

# Esquering balks at amending holding by-law for Hydro

Ontario Hydro wants to build two distributing stations in Esquering but the township council is reluctant to change the agricultural holding by-law so Hydro can go ahead.

Fred Ellis of Ontario Hydro's property division appeared before council Monday, outlining plans for the distribution stations in the Ballinacree and Ashgrove areas. He said Hydro engineers

were concerned that if the Ashgrove station was not built this Fall residents of the area could suffer power troubles.

Under the existing by-law there is no allowance made for distributing stations, so Ellis asked council to consider amending the holding by-law, inserting an exemption clause for Ontario Hydro. "Very few townships do not have the

exemption clause in their by-laws," he said.

The existing station at Norval is overloaded, he explained, and Hydro wants to keep up voltage in the area. He said if council was favorable to inserting the clause in the by-law Hydro would still come to council for further approvals.

**Skeptical of need**  
Councillors were generally

skeptical of the need. Councillor Dick Howitt suggested Hydro should expand the present station at Norval rather than expanding into Ashgrove which could hardly be classified an expanding area.

"We have never amended the holding by-law and we try to treat everyone the same," he told Ellis.

Howitt also pointed out that the stations would constitute a

change of land use while Councillor Len Cox also balked at amending the three year-old by-law which expires this September.

Clerk Delmar French pointed out the matter had come before the township planning board who had referred it to council. He said the planners had left an exemption clause out of the by-law for several reasons, but

recommended it be included in the new zoning by-law.

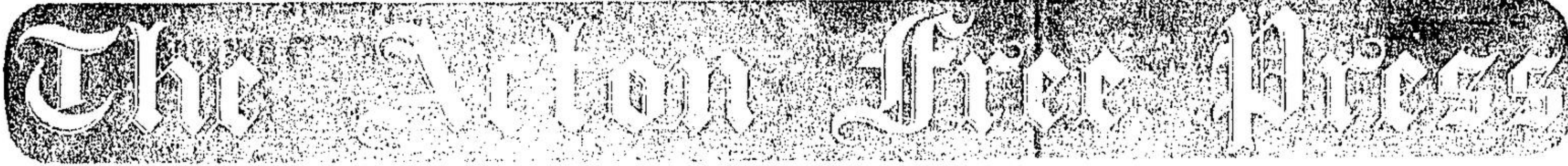
**Long Wait**  
Mr. Ellis said Hydro engineers were anxious to get going on the project and if they had to wait for the Official Plan and zoning law approval, the wait could be indeterminate. But Councillor Howitt said an amendment to the holding by-law could also be time-consuming, considering the

speed of the Ontario Municipal Board.

Councillor Wilfrid Leslie favored giving Hydro the amendment in the by-law.

"Hydro is an important commodity for everybody," he said, "and they should have special consideration. Their engineers know what is needed."

Council decided they would discuss it further before committing themselves to action.



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**HOCKEY** in the summer time. What more could a young lad ask for? Lucky winner of a free week at Allan Stanley's Beehive Hockey Camp was Todd McIntyre, youngest player in the Acton (OMHA) Minor Hockey

Association. Stanley, a three-time NHL all-star selected Todd's name in a lucky draw at Saturday night's banquet. For story and more pictures, see the Free Press sports pages.

(Photo by D. Gibbons)

## Budget discussion kept alive by vote

Makeup of Acton council's budget committee could be changed in the future, as a result of a lengthy discussion at last week's regular meeting.

In a narrow 5-4 vote, council decided to have the budget committee question referred back to both committees for further discussion, even though administration committee had brought forward what they considered to be an adequate recommendation.

Under the present system, the mayor appoints budget committee members. It is made up of five of the nine council members.

### Recommend continue

Reeve Frank Oakes announced the committee's recommendation that the present budget committee system be continued, but that all members of council be invited to attend the final budget meeting. He said all councillors would have copies of the proposed budget in their hands before the meeting. The mill rate would be struck at a full council meeting the evening after the final meeting.

