

# Try to hold line on Acton rates

Although Ontario Hydro announced 1974 rates will be raised for most users of electricity in the province, an Acton Hydro Commission spokesman said the Commission would try to hold the town rates as they are now.

Increases in rates to municipal utilities who buy power in bulk from Ontario Hydro, will average seven and a half per cent. Rural

customers face 10 per cent increase in places served directly by Ontario Hydro.

However, Acton Hydro chairman Will McEachern told the Free Press the local commission would likely hold the line as long as they could. He said there was a cushion to fall back on and he thought the commission would use funds on hand until they were gone. Then they would think about increasing the rates.

The Acton commission has resisted price hikes on two of the last three Ontario Hydro increases.

Ontario Hydro chairman George Gathercole has blamed the new rates on inflationary forces, higher labor rates and higher prices for fuel which will also push up production costs.

More capital need  
Another factor underlying the new rate structure is the

need to provide more capital funds out of current revenue. Gathercole said over the last few years the proportion from current revenue going towards additional generating and transmission facilities has been declining as a result of higher construction costs and the size of the program.

Gathercole acknowledged, however, the rate adjustments will depend on the

financial position of each municipal system and other local circumstances. For many municipalities the increase will be less than two per cent. This results from the elimination of a charge for standardization to frequency of 60 cycles from 25 which has been in effect for 25 years. The total cost of the program will be amortized by the end of 1973.

The increase to Ontario

Hydro's rural customers is required not only to meet increased charges of wholesale power but higher costs of distributing it over the province. While the average increase is 10 per cent, actual increase will depend on the customer's classification and consumption.

Large industrial plants served directly by Ontario Hydro will also face a 10 per cent increase.

# The Acton Free Press

NINETY-NINTH YEAR No 19

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1973

Eighteen Pages—Fifteen Cents



CHAIRMAN GEORGE McCague left, talks with the two Halton appointees to the new Niagara Escarpment Commission at the first meeting Tuesday. Warden Anne MacArthur and former warden Jim Swanborough got the jobs. Bob Burt photo

## Region votes against administration chief

Halton's regional councillors don't want an administrator to act as a go-between for department heads and the regional councillors, or a highly paid messenger boy for the council.

That is the message councillors drove home during the first meeting of the regional council in Milton, Monday. The subject was aired when David Coons, spokesman for the selection committee, made a verbal report.

In his report Coons mentioned he and the committee had gone beyond the terms of reference and recommended that no chief administrative officer be hired.

He said the committee felt it would be an unnecessary level in the structure between the council and the department heads.

Chairman Masson considered the administrative officer a must to co-ordinate the various departments. "I wouldn't have asked for one if I didn't think it was necessary, but it is up to this council and if you vote against it, we'll have to make do," he said.

Burlington Mayor George Harrington said he felt the system could work best with department heads responsible to committees. "If it

doesn't work that way, then inflict an administrative officer upon them," he suggested.

The selection committee will eventually consider applications for a treasurer, engineer and clerk as well as personnel director and

planning director. A committee will examine the needs of the county with regard to a legal department. Masson said it was possible that three solicitors might be needed. Council now relies on a legal firm for which it pays a retainer fee.

## Murder trial next assizes

Thomas Bourke will stand trial for non-capital murder at the next assizes in Milton. He was charged last May in connection with the death of his wife Colleen in the Maplecrest Apts. on Churchill Rd. S.

Bourke was committed to trial by Judge William Sharpe.

## Parked cars are victims

In the only two collisions investigated this past week by Acton police, parked cars were the victims. Last Friday an unknown car struck Mrs. Ruth Marshall's car, parked at her home on John St. Damage was estimated at \$5.

On Saturday, a parked car on Mill E. received estimated \$75 damage when struck by another unknown vehicle. Owner of the damaged car is Hildegard Schmuck, R.R. 1, Acton.

## Esquering to ask for more road subsidies

Esquering council wants to put the bite on the Minister of Transportation and Communications, the Hon. Gordon Carton, for additional road subsidies, but the Minister isn't going to be caught so easily.

In a letter to the township council, Mr. Carton acknowledged representations from cabinet colleagues Jim Snow and George Kerr regarding a meeting, but noted he was busy with the Department's estimates and wouldn't be able to attend one set up for Monday, November 19 at Queen's Park. However, he said his assistant William Newman would meet with the Esquering delegation to discuss possible further subsidies.

But this wasn't the kind of answer Reeve Tom Hill wanted.

"We want the Minister there," he told council Monday night. "We don't want to beat around the bush again." Hill said the Minister's assistant couldn't really promise anything but the Minister himself could give a firm commitment and this is what the township wanted.

Put off a week?  
Why not put it off a week until the Minister is not so busy with the estimates then? asked Councillor Dick Howitt. But deputy-reeve Len Cox observed the township representatives might do pretty well talking with Mr. Newman instead of his boss.

"He didn't hurt us the last time," observed Cox.

The reeve acknowledged they had received more maintenance money the last time they talked with Mr. Newman but he felt Messrs. Snow and Kerr could use a little cabinet pressure to see their colleague met the delegation, which is to be composed of the reeve, deputy, the road superintendent and consultant. A letter is to be sent to Mr. Snow stating the Esquering delegation will appear on the suggested date.

Later in the meeting, council held a discussion about township roads with superintendent Bud Snow. The situation, councillors admit, isn't rosy. Because of the poor condition of roads, the township had overspent considerably and hoped-for subsidy was going to be a means of getting out of financial trouble.

