

Three day nominations for town office begin Thurs.

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March of tall hydro towers checked by Solandt Commission

The colored nightmare environmentalists pictured—a line of huge steel towers marching five abreast from Pickering to Nanticoke passing through this area—may never come to pass.

The proposed 500,000-volt Ontario Hydro power corridor received a setback last week when a provincial commission called for an environmental study. Dr. O. Solandt, commissioned by the Government to inquire into the transmission of power from Nanticoke to Pickering, said the three routes suggested by Hydro may all be rejected.

The one man commission's preliminary report recommended that a study be conducted by a neutral party that would emphasize environmental concern.

The Government also accepted

the preliminary report and the Hon. Bert Lawrence, Provincial Secretary of the Resources Development insisted he wanted the extended study to be completed within months.

Dr. Solandt said: "there are credible alternatives to the routes already presented. I haven't gone into them because this would further confuse the issue but the chances of finding a better route are so high I think we ought to look at it again."

Much rejoicing

Those who had opposed the power line corridor from this area, rejoiced.

The line proposed by Ontario Hydro would have arched over the scenic Niagara Escarpment at Terra Cotta and then marched parallel to the Erin-Esqueving Town Line into Eramosa township before cutting diagonally through Nassagaweya

into Puslinch township on its way to Nanticoke on Lake Erie. Other subsidiary lines were also planned for Esqueving.

Several homes in the district would have been demolished to make way for the corridor. Many farms would have been affected by the line.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hoey, R. R. 1, Moffat, expressed delight with the Solandt Commission's conclusions. Her farm would have been cluttered with the tall towers and she felt the rural environment she so prizes would have been affected by their presence.

The Barns family, another Nassagaweya property affected, also showed particular delight in the decision.

G. I. Symmes, spokesman for the Coalition of Concerned Citizens, was reported to have

bullied the decision as important as the Spadina Expressway stop order. He said the report was a "significant step" toward saving as much of the Niagara Escarpment as possible from further blights.

Dr. Solandt recommended that Bruce Howlett, a U.S. planning expert accepted as an expert by both groups opposing the corridor and Ontario Hydro, be commissioned to make the newest study. Both Mr. Symmes and George Gathercole, chairman of Ontario Hydro, said they would give support to the Howlett group.

But Mr. Gathercole warned, however, that if construction of the hydro towers was delayed beyond next June it was doubtful all power needs could be met. He said the present delay will necessitate some stop-gap measures, but would be ready to

consider corridor sites other than those already planned by Hydro.

Dr. Solandt suggested the Howlett study should put the primary emphasis on environmental factors in key areas such as the crossing of the Niagara escarpment in making the route selection. He said the aim is not to choose what is theoretically the best route but to choose a good route along which the line can be built quickly with the minimum of environmental damage and local opposition.

Meanwhile the Hon. Bert Lawrence said the Government would be pressing Dr. Solandt to have his next report ready quickly and added that the government's concern in the matter showed Mr. Davis and his cabinet were listening to opinions from the grass roots.

Estimated cost of the additional study were set at between \$100,000 and \$200,000.



RESIDENTS ALONG Bower Avenue were startled this week when a full grown raccoon joined the people on the block asking for hand-outs. They notified the dog catcher who is to see Mr. Coon lands back in his own neck of the woods. George De Vries flushed him out of a depression beside the home of Mrs. Sam Holmes, Bower Ave., for this picture. The coon made only token resistance and soon forgot his dislike of being picked up when offered a tid-bit. —H. Coles Photo

Tomorrow clerk-administrator Joe Hurst—a man of many talents and duties—will put on another hat and become returning officer. He'll be ready and waiting to accept nominations for 13 town positions under the brand new provincial electoral system.

He has been poring over instructions getting all the facts on the new standardized election and preparing for both the two-year municipal vote and the town's first liquor vote.

No longer is there a smoky nomination meeting in town, when the town clerk would accept nominations from the floor for an hour or so, chalking them up on a big blackboard for the sometimes sparse audience.

Declaration of intent

Those wishing to run for office now go to the clerk's office where they will make a declaration of intention. As well, each candidate will submit the signatures and addresses of 10 nominators.

(Candidates are advised to have more than 10 names on their list, as a safeguard in case someone is disqualified.)

