

# Bradley-Georgetown "public" hearings pointless, heartless — lawyer

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Box 105,  
Toronto, Ontario,  
March 25, 1974.

The Honourable William G. Davis, Esq.,  
Q.C.,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:  
I write to you urgently since I understand there is some danger that the Cabinet may adopt all or parts of the Solandt Report at meetings Wednesday, March 27, 1974 or take decisions that will lead to a de facto recognition of all or part of that report from which it might later be difficult to vary.

My writing is based on both a narrow but deep concern and a public and widely-supported concern. Personally I practice as a barrister in Toronto but own, use and live in a stone house over one hundred years old built on a beautiful ridge and occupying sixty-five acres in the east half of Lot 19, Concession 3, Erin Township.

I enclose a photostat of a skeletal hand-out outline map which I received at a public meeting at Erin in the evening of 12th March, 1974. To my shock I learned that my farm which is at points 90, 91 and 92 of the map is casually shown at the junction point of four different projected routes of a

corridor no less than 600 feet wide intended by Hydro to carry three parallel lines of 500,000 volts each and including towers 162 feet high in each of the corridors.

The area lying just south of point 92 has already been defined as being taken from my neighbour Robert Poupore, Q.C. and his neighbour Bill Mann for the lake and other facilities to come from the proposed Everton Dam!

The result on this "most likely" line therefore would be to put a triple line of towers angling beside or even taking my house and garage and, travelling across the highest and most prominent part of the ridge in the narrow land remaining between the height of the ridge and the top of the Dam project and waters. If the Dam lake is intended to be scenic then this object is defeated by the triple line of scarecrows planned.

The shock of myself and my neighbours is compounded since our very first knowledge of the routes at this point came on our receipt of Hydro material described as "Phase III" received in February, 1974. At the Erin meeting of 12th March my neighbour asked a poll and it appeared from a show of hands that only about three of the residents of our area had received anything under Phase II from Hydro and had no idea that our township area was becoming an actual route of highest preference when

none of us had heard that we were even considered as a possible or alternate route. The Hydro representatives indicated that they had used some erroneous form of milling but, also made it clear that they were aware that our area had not been canvassed in any fair, honest and useful way.

After hearing and apparently taking no useful notice of the objections of the hundreds of farmers and owners in the area the Hydro people then indicated the Solandt Report would probably come out Friday March 15. They said that they had no idea what Dr. Solandt would find (an obvious misstatement) but they expected that his findings on the Nanticoke line would heavily support the escarpment crossing at Limehouse on the way to Milton and that crossing would bring the river of towers down through Erin Township relentlessly.

The concerns I have expressed on behalf of the Erin township residents are amplified and become part of the general and fiercely-maintained and supported opposition of those lying south and east of our lands in the South Wellington and North Halton organizations of concerned owners.

I have been told by John Schneider that he has, and Hydro and its consultants have the signatures of 2,500 residents, owners and voters who are violently opposed to the Limehouse route. Our own area not having

been advised nor yet organized would probably yield a similar quantity of owners in opposition.

John Schreiber of Cheltenham indicated that his group and that of Lee Simms had collected about 6,000 signatures in opposition when efforts were first made to force this or a similar corridor through Peel-Halton near Brampton. I presume that many of the 2,500 Schneider people would be within the group who signed the Schreiber petition.

It is obvious that the recent public meetings on the Bradley-Georgetown "public hearings" are substantially pointless and heartless when it seems clear that Hydro has already made its decisions in conjunction with the Solandt findings.

The public-serving aspect of my letter is to point out urgently that while the Solandt findings tend in many cases to adopt and make use of the recommendations of their own professional consultants, B.H.L., they appear specifically to depart from those recommendations in the case of the Limehouse crossing of the escarpment.

I am told that B.H.L. told Hydro it would be best for both Nanticoke and the present Bradley line to pass through the complete gap in the escarpment at Highway 401. Dr. Solandt said that Hydro put considerable but not overwhelming comments against running through the 401 gap and parallel to

that Highway. Dr. Solandt said there was large public opposition to coming through Nanticoke Point but in so saying he was paying attention to about 450 people opposing that crossing point of the escarpment compared to a quantity of between 2,000 and possibly 9,000 people who opposed the use of our area.

It is clear the wishes of the Wellington-Halton group have been ignored before they have been heard and that the hearings pre-Solandt have been a meaningless waste of time, misdescribed as "public participation".

