

# Councillors, ratepayers clash over hydro corridor

The proposed 500 KV hydro corridor generates strong emotions in Eramosa township.

Oil and water do not mix. When it comes to hydro lines the old and the new residents of the township don't always have the same opinions either.

A stormy session Tuesday night at the township council meeting confirmed this with deputy reeve Duncan McPhedran and neighbor Howard Donnell tangling with Joe De Grandis, who said a letter which the township council fired off to the Solandt Commission's environmental consultant, Bruce Howlett, was contradictory and suggested council had not given it much thought.

This contradicted the testimony of Mr. Donnell, who said he supported the letter but opposed a statement Mr. De Grandis had made in the Free Press which he alleged showed two residents,

which included him, favored bringing the hydro corridor into Eramosa township.

Later both Mr. De Grandis and Mr. Donnell stated they had never seen the letter and had to rely on hearsay for their information, although both seemed to have a good grasp of its contents.

Mr. De Grandis maintained that the letter suggested that hydro should consider using the original route they proposed from east to west when the Howlett submission only asked for recommendation for one of the alternative routes. He said the original lie route had been "scrapped" and it was useless to speculate on it being reintroduced.

But Mr. Donnell reported two officials of Hydro had told him that if the Howlett alternatives did not suit them, they would likely reintroduce the original

route. He was more inclined to believe Hydro than the BHI.

Follow 401? Mr. De Grandis maintained also that most people in Eramosa township wanted the hydro to follow 401 Highway and he could supply the names and acreage involved of those who agree. The letter, he said, was contradictory. It read,

"Dear Mr. Howlett, "The Reeve, Warren Parkinson, after consultation with members of the Eramosa Township Council, has instructed me to inform you that the said council would be agreeable that the proposed hydro line should follow System Q, i.e. along 401 Highway.

"The Eramosa Township Council with the exception of Councillor Clark, would prefer the original proposals of the hydro line as proposed by the majority of affected land owners and disturbs less of our good green belt

acres used by bonafide farmers. "This council is concerned with the proposed hydro connecting routes and request they be kept informed on such routes and any generating station built in the area."

Mr. De Grandis said the second paragraph contradicted the first, which pumped for the 401 route. Mr. Donnell replied he wanted the original route as opposed to any others BHI had for the area. It took in the farms which were not productive, agreed deputy reeve Duncan McPhedran, who authored the letter, and also suggested Mr. De Grandis had lines moved from his property by using pressure.

Mr. De Grandis said naturally he did not want the lines on his property but had used only the means open to anyone who wanted to fill out the maps and mark spots where the lines should skirt.

The deputy reeve said he had been in the township 57 years and felt someone like Mr. De Grandis, a relative newcomer, was not the right one to speak for the township.

Not a Mayflower De Grandis replied he had been in the township 10 years and pointed out the maps the same as he had done. Reeve Warren Parkinson suggested that if everyone had done this the route of the line would never be settled.

There are better places to put the hydro line, replied De Grandis, and this was the reason the Solandt commission had hired the environmental planners to aid them. But the deputy reeve said groups such as the Coalition of Concerned Citizens were only giving Hydro trouble and could cause a power shortage in the province.

De Grandis retorted that the

Premier would not have allowed the delay if the danger was present.

"Besides, the only thing I am questioning is the letter," he said. The exchange got more heated as McPhedran said groups of people such as De Grandis represented could cause a food shortage by denying farmers electricity to produce food.

Best for township At this point in the discussion Councillor Betty Lou Clark reminded all in the discussion that all wanted the best for the township and that she personally thought the letter was ambiguous because it left out a phrase. She said it should have said, "If the power lines must come into the township" then the township council favored the original route.

She told the quarrelling participants that the issue was bigger. Continued on Page 3



MAKING ice cream sundaes and sodas will be only a memory next week for Acton restaurateur Tom Watson and wife Rene. The Watsons have sold their business to Paul Kotsopoulos of Toronto, who officially moves in Saturday morning. Watson's Dairy Bar has been operated by the Watson family since 1945. Tom's father Perry bought it from Tony Seynuck and the restaurant has been run in partnership by Tom and his mother Mrs. Perry Watson since 1949.

(D. Gibbons photo)

After 28 years

## Watson's Restaurant changes ownership

The Watson name will remain but the Watsons are going east. That's the situation, as Tom and Rene Watson spend the last three days of 28 years as proprietors of Watson's Restaurant.

The Watsons have sold their well-known Mill St. business to Paul Kotsopoulos of Toronto, who officially takes over Saturday morning.

Once the only restaurant on Highway 7 between Toronto and London open on Sunday, Watson's has become more than just an eating place over the years. Local businessmen have made it their unofficial headquarters for mid-morning coffee gatherings, when everything from the price of the coffee to faults of the Prime Minister are debated on a friendly basis.

No blows "Nobody ever came to blows. We've had a few walk out mad, but they've been back," says Tom, who never shied away from any of the gab sessions.