Nominations will be received for the positions of mayor, reeve, deputy-reeve and six members of council, and four hydro-electric commission members.

Three days

There are three days for nominations, this Thursday and Friday and next Monday, ending at 5 p.m.

Election day is the same now throughout Ontario for all municipalities—Monday, Dec. 4. Voting hours are the 10-11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Each municipality has two advance polls, Mon., Nov. 27 and Sat., Dec. 2.

Proxy voting is available for students away at school, those with medical reasons and those with certain categories of work such as transportation. The person wishing the proxy vote must apply at the town office, and the person voting for him or her must be qualified.

Record number

More people than ever before are eligible to vote in Acton. First of all, those over 18 may cast their ballots for the municipal offices for the first time.

As well, the voting franchise has been extended to all tenants—with the exception of a money-by-law. You no longer have to own property to vote for councillors, school trustees or hydro commissioners.

Present councillors already have their nomination papers. Mayor Duby, who will be attending a Voice in Government conference in Toronto later this week, has his paper with nominators all ready to go.

Almost all present council members are expecting to take in papers.

The clerk will check each paper as it comes in, dating and timing it exactly. He will also check the names of nominators.

The forms are available to anyone at the town office.

If a person lets his name stand for more than one office and doesn't withdraw before the deadline Monday, he'll be deemed to be running for the position he was first nominated for.

Post lists

The names, occupations, addresses and offices sought by candidates will be posted in the town office as soon as possible after they are processed so candidates may see where things stand. Clerk-administrator Joe Hurst is wondering if he might need the big blackboard he used

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Defer Acton postal code until advent letter carriers

Canada's new six-digit "alpha-numeric" code won't be introduced in Acton and district until letter carrier service is established, postmaster Gordon McKeown told the Free Press this week.

Although the new postal code is being introduced all around, in smaller and larger offices, it was decided to defer the change in Acton because it is expected letter carrier service will begin in 1973.

Mr. McKeown said introducing the postal code now would only mean a complete change when the letter carrier service starts, so deferring it until then would save duplication and discourage confusion.

The new postal code will be introduced in the Central Ontario Postal district, of which the Acton office is a part, in the near future.

It was first introduced in Ottawa in April 1971, and The

Financial Post reports it is getting a mixed reception there. "Large corporations like it. Secretaries detest it. The average citizen does not use it. Still it is estimated that 52 percent of all the mail handled in Ottawa now carries the six-digit designation."



ELAINE MITCHELL

Ajax sign contract

United Steelworkers Local 7515 employees at the Ajax Engineering plant will receive hourly wage increases ranging from 69 to 80 cents, increased sick pay and life insurance benefits and a paid holiday on Remembrance Day beginning in 1973 under the terms of a new three year contract with the company.

Twenty employees, who had begun a legal strike against the company September 22 returned to work Thursday, October 26, after the union membership ratified the new contract.

The wage increases will bring the hourly base rate up to \$3.45 in 1974 and the hourly rate for the top job classification up to \$4.16.

The contract calls for weekly sick pay to be increased from \$65 to \$85 with waiting period time cut in half and life insurance coverage to be increased by \$2000. The contract is retroactive to July 2, 1972.

No rest for MP O'Connor learns

By Bob Burt

It didn't take long for Terry O'Connor to realize the life of a member of parliament is a hectic and sometimes painful one. Last Tuesday it was 5:30 a.m. before O'Connor and his troops retired for the night after celebrating his victory at the polls. A short three hours later O'Connor was faced with his first unemployment insurance problem.

That was O'Connor's first constituent problem to settle and the new Halton MP's phone has been ringing ever since. In an effort to provide better service O'Connor has announced he'll set up riding offices in four or five locations in the riding.

O'Connor was critical of the Liberals for not relinquishing the government and their current attitude. "They misinterpreted their programs. They don't feel responsible for what has happened but feel it was all a mistake."

"A number of people Rud Whiting was helping have called me at his suggestion. They've told me that Rud has said I'll make a fine member and help them with problems. It was great of him to say that. He doesn't have to, you know."

"Black tie" for dinner

Invitation to the warden's dinner indicating "black tie" puzzled councillor Earl Masales Tuesday, who wondered if the only way he could get in this year would be to rent formal clothes?

Reeve Oakes promised to enquire from Warden Swanborough just what is required.