Road superintendent Bud Snow cautiously observed he was afraid to dig up a culvert on the Fourth Line because it might need replacing and he wondered where the money was coming from if it did. He wanted authorization from council before he committed himself in any way.

Despite the extra money spent on township arteries there were still many complaints, council acknowledged, many of them justified.

council dealt with at their Monday meeting.

—Building inspector Tom McLean gave his October report showing 26 building permits were issued for a total value of \$509,372, most of them for new homes in the township.

—Council instructed the clerk to write an R. R. 1, Limehouse man stating he was contravening the township by-law by allowing occupancy of a plywood building on his lot when the other home was occupied. He

was requested to have the building vacated by December 15. "What a Christmas present," observed Councillor Dick Howitt.

—Decided to hold over the lengthy report from the township's hydro lines committee regarding the Solandt hearings in Toronto until the next Monday when they would request committee members to meet them. "The report is indicative of the committee's enthusiasm and ability," Councillor Howitt said, noting it was also quite comprehensive.

—Clerk Del French told council he had received word from the Ontario Municipal Board that the holding by-law had been approved for another six months beginning October 10. Councillors wondered whether this would interfere with Ontario Hydro's plans to erect distributing stations at Ashgrove and Ballinad since the application to change the land use had come in after the date of the extension, but decided it would not.

—The clerk was asked to acknowledge a letter from G. Eros regarding warning signs and maximum speed limit signs on the Ninth Line and inform him the limit is 50 miles per hour on township roads unless otherwise posted. They felt posting signs there would result in further unfillable requests from other parts of the township.

—The deputy-reeve told council he received a phone call of thanks from Fourth Line resident Ralph Denny for the ditch and road work done in that area.

Reeve Tom Hill presided for the three hour meeting with all members of council present.

## Report losses

Some members of Halton Board of Education expressed alarm at the number of books and the amount of resource material being lost or stolen from Halton County Secondary Schools. The matter was discussed during a meeting of the board of education Thursday when members heard a presentation from the Communications Arts Program Council.

The number of articles lost ranged from 214 to 1,230 in the county's high schools and a total of 7,000 items were reported missing in a recent questionnaire.

## Remembrance services Sun.

The actual date of Remembrance Day falls on a Sunday this year, settling the matter of the date of service uniformly.

The parade will begin at 10.30 in Acton and proceed to the cenotaph for a service there about 10.45 a.m. Following this is the service in Trinity United church at 11.15 a.m.

At the cenotaph Legion president Bob Angell will give the Legion charge. John McHugh will read the names on the monument. George Elliott will sound the Last Post and Reveille and Legion padre Rev. A. H. McKenzie will give the benediction. Wreaths will be laid.

Colors  
The parade will proceed into the church with their colors which will be placed at the front. Vic Patrick and Ed Footitt will read the lessons and Dr. W. G. Onions will preach.

The usual impressive window display fills Acton Home Furnishings show window this week and the Poppy Flag is flying at the cenotaph. Canvassers for the Poppy Fund will be making their rounds later this week.

Nassagaweya  
In Nassagaweya the service is at the Soldiers' Memorial at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon under the auspices of Nassagaweya council and Acton Legion.

Rev. Douglas Lowry will be in charge for the program of hymns, placing of wreaths and reading of names.

HEART ATTACK  
If someone has had a heart attack, do not move the casualty unless it is absolutely necessary. St. John Ambulance advises. Send for medical aid at once and support the casualty in a sitting position, taking steps to prevent him from falling forward.

## Challenged by cliffs

Within the past two weeks the Acton high school Outers Club have been introduced to a new challenge-based activity by Bob Woodburn of York University Phys. Ed. Faculty.

Peter Arbic, Paul Petric, Wally Rowley and Paul Tamblin attended a climb on Saturday, October 20 on the cliffs at Rattlesnake Point. All of the participants were impressed by the difficulty of the climbs. About 80 different routes up the limestone cliffs have been named and graded according to difficulty by the Alpine Club of Canada.

The apprehensive climbers were given training in climbing techniques and in the proper handling of "belaying" or safety ropes. At the conclusion of the session the Outers were also introduced to "bouldering" or climbing on low rock faces.

Sunset Rock near Campbellville is about 20 feet in height and has 50 different climbs on it. This area is used as a training and conditioning site before higher climbs are attempted.

Bouldering  
Twenty-eight participated in bouldering training during the next week and 15 of these

people chose to climb on The Rattlesnake last Saturday. They were Peter Arbic, David Cann, Mike Degen, Kathy Frost, John Gorjup, David Hannah, David Holmes, Wade Knight, Yvette Leroy, Lorne McGregor, John McHugh, Paul Petric, Marg Slingerland, Bruce Swift and Jeff Townsley. Once again Bob Woodburn supplied the equipment, coaching, and expertise required.

Five climbs of varying difficulty were available. Both psychological and physical challenges were frequently experienced as the climbers strained to reach what seemed to be minute hand and footholds as they perched on rock faces 60 to 100 feet in the air. The belayers were responsible for controlling many falls with their ropes as the strength and skill of the climbers were insufficient to master the difficult sections of several of the rock faces.

Guest  
A special guest on the activity was Bill Buddle, a teacher from Lakeshore High School, who is involved with an Outers Club and who hopes to do some rock climbing with his students in the Peterborough area.



PETER ARBIC views the landscape far below from his high perch.



SAFETY ROPE holds Paul Petric as he clings like a fly to the rocks.



TEACHER WALLY Rowley inches his way up an overhanging cliff face.