

Call escarpment commission "government smoke screen"

Wednesday night at Milton High School the Niagara Escarpment Commission was described as a smoke screen by Queen's Park to blur the vision of the little man.

At a meeting of concerned citizens, including farmers, landowners and ecologists, the proposed planning and development of the escarpment was called "the greatest land grab perpetuated in our history, including that on the aboriginal Indian."

Fears were expressed by homeowners and those with permits to build about the future land use of the escarpment. Questions concerning relocation of quarries, locations of hydro lines and highways, snowmobiles on recreational lands, the dumping of garbage and the building of campsites were among the many asked of the newly appointed commission.

jurisdictions in which the Escarpment is located. Queen's Park felt an act was needed to provide for planning and development of the Niagara Escarpment and its vicinity. This was passed in June. Two weeks ago the commission was named to work out the guidelines for a broad policy and then to enlist the co-operation of all municipalities, planning boards and other authorities involved.

Criticizing the legislation was Glen A. Wilson of R.R. 4, Milton who said "It's like be-



CASEY BOS is shown addressing the Escarpment committee. He charged there is little difference between the way Russia and Ontario are governed. "Here you keep the deed and in Russia they take it", he said.

He was told the area could go under developmental control. Applications for building would be considered by the commission.

Mr. McCague described developmental control as similar to a zoning by-law but could be acted upon immediately. He suggested the townships could have the wrong by-laws concerning the building of trailer parks for example, and that the municipal act should be checked to see if such parks could be prohibited.

Answering Mr. Priddle's concerns about the three year freeze Mr. Swanborough said, "We won't sit back and be a smoke-screen. I firmly believe the planning area will be under control before the first of January. I can feel that people feel we are a bunch of dead heads, but we are concerned and I can assure you, you have a real active commission working on your behalf."

However, Mr. McCague felt Mr. Swanborough was being optimistic. "It will probably be more like a couple of months," he said.

Ask permission Jim Watson, deputy-reeve of Nassagaweya asked, "Does Ontario Hydro have to go before the committee before putting transmission lines through the Escarpment?" His reply was in the affirmative.

Rupert Coffin who owns three and a half acres on Tremaine Rd. said his intentions were to build a house. "It seems now the possibilities are slim that I will be given a permit as the land is at the

bottom of the Escarpment in Parkway Belt area."

He was told that where the Parkway Belt overlaps the Escarpment, the Parkway Belt takes precedence. It apparently is the intention of the government to buy land in the Parkway Belt.

David Stern asked about the restricted zone in connection with quarries, "What will happen before the three years?"

Mr. McCague held him it could be declared a restrictive zone at any time by the minister.

D. R. Menzies who owns a 100-acre farm at R.R. 6, Milton described himself as a "Johnny-come-lately in the farming business." Explaining that he was the fourth generation to farm the land during the past 140 years, he asked "what encouragement would be given farmers."

"What type of encouragement do you expect?" Mr. McCague asked.

"Will there be anything financial?" Mr. Menzies asked.

"I would think it would be just the right thing for you to stay there," Mr. McCague replied.

"That's really something," countered Menzies, "after 140 years I will be given the right to stay on my own land!"

Ken Hazard was concerned with waking up one morning to find he couldn't do anything with his land because it falls into policy area no. 1.

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Field queries Ten of the 18 members of the commission were in attendance. Chairman George McCague, introduced Anne MacArthur and Jim Swanborough, Halton's representatives. They remained in the audience while Mr. McCague and four members of an Ontario government support staff fielded questions from the more than 200 people present.

A film was shown describing the 465 miles of escarpment from Queenston near Niagara Falls to the tip of the Bruce Peninsula near Tobermory. It depicted the escarpment as a mosaic of natural delights: forests, cliffs, hills, waterfalls, streams, scenic viewpoints, unusual rock formations and fascinating plant and animal life.

Getting away Entitled "A Priceless Heritage" the film shows the Escarpment area attracting naturalists, hikers, skiers, anglers, campers, artists, photographers, ecologists and urbanites who simply want "to get away from it all".

It goes on to explain that unfortunately those same natural assets help attract certain activities and growth that could destroy the Escarpment as we know it: sprawling developments of houses and ski cabins, disruptive forms of recreation (such as snowmobiling) and a multi-million-dollar extraction industry that removes huge quantities of sand, gravel, clay, shale, rock and building stone.