Watson's longest outstanding customer, Tom recalls, was Bill Finley, who "ate here five days a week, 50 weeks a year for 20 years, while he was working at Beardmore's."

F. L. "Fred" Wright, one of Acton's oldest citizens has also been a regular diner. Purchased by Tom's father, Perry, with funds supplied by Tom in 1945, the restaurant has been operated in partnership by Tom and his mother Mrs. Perry Watson since 1949. Mrs. Watson retired in November. Previous owners of the restaurant were Tony Seynuck (1928-45) and Vic Rumley (1923-28).

The restaurant has undergone three complete renovations during the 28 year period. Cooking

### Playground

Acton's summer playground will wind up with the annual parade and program tomorrow (Thursday) night. The parade will leave the community centre at 7 and proceed to Robert Little school, where each age group will perform a play.

All day long the fire brigade had worked diligently. The Carney building had been demolished but special effort had to be applied to keep the fire from moving into the adjacent one owned by Bill and Ivy Ritchie of Eden Mills.

The slightest wind would have fanned the blaze and taken it into the attached apartment house which was separated only by a fire wall which had been built in a time when that particular portion of the building had been the original village bank.

The fire had been stopped by the double cement block wall. As a special precaution, the local fire department will stay around and get it going again.

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# The Acton Free Press

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## E.M.O. image outdated Co-ordinator declares

Even though the concept of Emergency Measures Organization has changed drastically since the last war the image hasn't kept pace with the change.

According to Bill McCreary who was recently appointed to the position of EMO co-ordinator for Halton County people still hold visions of men hustling around with tin hats and respirators and hundreds of volunteers coming out of the

woodwork at the push of a button. McCreary who replaces Ron Beattie comes to Halton from Brant County where he served as deputy co-ordinator.

One of McCreary's problems will be convincing elected officials and the general public that EMO in fact is of some real value to the county. Because of the outdated concept most people relate to EMO the value is often questioned and sometimes scoffed at.

On a number of occasions in recent years county councillors faced the question about continuing the operation or declaring it of little value and disbanding the operation. After investigation and discussion on each occasion the program was given a vote of confidence and continued.

In London elected officials apparently with the same doubts and questions as expressed by Halton politicians finally decided they could get along nicely without the program and discontinued it. They brought the program in once again, after a short absence. McCreary indicates that the very fact it was reintroduced in London and survived several attacks in Halton indicates there is some

Make plans McCreary suggests a committee representing all or some of the above agencies along with an elected official will be responsible for implementing the plans in times of disaster.

A plan would set out who should be contacted and what services are available as far as various forms of help and accommodation. The plan would give elected officials the legal power to act in time of disaster once a by-law is passed. As it is now there is very little that can be done by an elected official in time of emergency McCreary indicated.

While McCreary notes the biggest emphasis of EMO will be on peace time emergency he indicated some attention is put on preparations for war time.



BILL McCREARY assumed his role as EMO Co-ordinator for Halton County recently. He replaced Ron Beattie who held the post for about one year. (Photo by B. Burt)

## Grader strikes car three suffer cuts

Three persons were treated for cuts at the Glenlea clinic early Friday morning following a collision between a road grader and a car at the intersection of Eastern Ave. and Queen St.

The grader driven by Clarence Klooster of Erin was making a right hand turn from Queen St. on to Eastern Ave. when it struck a car driven by Brian Canary, 33 Kingham Rd., Acton which was slowing down as it approached a stop sign. The left front tire of the grader struck the left side of the vehicle.

Mr. Canary and two passengers in the car, Barbara Canary and Brian Canary Jr. were taken by a passing motorist to the Glenlea clinic. Police estimated damage to the Canary car at \$500. There was no

damage to the grader, which belongs to Warren Bitulthick Co. No charges were laid.

### Herb paddles his own canoe

There's nothing like cleaning up on a holiday.

Ask Herb Dodds, well known local businessman, who is spending a vacation on Wood Lake, near Bracebridge. Herb won a 16 foot fibreglass canoe at a lucky draw in the Wood Lake Regatta, Sunday.

It turned out he also had bought the ticket from himself. This entitled him also to a pair of very good field binoculars as a reward.



THE GUTTED-OUT insides of the R & M Shopette variety store living quarters is seen here as smoke continues to puff three hours after the blaze was reportedly started. (Photo by Lorraine)

## Hint Acton garbage free

Metro works commissioner Ross Clark's statement this week that Metro executive is no longer considering sites in the Acton area for sanitary disposal, combined with Environment Minister James Auld's recommendation that three sanitary landfill sites in Pickering township be approved makes it appear at least for the moment that Acton area residents may be free of worry about Metro garbage coming here.

Auld announced that the waste management branch of the Department would recommend the Liverpool site in Pickering for immediate use on the basis of technical data. He said the branch will report on the Brock South and Brock North sites within a month, when complete technical data is available. The department is still concerned about the Brock North site's proximity to the proposed Pickering airport, he said.

Metro must still receive approval from the Ontario Municipal Board, before it can develop any site for landfill purposes.