Deputy-reeve Pat McKenzie and Councillor Peter Marks voted against this year's budget. McKenzie claimed he could not vote intelligently on it, because he did not receive copies of proposals he was promised, before the final meeting. Marks called it a "maintenance budget" and charged the town fathers were turning their backs on things which are needed. He called for a total investigation of budget committee procedure.

After listening to the reeve's announcement last week, McKenzie said having copies of the budget in the hands of all councillors beforehand would be an improvement, but reminded his colleagues in Georgetown and Milton the entire council serves on budget committee.

### Only guideline

Clerk-administrator Joe Hurst explained administration committee's recommendation was set up only as a guideline for the 1973 budget committee.

Councillor Jack Greer said the 73 council could change the system early in the year, if they wished.

Councillor Marks charged it is very poor procedure to leave the question in the hands of a new council.

"It took me two years to understand how the budget was being handled. It's not fair to new members of council," he said.

Marks suggested the people who have experienced the problem should set a policy and that it should be carried on next year.

"What would be the disadvantages of having everyone on the budget committee then?" Deputy-reeve McKenzie asked. "Georgetown and Milton think it's a good idea."

### Press present?

Councillor Bill Coats reminded McKenzie that when the entire

council meets, the press is usually present.

"It doesn't have to be," Marks interjected. "The Municipal Act says you can have a caucus meeting anytime you want."

Coats said he would oppose a full meeting of council with the press barred. He went on to explain that large committees tend to become unwieldy.

Mayor Les Duby said he has no reservations at all about keeping the budget committee system the way it is. He admitted it may be a

little upsetting to new members of council to feel slightly uninformed.

"But it's not a common situation for rookies to become notorious councillors within three months," he suggested.

The mayor backed Councillor Coats' stand on the inclusion of the press.

"Anytime council meets together, it's the public's business and the press should be here," he commented.

Marks agreed with Coats that a nine man committee may be unwieldy, but said he doesn't see anything the recommendation did to amend set opinion.

### Not so

Reeve Oakes said it is not necessarily fair to say the budget is all cut and dried, because the committee is made up of a majority of council.

Marks disagreed. "The solidarity of that committee when they present a budget is something I've never seen in a union," he replied.

Deputy-reeve McKenzie and Councillors Marks, Elliott, Masales and Chapman supported the motion to have the question discussed further at the committee level. Mayor Duby, Reeve Oakes and Councillors Coats and Greer opposed it.

## Investigate

An impaired driver, liquor seizure, drunk in a public place and assault were among cases investigated by Acton police during the past week.



**CHILDREN** of St. Joseph's Church received their first Holy Communion Sunday from pastor Father J. J. Gillen. Altar boy is George Birden.

(H. Coles Photo)

## 12 fires, \$3,304 damage in Acton during 1971

The annual report of the Fire Marshal shows that Acton had 12 fires in 1971 with damage amounting to \$3,304, considerably below the five year average of \$10,373 from 13 fires in the period from 1967 to 1971.

Eramosa township had a fire loss of \$234,054 from eight fires in 1971 while Erin Township had a loss of \$26,220 from 20 fires in the same period. The village of Erin had nine fires with total damages \$9,424.

Georgetown had 37 fires for a total loss of \$152,414, above the five year average of 40 fires with losses of \$83,601, while Milton reported \$113,651 in losses from 31 fires.

The report lists the total loss from fires in the province at \$82,036,837 in 1971, amounting to \$10.50 per capita, up from the \$8.89 recorded in 1970. The number of deaths from fire in 1971 was 225 with the heaviest toll occurring in December and January when heating units are most active.

The two most hazardous times occurred between one and two in the morning, that first hour or two after people go to sleep, and

between seven and eight in the morning when kitchen activities are high and human alertness low.

## We've got more nurses

Two public health nurses have been hired by the Halton County Health Unit and will assume duty soon. Both nurses will work in North Halton, where a shortage has existed for some time. A third nurse, off on a leave of absence, returns to the Georgetown office in the near future. The three additional nurses bring the staff on hand from four to seven.