Until recently, there were no common ground rules for guiding or restricting growth along the Escarpment as a whole, and no administrative machinery existed to implement such rules.

Act passed Restraints have been imposed by some of the nine counties, eight conservation regions, 63 local municipalities and 31 planning board

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Veterinary Science, snowmobile clubs form

By Mac Armstrong
Approximately 40 members enrolled in the Halton 4-H Veterinary Science and Snowmobile Clubs at the organization meeting on

Wednesday, Nov. 21. The executive of the Halton 4-H Snowmobile Club is as follows: president Cecil Patterson, R.R. 4, Milton; vice-president Derek Reid, 20 Chipper Ct., Georgetown; secretary Jane Nixon, R.R. 1, Norval; and press reporter Valerie Ella, R.R. 1, Hornby; and Russell Murray, 73 Roseford Terrace, Acton. In this club, members will participate in activities related to safety and maintenance of their snowmobile. Several activities have been planned throughout the winter months.

Acton; press reporter, Cecil Patterson, R.R. 4, Milton. The leaders of this club are Mrs. Allison Amos of R.R. 2, Georgetown; Carl Middlebrook, 3 Waterloo Ave., Guelph; and George Swann, 50 Court St. N., Milton.

board would make applications to the commission. He pointed out the commission has only been in operation for two weeks and they would need time to study this. "We know two applications have been delayed because we haven't had time to consider them," he admitted.

Casey Bos commented that the only difference between the way things are done here and in Russia is that "Here you keep the deed, in Russia they take the deed too."

Mr. McCague assured the meeting that briefs and letters will be accepted by the commission at their offices in Georgetown.

Science club The Halton 4-H Veterinary Science Club was also organized on the same night with the executive being as follows: president Valerie Ella of R.R. 1, Hornby; vice-president Debbie McMillan of R.R. 5, Milton; secretary Sharon Leslie of R.R. 3,

The program for this club has been arranged with special emphasis on cattle, horses and sheep. Other activities in this club will include a tour of a veterinary clinic and possibly the Ontario Veterinary College. Enrollment in these clubs is completed now, however, we shall be organizing 4-H livestock, field crop, and possibly a tractor club in March 1974.

Concert
The band will be having its annual concert at Christmas-time with the Chorallers singing.

