

Ottawa Report

by Terry O'Connor — Halton MP



Redistribution, the scourge of all politicians, has struck again. Members of Parliament, to have won election have come to understand the history, loyalties and problems of the people of a defined piece of Canada. More important the people are familiar with their Member, his capabilities and accessibility. The disruption of this arrangement as little as possible seems desirable from both points of view.

However, the more important requirements of maintaining approximate equality of riding populations across the country, thus insuring representation by population, overrides these considerations. Redistribution, necessary to take into account shifts in growth and decreases in population occurs every 10 years, following our decennial census.

Cut in half
Proposed changes for Halton riding announced last week are drastic. The riding would be cut in half along Hwy. 401, and the southern portion, to be called "Oakville", would gain Streetsville and some surrounding Mississauga territory.

But, the North, including Georgetown, Acton, Erin and Esquesing would be lumped together with everything from Caledon on the East, West and East Luther and Mono Townships on the north and Maryborough Township in Wellington County on the West, into the new riding of "Wellington-Dufferin".

This conglomeration of townships and towns seem to make little sense. They don't share a common geography, a single large central population centre, or similar history on problems. It would cut across and include parts of four counties, obliterating former county boundaries.

It appears to be what was left over after the boundaries of homogeneous units like Oakville, Peel, Guelph, and the Perth ridings were decided.

Should go north
It would seem to me that if Oakville and Milton alone were not large enough for a single riding, this new riding should not have been extended into Peel, an extremely fast-growing suburban area. The extension should have been north, perhaps along the

lines of the present Halton East provincial riding. The name and county affiliations of Halton could have been preserved.

The task of the Commissionaires is a tough one and I can sympathize with them. Any change in any one riding would likely require changes in a large number of surrounding ones. Push down one domino and they all go.

The Commission will be holding public meetings in Toronto on Feb. 3, to hear representations from interested persons. If anyone or any group of people wish to attend, let me know prior to Jan. 7 and I will assist with preparation and filing of material.

Some random thoughts — the name of Halton is an historic one, having been a federal riding since Confederation. It's a shame it could not be retained — I don't know whether Streetsville and Milton will be too happy to be known as the riding of Oakville.

If you have a problem, idea, comment, criticism, or if you simply wish to get in touch with me please stop by or call my Riding office at 325 Lakeshore Road East, Oakville 844-0222.

New dam proposed

An earthfill dam on the Robertson Forest Tract in Nassagaweya Township may be built by the Ministry of Natural Resources. The Robertson Tract is located near the Fourth Line and Ten Sideroad.

The Ministry says a dam in the area would create an excellent waterfowl habitat and would enhance the aesthetic value of the property. According to Ministry plans, the dam would flood an area of approximately 60 acres to a depth varying from one to five feet.

Don't want hunting

Both Nassagaweya and Halton County Councils have approved the project. However Nassagaweya Council strongly opposes the idea of permitting hunting in the area.

Funds are presently available for the project and work could begin in the very near future, according to W. R. Catton, division manager with the Ministry. Provincial approval will have to be obtained before the project can begin.

Anne MacArthur

(Continued from Page 1)

Esquesing — one from each of the seven Halton municipalities.

Returnees are Reeves Bob McCuaig of Milton, Pat McKenzie of Acton, Tom Hill of Esquesing, Anne MacArthur of Nassagaweya, Ric Morrow of Georgetown, Allan Masson of Oakville and Deputy Reeve David Coons of Burlington.

Mrs. MacArthur served three years as a councillor and was acclaimed Deputy Reeve in 1968. In 1969 she was elevated to the township's top post when Reeve William Hoey died during his term of office.

Victor Borge: "If the good Lord had intended us to watch TV, He'd have given us square eyeballs."

—Forrest Duke, Las Vegas Review Journal

Mayor, M.P.s aim darts . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

There is little community of interest. In the past the only communities Acton has had anything in common with were Erin and Eramosa townships and the proposed redistribution was unlikely to change this.

The Acton mayor said the electoral boundaries readjustment commission can justify the proposed changes on the basis of population but in his opinion they have been too rigid. He found it difficult to understand how any Member of Parliament could relate to the region of Wellington-Dufferin with its varied interests and differences.

