydro power to be underground, so that our land could stay unspoiled for future generations.

You cannot balance good economy against bad ecology. We are paying too heavily today for those kind of past imbalances, which could well tip the scales against our survival in years to come.

Truly yours,
Elva Newton
Nassagaweya.

Line must follow lot lines

Dear Sir:

The people of Nassagaweya have won a real victory!

When the Ontario Hydro representatives revealed at the meeting on Nov. 16 at Brookville School that they are now prepared to have their new hydro route follow the lot and lines through our township (as they are doing on most of their new power line grid in Ontario) they agreed with the position that had been taken by the Nassagaweya Planning Board of 1969, all members of last year's (1970) Council and Planning Board, the Halton Planning Association, and the

Grand River Conservation Authority that such a hydro line must follow the Lot and Concession lines. It is in fact the only position permitted by the Official Plan and Zoning Bylaws of Nassagaweya, both of which have been approved by the ratepayers of the Township, and the Ontario Municipal Board, and have been enforced by Nassagaweya's Council and Committee of Adjustment since April 3, 1967.

I personally am in agreement with last year's Council and Planning Board that we would prefer the Hydro to follow the Utility Corridor Parkway Belt System, and not

come through Nassagaweya at all, but in view of the fact that the Cabinet of the Government of Ontario have decided that it must come through Nassagaweya, and the Ontario Hydro has recognized our Official Plan and Township Bylaws, the 1971 Nassagaweya Council therefore has no alternative, but they too must follow our Official Plan and approve the Hydro route following township lot and concession lines.

Gordon E. Agnew
Chairman,
1970 Planning Board

Hydro line damaging to Nassagaweya

Dear Sir:

As I am deeply concerned as well as possibly greatly affected by the passing of the Hydro Line through our township—I feel I must make some comments.

The decision made by the Ontario Government to permit a Hydro line through our township is a damaging blow to Nassagaweya. If this decision can be

reversed, our Council must bend every effort to do so.

Last week Ontario Hydro backed down from their previous insistence for a diagonal route and agreed with the Planning Board and Council of the past two years, to follow the fabric of Nassagaweya, as Hydro is doing elsewhere on their route!

If our Council cannot stop this line from

going through Nassagaweya, they must do everything to reduce the damage, by approving the route that follows the concession and road patterns of our township.

Your truly,
Mrs. Elizabeth Hoey,
Elm Tree Farm.

DAY CARE CENTRE

The Council of the Town of Acton is presently investigating the need for, and feasibility of, setting up a municipally owned Day Care Centre for children of working persons and for uses of an emergent nature.

Interested persons are urged to call the undersigned or write to Box 644, Acton, immediately to list their needs or submit opinions on this proposal.

DO IT NOW!
J. T. Hurst
Clerk Administrator
Town of Acton

Leisure Time Activities for Fall and Winter

Strictly for the birds
A series of 7 lectures and 2 field trips having as its goal the introduction of the fascinating hobby of Birdwatching. Skill upgrading for bird identification is also included. The course meets Wednesday at 7.15 p.m. Fee is \$12.00.

Introduction to horsemanship
10 week course. The course meets at Bertin Stables on Tuesday or Thursday from 8.00 - 9.00 p.m. and covers basic skills in the handling, bridling and riding. The fee for the course is \$40.00 (\$4 per hour).

For Further Information Please Call
CONTINUING EDUCATION DIVISION AT
845-9430—Oakville 826-4300—Streetsville
632-7081—Burlington 362-5861—Toronto

<p>"IGA SPECIAL" CLOVERLEAF SOCKETS Salmon 7 1/2 OZ. TIN 65¢</p>	<p>TableRite RED or BLUE BRAND BEEF! SIRLOIN, PORTERHOUSE, WING OR ROUND STEAKS OR ROASTS \$1.15 LB.</p>
<p>FOR ALL PURPOSE FOUR MEDIUM AUSTRALIAN SULTANA RAISINS 3 1/2 LB. 39¢ 2 1/2 LB. 55¢</p>	<p>BREAKFAST TREAT RED OR WHITE Grapefruit 10 79¢ SIZE 48</p>
<p>"IGA SPECIAL" BUNGAN MIXES (17 VARIETIES) Cake Mixes 2 19 OZ. PEGS. 79¢</p>	<p>TURNIPS 2 lb. 15¢ FLORIDA ORANGES SWEET & JUICY 2 DOZ. SIZE 125 99¢ ONIONS or CARROTS FLAVORFUL LOCAL GROWN ONTARIO No. 1 GRADE 2 LB. BAG 29¢</p>
<p>"IGA SPECIAL" LUNCHEON MEAT Swift Prem 12 OZ. TIN 43¢</p>	<p>IGA Fruit Cake 1 LB. 65¢ 2 LB. \$1.25 3 LB. \$1.79 CASE OF 24, 10-OZ. TINS Hospitality — 24 oz. Loaf BREAD 5 FOR \$1</p>