The shortage has been the subject of a raging controversy in recent months. County councillors from North Halton have protested the lack of staff at meetings of the Community Services Committee and at County Council meetings.

Acton Deputy Reeve Pat McKenzie and Esquering Reeve Tom Hill led a campaign at the county council level to have better health services in the northern part of the county.

The campaign began after an article published both in The Acton Free Press and The Canadian Champion, criticizing the inadequate health services in North Halton.

After the announcement of additional help, McKenzie indicated he felt a more satisfactory job would be done and he felt seven nurses were sufficient to serve the current population in North Halton.

## 1500 in festival at M.Z.

An unusually large audience enjoyed the Music Festival competitions at the M. Z. Bennett school, Acton, Wednesday of last week. School principal Elmer Smith was delighted with the interest shown by parents and friends this year.

About 1500 children participated from the M. Z. Bennett school, Acton; Martin St. W. I. Dick and J. M. Denyes schools in Milton; Percy Merry, Brookville, Pineview, Speyside, Fairview, Limehouse, Glen Williams and Snyders school. Snyders was entered for the first time. Adjudicator was Roy Holton of Mississauga, son of an adjudicator here several years ago. He said

all the choirs were of high calibre.

Susan Bruce of the M. Z. Bennett school introduced the adjudicator. Trophies were presented to the top three entries in each of 11 classes.

### Big winners

Martin St. School, Milton, had seven entries and took six trophies—four firsts, and two seconds, for the outstanding record of the day.

Festival chairman was Ralph McKeown, principal of Limehouse school.

This year's festival was considered very successful by the committee in charge.

Results are: Triple duet,

grades 5 and 6, enrolment 250 and over: Martin St. A., J. M. Denyes, Pineview. (Nine entries).

Primary choir grades 1 and 2, enrolment 250 and over: Brookville, Fairview, Pineview. (Four entries)

Intermediate choir, grades 5 and 6, enrolment 250 and over: Martin St., Percy W. Merry, Pineview. (Five entries)

Junior choir, grades 2 and 4, enrolment 250 and over: Pineview, Brookville, J. M. Denyes. (Five entries)

Boys' choir, unchanged voices, Brookville, M. Z. Bennett, Speyside. (Five entries)

Triple duet, grades 5 and 8, enrolment 250 and over,

Speyside, Glen Williams, Limehouse. (Four entries)

Primary choir, grades 1, 2, 3, enrolment 250 and over, Limehouse, W. I. Dick, Glen Williams. (Four entries)

Junior choir, grades 4, 5, 6, enrolment 250 and over, Speyside, Limehouse, Glen Williams. (Five entries)

Senior choir, grades 7, 8, enrolment 250 and over, Stewarttown, Martin St., M. Z. Bennett. (Three entries)

Senior choirs grades 7 and 8, enrolment 250 and over, Martin St., Fairview, Brookville. (Five entries)

Triple trio, grades 7, 8, enrolment 250 and over, Martin St. A., Martin St. B., Fairview B.

## Regional government announcement expected

An announcement concerning regional government is expected to be made today by Warden James R. Swanborough at the monthly meeting of Halton County Council. An emergency meeting of the Technical Co-ordinating Committee has been called for 1 p.m.

The developments follow a meeting between county officials and government representatives in Toronto on Monday. Details of the discussions were not available at press time but it is known the subject was regional government.

### Rush interim report

It is understood TECO representatives will be urged to

rush an interim report on their findings after in-depth studies on the application of regional government in Halton. The County has maintained support for a Halton only region including Burlington and the TECO committee has been studying the implications.

Speculation rampant earlier this year suggested regional government might be introduced in Halton this year with elections scheduled for October when the first regional council would be elected. Elections are already required in each municipality in Halton this year in line with the two year terms which expire Dec. 31.



**WE WON!** This message comes across bright and clear from Patricia Paton and Carol Schatti of Limehouse Public School as did the singing from the choirs which participated in the North Halton Music Festival held at the M.Z. Bennett Public School last Wednesday. For more pictures of winners and competitors see page B-1.

**We won!**