W. A. "Bill" Johnson, chairman of G.U.A.R.D., a committee formed in the North Halton area following Indusmin's announcement that it planned to apply for a permit to operate a sanitary landfill site in worked-out quarries on the Third Line, has said he will physically support any opposition to the establishment of landfill sites for Metro garbage in rural areas, if it is necessary.

Indusmin spokesman Gerry Borud expressed the opinion in a telephone interview with the Free Press this week that Metro is now committed to take its garbage via the C.P.R. route to a landfill site near Port Hope.

Regarding the Indusmin proposal he had this to say.

"It's dormant. I don't see any

## Robbie Parker host C.B.C.

After working in Newfoundland for four years, broadcaster Robert (Robbie) Parker, 30, an Acton native, will return to Toronto to host Up Canada!, CBC-TV replacement for Weekend, the network's Sunday night special.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Parker, Park Ave., Acton, Robert was born and educated in Acton. He worked for the CBC news two years before switching to CTV for a year.

The new 30 minute program will be aired in October with a time slot at 10 p.m. Tuesdays. Investigative reporting in a "cheeky, irreverent style" is to be the program's format.

## Erin man drowns

An accidental drowning late Sunday afternoon claimed the life of an Erin township man, 51-year-old James William Swackhamer. The drowning occurred at Mr. Swackhamer's residence on the Fifth Line at Lot 16.

Guelph O.P.P. were called the scene by Steve Armstrong, R.R. 2 Hillsburg who was at the Swackhamer home. Mr. Swackhamer was taken to Guelph General Hospital, but was dead on arrival. Police were called about 4:30.

The drowning is still under investigation by Guelph O.P.P.

sense in forcing the issue. We are still awaiting the hydrologists' report we were supposed to have by the end of April." Mr. Clark made his statement in a radio interview.

## Fire leaves Rockwood building a shell

The finger of disaster touched down once more on Rockwood this weekend when a fire which began in the basement of the R & M Shopette Variety Store on Main Street completely demolished one of the village's finest buildings and ravenously consumed the livelihood of the Ron Short family.

As a result of the blaze two families are homeless and three other families in adjoining apartments are temporarily out of a place to live.

The Short and Pinder families are homeless while Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Racola, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Ripley and Mrs. Lottie (Grandma) Nightingale have had to find other accommodation. The Racolas were vacationing in Nova Scotia and were summoned by phone. They are staying with fire chief Carl Meadows' family.

The fire started, apparently from spontaneous combustion, early Sunday morning forcing the Short family into the street.

Awaking at approximately 5:50 a.m. Sunday morning to discover smoke in the bedroom coming from downstairs Mrs. Short immediately awakened her husband and their three children

Kathy, Lee Anne, and Ronnie, as well as daughter Gayle and husband Tom Pinder, living in a separate apartment of the same building.

According to Mrs. Short, smoke in the downstairs area of the house was already profuse "Like a sheet had been drawn down" she recalled.

With the exception of one pair of trousers which her husband had pulled on and a pair of his shoes grabbed on the way down stairs, the family was able to escape with nothing more than the nightclothes they had been wearing, to stand outside their store and watch the smoke seep through the foundation up to the ground as they awaited the arrival of the fire department.

The alert had been phoned in to the Rockwood-Eramosa brigade at approximately 6 a.m. by Tom

Pinder who had had to use a neighbour's phone as home wires had been burned. By the time the firemen had arrived at 6:10 am the fire was well advanced.

Spontaneous combustion had, apparently, started the blaze in the basement sometime earlier than 5 a.m. The blaze had worked its way well into the walls of the building.

Small explosions Smouldering for almost an hour, spectators were certain the fire had been quelled. A series of small explosions, sounding like cannon shells, kept popping as cans of cleaners, hair sprays and other sealed cans, burst with the intensity of the heat.

About 7:15 am flames lasting a period of half an hour began licking the walls breaking through the roof at a height of some 25 feet and, by 9 a.m. the inside of the building had been completely gutted. Only a shell remained; not one stick of furniture, clothing, or chattels had been saved with the exception of one pair of men's trousers, a pair of shoes, customer account

books, and a cash register along with a few sundry items from the front of the store.

The gracious old home built in 1906 by George Laurence as a tailor shop and store representing the retirement income of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Carney had demolished two years of good will, business effort, stock and equipment plus household belongings of a young family, completely wiped out as the belongings of the Short family who had moved into the community from Guelph to take over from Nancy's Variety.

The R & M Shopette had been building up into one of the village's most lucrative businesses. From 9 am to 10 pm the variety store had catered to the daytime and after-hour needs of many villagers with extra groceries, milk, and other items always procurable at later hours of the day. Already residents are noticing the necessity of immediate replacement of the little store. People are hoping that the Shorts will stay around and get it going again.

Damage to the building and household contents has been estimated at \$85,000 but beautiful circular staircases, mouldings, and woodwork are irreplaceable. Dated china, turrim, glassware, and family heirlooms, savings of generations can never be replaced and the Shorts lost all their along with personal family pictures and records.

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