

"You never get caught up" says O'Connor

A member of parliament's work is never finished, Halton's new MP Terry O'Connor finds. "You're always on the brink of sliding," he says, "you never get caught up."

Working weekdays from 8.30 in the morning to 11.00 at night during the seven month session of parliament which finished last month, O'Connor was impressed with the tremendous amount of committee work and the number of projects into which party leaders try to recruit new MPs. But experience as an executive assistant to a Queen's Park cabinet minister taught him a member has to create his own priorities, schedule time for each and stick to them.

Before going to Ottawa, O'Connor decided 30 to 40 per cent of his time should be devoted to constituency work. Solving riding problems and acting as a communications link with the government, he found he had to become an expert on all 26 federal departments and be able to advise constituents about the programs and policies of each. He investigated delayed passports, advised farmers and businessmen of loans available, and toured British Columbia harbors looking for techniques and ideas applicable to the

development of Burlington and Oakville waterfronts.

Wiretap bill
But since parliament has only 264 members to run a country of 21 million, O'Connor decided a balance between riding and national business had to be achieved. Thus, with his background as a lawyer, he secured a position on the parliamentary justice and legal affairs committee, and worked on the drafting of Canada's first wiretap legislation. Progressive Conservative party leader Robert Stanfield asked him to become the opposition critic on the Canada-U.S. Auto Pact, as well as continuing the election expenses policy work he began for the Conservative party three years ago.

In his work on national issues the Halton MP was struck by the "air of superficiality" he found in the House of Commons. Some legislation, he thought, was pushed through too quickly, without sufficient time for careful scrutiny. Rejection of amendments to the wiretap bill he proposed in committee was due partly to government desire to get the bill through and into third reading, and partly to negligence on the part of the Conservative house whip and

other PC committee members. O'Connor had argued police should be given permission to wiretap only by a provincial attorney-general, in order to avoid "judge shopping" and

corruption of the justice system. But Liberal members of the committee banded together to push through the bill as it had been presented by the government, providing wiretap per-

mission granted by magistrates. With Conservative committee members absent the amendments were rejected by a close 7-7 vote.

As policy
O'Connor plans to raise the matter again in the fall session of the House when the bill comes up for third reading. The changes will this time be presented as a Conservative party policy and O'Connor will seek support from the NDP.

The "superficial air" criticized by O'Connor also included disillusionment at the unbusinesslike attitude taken by some members of the Commons. Many of the postures and stances taken by MPs on issues are motivated by political gain rather than actual concern, he said. Questionable motivation is found among both new and veteran members of parliament. "There are some

who are old and useless, and some who are young and useless," O'Connor says. "Trying to be everything to everybody is the greatest frustration of his work, he finds. Constituents expect him to be in both Halton and Ottawa at once, and he often misses persons seeking his help and has to turn down speaking engagements. Most of his riding work is done on weekends, when he comes home from Ottawa. Public functions and appointments in his riding office fill both Saturday and Sunday, except Sunday morning which is the one period he reserves for his family. They'll have a little more time together now, though, during a two-week holiday in the cottage.

But by the beginning of September Terry O'Connor will be back on "the brink of sliding" again.



HALTON'S MP Terry O'Connor is home working in the riding after seven months in Ottawa. During his first session of parliament he discovered a member of parliament's work is never finished. (Photo by P. Ford)

Review refusal building permit

Esqueving Council will reconsider in committee its decision to refuse Englebert Steiner permission to build a house on an unopened road allowance on the west half of Lot 5, Con. 4.

Steiner appeared at Monday night's council meeting with his wife and reminded members there are already four houses built on the road allowance.

Established road
Mrs. Steiner said she assumed the road allowance was now an established road because of this. The township building by-law requires builders to have 125 feet frontage on an established township road.

She said the lot had been approved by the building inspector and that it had also received Health Unit sanction after 70 truckloads of fill were brought in to raise the land level.

Reeve Tom Hill said he couldn't see any difference in letting the Steiners build on the road when others have already done it.

township a penny. If you people want the township to maintain it, you must bring it up to standard though," the reeve said.