Hydro has been asked to make public or at least make available to consultants or representatives of the Wellington-Halton group the data showing the comparison between the route being favoured by Dr. Solandt and the B.H.L. route.

We are told that other, more desirable, routes come to the name Milton point by a route west and south of Guelph and that further the existing bad mixture of equipment at Milton itself could be lightened instead of compounded by putting part of the facilities above and to be hidden by the escarpment thereby freeing the rich farmlands below the escarpment for continued farming use.

The Limehouse use tends to hinge upon a further burdening of the major existing line going into Orangeville and this is in spite of

the fact that "security" is hurt rather than helped by using that line. I am told that lines in the Garafraxa area below Orangeville have fallen through exceedingly bad icing conditions to which that area is prone so that there has been a major failure no less than five times in the last three years.

I recommend powerfully that any decision on the Solandt recommendations as they relate to the Milton area and the escarpment crossing be deferred. They should be held until valid public meetings have been completed and Hydro at least learn what the physical contour of the lands they seek to affect in Wellington-Peel may be like in their terrain, beauty and present use.

Finally, Hydro should be directed to pay some attention to the recommendation that a large part of the whole problem may be avoided by expanding the Bruce-Esna line so as to come not through but above the beautiful and populated areas with which our group is concerned and then to travel south in the already existing and non-occupied corridor running from Esna to Kleinberg. There is ample room in this corridor and so far Hydro has said that it is holding this corridor for "something more important" which has not yet been announced or defined for the public.

Yours truly,

Harold H. Elliott



A FINAL LOOK AT WINTER?

—Photo by Wendy Thomson

## Whopping tax increase?

The Oakville Daily Journal Record tore a strip out of North Halton politicians last week for their \$4.4 million capital budget forecast unveiled at the Halton region's finance and administration committee.

The Journal-Record notes with some glee that the Halton Hills forecast is based on an assessment four times less than Oakville's and predicts it could mean a "whopping, almost unheard of tax increase for Halton Hills ratepayers."

The capital forecast from Halton Hills was one part of the \$25.6 million package sent to the committee by the four Halton municipalities. The entire bundle was shipped back to the individual councils with instruction to lop off about 20 per cent—which in Halton Hills' case means about \$880,000.

The Oakville daily says this isn't going far enough, especially since the biggest chunk is for "such nice, but not immediately necessary

baubles as two indoor pools, a new arena, a new arena roof and a library addition. And that's not to mention a "mini-computer" to handle the affairs of this suddenly sophisticated community."

"Just as regional government can't be used to make overnight equals of all, North Halton politicians have no right to become overnight giants by climbing on the backs of its own ratepayers. If they can't accept that on their own, the region will have to tell them," thunders the newspaper.

And believe it or not that's precisely what we think members of Halton Hills council wants the region to do.

It would take them off a giant-sized hook and justify making hefty cuts in any plans for capital projects in Halton Hills.

Meanwhile, members of council won't lose any political ground when they point out the region was responsible for any cuts. Councilors have been trying to tread a

delicate balance over the marriage of two towns and a township without pushing any municipality out in the cold. Most of the projects in the forecast were planned before the advent of regional government.

If Halton Hills council can get either the region or O.M.B. to tell them to slow down with capital programs, it takes a big load off their shoulders.

A hefty tax hike? Most of us expect one but one regional councillor asserts taxes could stay stable—or even go down—in some parts of Halton Hills, an observation we find hard to swallow. But he has access to the figures—and we don't.

We await the first Halton Hills budget with more than the usual amount of anticipation. We have a degree of confidence in our elected representatives that they would never saddle the new town or the region with a debt they couldn't handle.

It would be political suicide to do otherwise.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, April 1, 1954.

One of Acton's oldest industries, the Storey Glove Co., established in 1868, has been closed, president R. R. Arnold revealed today. He has been with the firm for 40 years. The building might be sold for light industry.

Award for general proficiency in London at the Naval Training Division was presented to Cadet A. J. Nicol.

Back home in Acton from the east for the second time is Pte. Michael McCristall of the Royal Canadian Regiment. The first time Pte. McCristall was shipped back to Canada it had been discovered that he was too young to be in combat. He reached Japan but not Korea. This time the rifleman reached the front lines of the fighting during a 14-month stay in Korea. He is home on leave. Pte. McCristall is the last of the Acton soldiers to return home. Preceding him were Pte. Jimmy Gunn, Pte. Arnie Hazel and Pte. George Turkoz.