Invest in tie

"Just buy a black tie," advised Councillor Elliott.

"In the interests of decency I don't think you should just wear the black tie," Councillor Marks observed primly.

Deputy-reeve McKenzie said since all councillors should attend the annual dinner he couldn't imagine dress requirements preventing anyone from going.

Nursing graduate

Elaine M. Mitchell, (formerly Johnson) daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Johnson, R.R. 4, Acton, has received word that she successfully passed her registered Nurses Exam.

She is a Nurse at Peel Memorial Hospital, Brampton and a graduate of Perth Huron School of Nursing, Stratford. She attended Robert Little School and Acton High School Acton.

Send Acton rep to GO meeting

Desire for GO train service from Acton to Toronto prompted council's ready acceptance of a suggestion to have an Acton representative attend joint Georgetown-Esqueving meetings on the upcoming service. To be discussed is the location for overnight parking for the trains.

Deputy-reeve G. W. McKenzie suggested Tuesday the Acton representative should try to promote the parking yard in Guelph. Then Acton would be bound to get GO train service right away.

Look to Guelph

Mayor Duby said he was glad the Georgetown and Esqueving people wanted to have Acton

involved, and recalled the original request was for service from Guelph. Acton was not able to guarantee enough passengers, but perhaps Guelph will put on pressure.

Councillor Elliott foresees Acton becoming even more of a dormitory town and felt interest in Acton will soon be greater than ever.

The mayor explained the present commuter train will be discontinued and a bus will pick up passengers at Guelph, Rockwood and Acton.

Sidewalks repairs are under way in town, following authorization by council.

Approve aerial mapping

Aerial mapping of land under consideration for annexation was approved by council Tuesday night. The recommendation had come from planning board.

There are about 800 acres to be mapped with cost estimated at \$450 for the fly, \$350 for ground control and \$1.50 an acre for mapping.

R. V. Anderson Associates will do the mapping.

No truss in sight

The man on the phone from Cooksville was indignant.

"Your service is too slow," he complained. "Cancel my hernia support. I'll get one in Toronto where the service is better."

Then he hung up.

The Free Press has been accused of lack of support for the Liberals, the P.C.s and N.D.P., but it is the first time this newspaper has failed to support anyone's hernia during an election.

Future calls of this nature will be turned over to our hand aid man who knows more about these problems than the editor or receptionist.

Anne dreams of warden's chair

Mrs. Anne MacArthur, Reeve of Nassagaweya, announced this week she would contest the election for Warden of Halton County if she is successful in being re-elected reeve in the township.

"I'm not prepared to lobby for the position but I'm willing to outline my views to other members of county council," she declared in making her announcement. The Warden is elected by members of County Council which includes the reeve and deputy reeve of each municipality in the county.

The Nassagaweya Reeve emphasized she would be prepared to "go to bat" for the region after it is formed and she would certainly maintain pressure "to insure that the County of Halton doesn't get an expensive setup".

Mrs. MacArthur has been a member of County Council for four years during which she served as chairman of the Museum Board, personnel committee and Board of Health. In addition to service on every committee of the county she has been a member of the Halton Region Conservation Authority for five years and has also served as a director of the Central Ontario Regional Development Council.



Reeve A. MacArthur



NEWLY ELECTED Halton M.P. Terry O'Connor received a helping hand at Sunday's junior hockey game opening ceremonies from two pretty members of the Sabre booster club Diane Timbers and Karen Pierce. (Photo by D. Gibbons)

Rud leans back

Former MP Rud Whiting formally ended his four year tenure as Halton's member of parliament when he cleaned out his office in preparation for his successor. In a telephone interview the former MP said he would take a holiday for a couple of days and then sit down and consider his future. He has received three or four offers of work.

He said he had made no decision concerning his future but would do so soon. "We're going to go away and rest and talk for a few days, then come back and decide."

Asked if he would plan to seek the candidacy if an election were called in a year or two years' time, Whiting suggested that he would not likely contest the nomination.

Think of family

"I'm 42 now and I have to think of my family and myself. I've enjoyed all aspects of being a member; I really loved it but there isn't much security there."

Whiting was defeated by PC candidate Terry O'Connor by 2,000 votes. He was one of 27 Ontario Liberals who lost their seats during the election last week.