Disagree
Councillor George Maltby disagreed.

"There are 100 pieces of property in this township which because there's not sufficient road allowance should not be built on, because of the present by-law," he said.

Maltby pointed out that the by-law says "established and maintained."

"We don't maintain it," he reminded the Steiners.

"I voted that you should not have this permit with a great deal of regret, but I still can't say I'd change my opinion on it," Maltby continued.

Councillor Wilfred Leslie noted that there are five houses on the road already.

"What difference is six going to make?" he concluded.

Deputy-reeve Len Cox said he would have to stand by the by-law.

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"BARGAINS BY THE YARD"

Residents dissatisfied with 22 sideroad

Esqueving council heard two residents of 22 Sideroad, east of Highway 7, complain about the condition of the road at a regular meeting last Tuesday.

Gerald O'Reilly and Ben Case represented people living along the township road claiming gravel carrying trucks from nearby Wheeler's pit was causing pot holes and flying dust on the blway.

Mr. O'Reilly said Calcium Chloride had helped alleviate some of the problem and asked if the township had the equipment to do it.

Reeve Tom Hill indicated there was a ditcher behind the works garage.

"Will it be preserved for posterity," quipped O'Reilly.

Deputy-reeve Len Cox indicated to the delegation that the township was currently carrying on a ditching program but had not yet reached the 22 Sideroad.

Reeve Hill suggested oiling the road might solve the problem but the deputy reeve indicated an oiled road can't be graded. Residents would have to choose between a rough road or the dust, he said.

O'Reilly wondered if it would be possible to improve the road to the point where the county would assume responsibility for it.

Road superintendent Bud Snow agreed to look into the matter and reminded the delegation the road had been graded the previous Friday.

36 July permits

Seventeen building permits for residences were issued in Esqueving township during July. Building permits will also allow eight parties to add to or renovate present residences.

A \$1,623 permit to Dufferin Aggregates for an \$810,000 addition to their site on Con. 1, Lot 2. Pools and swimming pools accounted for the remainder of the 36 permits as well as a \$5,346 addition to Ballinacul United Church.

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ESQUEVING COUNCIL BRIEFS

At a regular meeting Tuesday, August 7, Esqueving Council:

- Agreed to renew a building permit issued to James Clark, Oakville, July 1969. Mr. Clark was unable to proceed with the structure at that time due to personal reasons. Since the expiration date regulations stipulate the frontage of a lot must be at least 125 feet.
- Heard Mr. and Mrs. John Ferris and Mr. and Mrs. Ken Gyles complain about the sub-flooring in their homes presently being built. Building inspector Tom McLean stated there were no flaws in the subflooring at the time of inspection and that council was in no position to help. They suggested the homeowners have a lawyer settle the matter.
- Heard Lloyd McEnery request permission to allow his farm help to live in a mobile home until an apartment above the barn is made ready for them. Council maintained there must be 150 sq. foot living space for the family and that Mr. McEnery must acquire a building permit to construct a separate structure.

Approved \$3,200 to Peel Construction for paving in Glen Williams, Norval, Limehouse, and the township complex.

Approved \$151 for dog kills.

Approved \$573 to McPhail Electric for an air conditioner.

Agreed to hold an advance poll for the election of regional representatives Saturday, September 29, 10:30 to 8 p.m.

On TV

The Toronto Today television program one evening dwell on the activities of the Conservatory of Music. Seen for a brief while in one of the segments was Joe Petric of Acton, having an accordion lesson.



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Cam resigns

Acton council instructed acting clerk Hugh Patterson to send a letter of thanks to Cam Leishman for his long services as a school crossing guard.

Mr. Leishman informed the town verbally he was resigning after 20 years of the post in favor of a younger man. He named a possible successor.

"He'll be missed by a lot of kids," said Councillor Orv Chapman.

Mr. Leishman was posted at the entrance of Acton Boulevard and Meadowdale Rd. where he conducted tens of thousands of children safely across busy Highway over the years he served.

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