S. G. Bennett, head of Beardmore Co. Ltd., was re-elected president of the Royal Winter Fair.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnston, Rockwood, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Arthur Padbury was elected president of Acton Rotary club.

Howling champs are the Baxter team of L.J. Marshall, Bill Ingles, John Richter, Joan Tyers, and Mae Hoare.

Miss June Watkins will be on Acton public school staff next September.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, April 3, 1924.

One of the first motorists in town to venture on an out-of-town trip since the big storm in February was J. E. Langevin, superintendent of the Hewitson shoe factory. He is an ardent lover of motoring and has been impatient for the snowbanks to become annihilated. On Saturday afternoon he assayed to take a trip to Rochester. He navigated the section of highway to Guelph fairly well but the trip from Guelph to Hamilton was a trial indeed. The rest of the road was fine.

Junior I.O.O.F. officers of Lakeside chapter were elected: honorary regent Mrs. Amos Mason; regent Miss Olla Armstrong; 1st vice-regent Miss Lucy Edwards; 2nd vice-regent Miss Vida Ramshaw; 3rd vice-regent Miss Isabel Stuart; secretary Miss Alice Johnstone; treasurer Miss Eva Johnson; standard bearer Miss Bessie Woodhall.

Mr. Orrie Lamb is one of the busy people these days. He commenced in the meat business in Acton last week and does his butchering on the farm at Crewsons Corners.

The rural mail carriers had trying experiences again last week with the impassable roads. One carrier walked about ten miles on Friday in the effort to cover his route.

Specials this week. W. J. Patterson, Mill St., prime rib roast 15c and 15c per lb.; hamburger steak 15c or 2 lbs. 25c.; loin pork roast 18 to 20c.; rib chops 18c.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, March 30, 1899.

The annual report of the Postmaster-General shows postal revenue at Acton last year \$2,400.78; money order business \$24,692.33; salaries and allowances \$937.61. (Milton and Oakville figures are about the same, Burlington's lower.)

Had the welcome beams of the bright spring sunshine penetrated to the show-rooms of our local milliners yesterday they would have added an additional charm to the wealth of decorations and bewildering array of skillful productions of the milliner's art. The old-established Henderson and Co. millinery department is again under the supervision of Miss Campbell. The season's new shapes predominating are the Glencoe, Rolland and Princess while large shapes with black and white trimmings of flowers, feathers, plumes and chiffon are in favor. The new shades, sardonic and cerino, and the three-toned ribbons will be popular.

This is E. B. Collins' first season and the millinery department is seen at a glance to be in the hands of an accomplished artist Miss Massacur. The favorite new shades shown here are opalescent, fuschia, cyrano and pretty shades of purple. The creams, crimsons and greens are also shown. A new shape is the Napoleon and a number of shapes are to be worn "off the face" and others dropping over the face. Abundance of flowers, broken wings etc. are used and in nearly all cases there is very full trimming.

Easter eggs are likely to be reasonable in price. They are 12c this week.

## Bill SMILEY



This is going to be a shot-gun column, instead of the usual coherent, unified lucid examination of a single topic.

I'm going to aim in all directions at once and pull both triggers. Reason is I've got to get ready to go to Germany on Sunday and have a lot to do. Like shine my shoes, and change \$12 into rubles or whatever they use, and get my wife to iron some shirts, and, uh, get her to pack my bag, and, uh, well, a lot of important things.

First of all, I've rediscovered a maxim that was already ancient when Moses looked out over the promised land: women are not only unpredictable, but unreasonable.

My wife had known for about a month that I might be going to Germany on the

winter break. She thought it was great for me. "It'll be a nice change for you. And it'll do you good to get away from me for a few days. You must get sick of me."

I lied politely, as usual. Told her I didn't need a change, that I could scarcely bear the thought of being separated, and that the very idea of being sick of her was nauseating.

Then I came home one day and told her it was all set, but that she couldn't go. "When?" she queried, knowing it would be several months off, and that there might be an earthquake or a flood or something in the meantime.

"Oh, I guess Sunday night," I responded casually, serene in the knowledge that she was in favor of the trip. She burst into tears.

My next topic also deals with the family, and with an aqueous event. Aside from a rainstorm, have you ever been soaked from a great height? I have. Last Sunday.

I was thoroughly enjoying playing with my grandson. He's old enough now to be played with, without fear that he'll break. I had him under the armpits and was hoisting him in the air, making those ridiculous sounds that would make grandfathers blush crimson if they ever heard them on tape.