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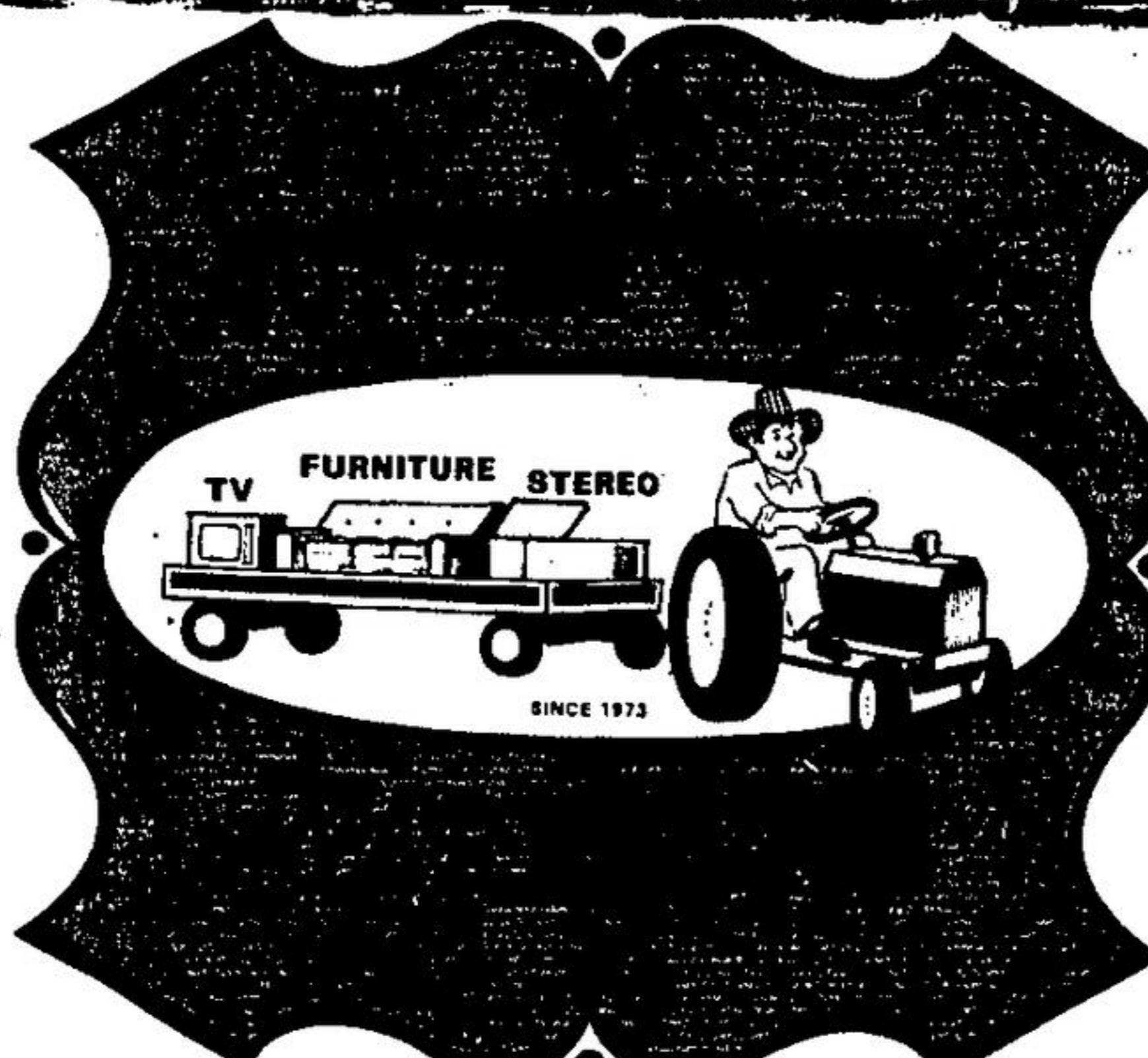
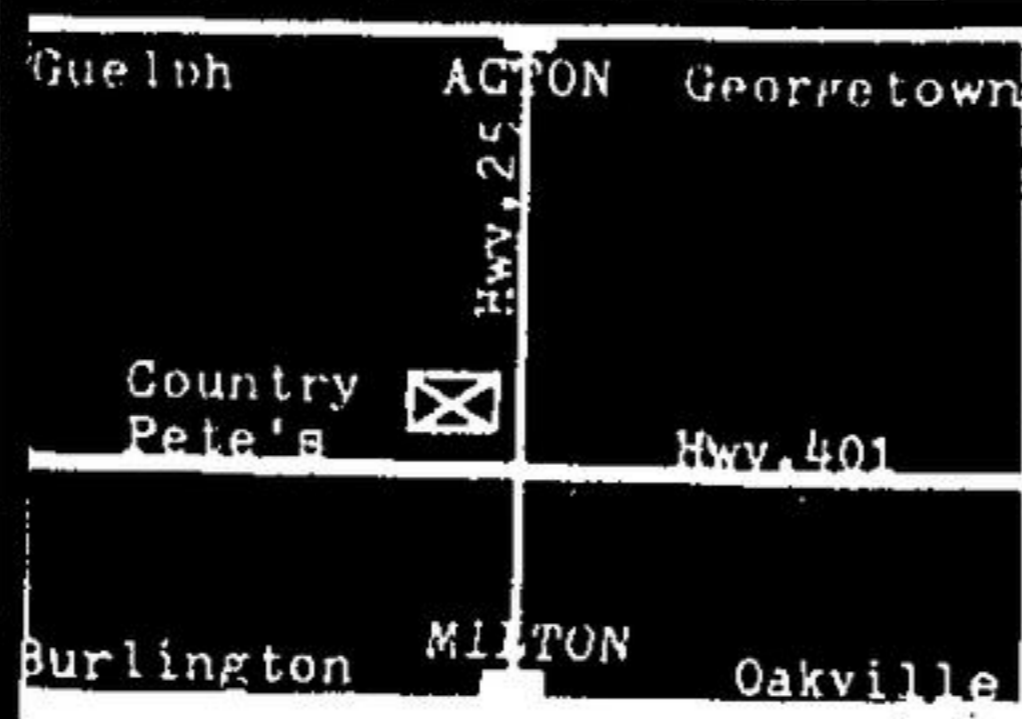
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