He felt there would have to be some adjustment of boundaries following February hearings.

Halton M.P. Terry O'Connor charged that the proposed changes for North Halton were drastic, and the conglomeration of townships and towns seem to make little sense. They don't share a common geography, have no single large population centre or similar history or problems.

O'Connor says the new riding appears to be left over from Oakville, Peel and Guelph.

Wellington M.P. Alf Hales shares some of the same sentiments as O'Connor. He says people in Eramosa

township are going to be upset about the changes since they are oriented towards Guelph for shopping and other services. He believes the commission could have achieved the necessary balance of population by leaving Eramosa in with Guelph and putting East Flamborough and Waterdown, which are oriented towards Hamilton, in a Hamilton area riding.

Hales said he thought the riding of Guelph could be contained within Wellington boundaries by adding either Eramosa or Erin. Erin township was added to the Halton riding in the last adjustment of boundaries.

Participation by public urged in new study of hydro lines

The Solandt Commission is urging participation by the public, municipal planners and officials in the study on the proposed Nanticoke to Pickering power transmission line being conducted by Bruce Howlett Inc.

The object of the study is to provide advice to the commission on the best possible route for the 500 kv line.

Dr. Solandt defined the scope of the new study in a letter to the Honourable Allan Lawrence noting that in making the route selection the primary emphasis must be given to environmental factors in key areas such as the crossing of the Niagara Escarpment. In other areas the balance will be different but in all cases the environmental, social and economic factors must be considered.

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. The study will also consider whether it is advisable to have five lines abreast, and if so, whether they should be included in a larger joint use utility corridor or whether it

would be wiser to distribute the lines between two or more corridors.

Line nearby
Ontario Hydro's original proposals for the lines would have seen a row of towers five abreast marching through Terra Cotta and then following a straight line through the lower ends of Erin, and Eramosa townships before they bisected the northern end of Nassagaweya township.

The main line would have been joined by another auxiliary north-south corridor near Ballinfad and then stretched south through some of Esquesing's best farm land to a point at Drumquin. In its northerly route to the Bruce power station the smaller corridor would also affect several Erin township farms.

When the Solandt Commission determined further study was necessary before a decision could be reached on the route, the consulting services of Bruce Howlett, Inc., of Nanuet, N.Y., were retained to undertake the new study.

The area covered by the study will include not only the so-called "Middle Route" recommended

by Ontario Hydro, but also any promising alternatives.

It is important therefore, says Dr. Solandt, that participation by the public and by municipal planners and officials should not be limited just to those who were affected by the original Hydro route, since Mr. Howlett will be examining many alternate routes, and might well recommend a completely different route.

It is intended that a major part of the study take the form of an "open planning approach", the success of which depends on achieving the maximum informed public participation.

To this end, Mr. Howlett, as the study consultant, will be holding a series of open monthly meetings, intended for those to whom the proposed route should be of interest. These meetings will be informal working sessions and considerable discussion is anticipated and welcomed.

Second meeting
Second of these meetings will be held on Thursday, January 4, 1973, from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1.15 p.m. to 3.30 p.m., in the Ontario Room of the MacDonald Block, Queen's Park, Toronto. At this time, Mr. Howlett will outline the progress made to date, presentations will be made by Ontario Hydro and study

guidelines will be reviewed under general discussion.

Formerly Associate Director of the (U.S.) Hudson River Valley Commission, Mr. Howlett has had over twenty years experience in comprehensive planning and urban development, with emphasis on studies of the environment and the conflicts of urban growth and economic development. Among his recent consulting assignments are included transmission line and power plant siting studies, and a research program to mesh electric system planning with environmental planning.

During the anticipated six-month period of the study, Mr. Howlett will have offices in Toronto.

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Jim Teter tells about the football widow who says her husband wouldn't leave the TV set to look at her until she got a nightgown made out of Astroturf.
—Elston Brooks, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Says Olsen Park Pete about some of this modern art: "Surely things can't be as bad as they're painted."
—Wes Izzard, Amarillo Daily News

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