A look of pure glee passed across the kid's face, and I thought, "By golly, he knows me, and he's enjoying his granddaddy." Next second, I was soaked from shoulder to knee. It was warm, and at first I thought I'd burst a pinhead blood vessel. But it was the wrong colour.

It's not unpleasant at first. Rather like taking a warm, salt bath, with your clothes on. It's when it begins to cool.

There's not much more to be developed there, so I'll turn to topic three: exams, which we have just gone through a session of.

Nothing is more depressing than starting to mark a set of exam papers, and finding that the first five you mark are failures. You are filled with self-doubt. "Have I not taught them anything? I'm a failure as a

teacher. I should go back to the shoe factory. If everybody fails, I'll be fired, because in this system, if you're teaching failures, you're a failure as a teacher, regardless of any other factors."

Then you pick up a paper and the student has understood what you've taught, and applied it, and used some brains of its own, and it's a ninety percenter. Hallelujah! And you're hooked for another year.

There is only one thing worse than marking exam papers. That is supervising the writing of them. The quaint old word for this function is "invigilating." It sounds kind of dirty, but it isn't. Just utterly boring.

You are figuratively locked in a room for two hours with about 35 teenagers. That alone is a fate worse than death, for some people. Personally, I'd rather be locked in with 35 students than with 35 balloons.

Then begins two hours of hell. The kids are supposed to be tense, nervous, straining every brain cell to do well. They're about as tense as a hibernating bear. Susie takes off her shoes, assumes a yoga position, and looks out the window. Jack crutches, a relic of skiing and a broken leg, falls on the floor, and you jump a foot, while the victims snicker.

You resort, after the first hour, to such things as counting greasy hair versus washed hair, bras versus braless, big clumsy boots versus sneakers.

You look up at the picture on the wall of the Queen, on whom somebody has drawn a moustache. You fill in, with your imagination, sideburns and realize the Queen would have been pretty dashing in 1580.

You look out the window at the dirty snow-banks and dream of a beach or a trout stream. You whip around, aware you were drifting, to see if anyone is cheating. Nobody is. Except Joe, who has given up after half an hour of tongue and pen working together, and is sound asleep, head on arms. An early fly buzzes.

Warned you this would be a shotgun column. But I think I've covered everything on the home front.

Next despatch will be from Germany. I promise it will be loaded with fraulien, gemueltcheit, blutwurst, putshes and other Teutonic goodies.

Let's see now, if I remember my Deutsch. "Was machen sie heir? Wie vil hur ist es? Nich rauchen bevor der zug halte. Ich bin ein kriegesfanger. Wo bist die scheisshaus?" Hecken I'll get along.

## Free Press Editorial Page

B2 The Acton Free Press, Wed., April 3, 1974

## Porky pig soon extinct?

Add porky pig to the whooping crane, the Atlantic salmon, and other species facing the reality of possible extinction, says Dick Esberod in Crossroads.

Recent revelations from the University of Guelph that what is called "the new pork" or "today's pork" has fewer calories and less fat than beef or lamb, coupled with the acceptance of pork on the diet of weight control groups, has inspired the Ontario Pork Institute to develop a new information approach. Consider:

"Let today's pork help shape your tomorrows. Carorie-counters

do." You wouldn't have seen that one ten years ago. The fat pig is

### Special edition

The Free Press will be marking Acton's centennial with a special edition, probably around the first of July weekend. We're thinking of old pictures and articles about the town's history.

Got any suggestions? We'd like to hear from anyone with ideas or pictures to lend. Pictures will be safely returned.

vanishing. That's the word. And the evidence is mounting! Pork has the benefit of more protein than its competitors as well.

So, in 1974, information and advertising programs will centre around that weight-watching theme. Figures from the universities, say the pork people, as well as from the Canada Department of Health and Welfare will support the program.

No doubt some additional interesting figures in support of the program will be provided by the professional modelling agencies.

## Free Press back issues

THE ACTON FREE PRESS

PHONE 853-2010

Business and Editorial Office



Counties in 1975 and published every Wednesday at 11 Willow St., Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation, the C.C.N.A. and the O.N.A. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions available in advance. \$4.00 in Canada, \$5.00 in all countries other than Canada. Single copies 15 cents. Second class mail Registration Number 9315. Advertising accepted on the condition that in the event of geographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. In the event of a geographical error advertising goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.

Davis Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.

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