

# Hydro gets go-ahead for corridor between Milton and Limehouse

Despite strong opposition to a 500kV north-south hydro transmission corridor through Halton Hills and an objective report from the Environmental Hearing Board, the line from Milton to Bradley Junction is likely to be a reality.

Hydro has given approval to begin work on the sections of the line between Limehouse and the Milton transformer station, leaving the 22 mile section where the Environmental Hearing Board conducted a study this summer in limbo until further comments are received from

the people along the route. Approval was also given to proceed from Bradley Junction to Colbeck.

The Ontario Environmental Hearing Board declined to make a recommendation regarding a possible "Bruce to Essa" hydro transmission corridor an alternative, as proposed by the Interested Citizens Group, but concluded it may be possible to find an environmentally acceptable corridor between the two transmission stations by paralleling existing 230 kV lines and crossing the

Niagara Escarpment in the vicinity of Highway 89.

This was part of the report released this week from the Board which recommended changes in the proposed route from Bradley Junction to Georgetown transmission corridor to preserve more prime agricultural land. However, all the changes recommended were part of the Board's study of a 22 mile portion of the corridor extending from a point west of Ballinfad to Colbeck, about 10 miles north-west of Orangeville. The report emanated from 19 half-day

sessions at Hillsburgh this summer.

Energy Minister Dennis Timbrell released the long-awaited report Monday but there was little in it to make Halton Hills and Erin township residents cheerful about the prospect of the 500,000 volt hydro corridor perhaps being shifted to the north as their Interested Citizens Group had proposed. The group has long insisted they would accept an independent study of the entire corridor if a northern route was considered but the least the Environmental Hearing Board acknowledged

was there were serious flaws in the vaunted Ontario Hydro public participation program.

The report says, "In considering the matter of the 'Bruce to Essa' proposal, perhaps the most serious concern is how such a basic difference of opinion between Ontario Hydro and a vitally concerned and actively involved sector of the public could persist at this advanced stage of the decision-making process, in spite of the high quality of comprehensiveness of public participation which accompanied the study... Clearly, this situation

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## Merchant influence urged for Mill St. reconstruction

The arrival of a new year means that time is running out for downtown Acton merchants to influence the proposed reconstruction of Mill Street E., was the message Chamber of Commerce president Mike Worthington had for 20 retailers at a meeting held the day before New Year's Eve.

"It's very important that we make our views known early", Mr. Worthington told the meeting at the firehall. The meeting was prompted by a letter from Halton Hills to the C. of C., asking for comments by the middle of the month on a planning department report. The meeting unanimously supported Wayne Moss' motion asking council to establish off-street parking prior to approving the Mill Street reconstruction.

Other motions passed would have Mill Street carry one-way traffic, keep the street's dimensions the same, have another meeting before mid-January, have a truck route bypassing the core area constructed and lift the ban on parking on the south side of Mill Street between John Street and the railway tracks.

Town planner Mario Venditti and Acton councillors Les Doby and Pat McKenzie attended the meeting. Mr. Doby said that the third Ward 1 councillor, Joe Hurst, could not attend. Mr. Worthington conducted the meeting under the assumption the Mill Street project would be completed this summer. The design work is not finished, and tenders which he estimated need two

months, have yet to be called before construction can start in May, Mr. Worthington said.

Hand in hand: Adding to the pressure for an immediate response by the merchants was the assumption by Mr. Venditti that the Mill Street work and the Ministry of Transportation and Communication's reconstruction of Highway 7 between Acton and Guelph

would go "hand in hand" in 1976. "I assume it (the Mill Street work) can't be postponed", Don Lindsay of A-B Super Market said. "I'm sorry some of the smaller details can't be ironed out before construction starts", he said.

Councillors McKenzie and Doby added cautiously optimistic note. "There's no reason why it (Mill Street) can't be postponed a year. We have

no proof that Highway 7 will be constructed this summer", Mr. McKenzie said. Mr. Doby, however, told the meeting that it might be five years before the Mill Street project again becomes a priority item in the capital budget.

Criticism: The planning department's report on factors relating to the Mill Street reconstruction came under heavy criticism by the merchants.

Mr. Venditti told the gathering: "We haven't looked at who owns what, so we don't know if the recommendations are practical".

"The study is utterly false", Mr. Moss told the meeting. He said the information used in a parking inventory was dated. The inventory chart shows 14 parking spaces on the west side of Willow Street between Mill and Church Streets. "There are in fact seven", Mr. Moss said. Instead of the 11 spots on the east side of Willow Street, Mr. Moss said there are eight.

None of the parking spaces beside Mr. Moss's hardware store are shown for angle parking which is no longer

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### Red Cross needs blood

Red Cross blood donor clinics will be held three times this year in Acton. January 19 is the first date for a clinic to be held in the Legion Hall. "Blood bank reserves are low at this time of year", Hank Kroes, clinic organizer, said. Mr. Kroes said donors at the previous two clinics held in town will be telephoned. The dates for later clinics are June 28 and October 25.

### Outdoor rinks are being well used

Acton's two outdoor skating rinks have been "extremely well used" according to Halton Hills's services superintendent Al Doby.

The two rinks, located at the high school and Prospect Park, were in constant use over the Christmas holidays, with the town's Works Department watering and shovelling them every day. Frank Morette, Works Superintendent, said yesterday (Tuesday).

The cold weather of late has been instrumental in the maintaining of the ice surfaces, with work on them commencing last November. By the time the students were

out of school, Mr. Morette said the rinks were ready to be used thanks to cold weather.

Mr. Morette said the town erected low boards around the surfaces and worked on them five days a week.

He went on to explain that the rinks are initially for pleasure skating, but pointed out that sometimes young boys play hockey.

Recreation program co-ordinator John Cooper explained that "if the weather holds up for any length of time, they (the skating rinks) should be well used." He said he thought the Works Department was doing a good job maintaining the two rinks.

### Third Line fire wakes up town

Christmas tree decorations have been cited as the cause of a December 31 blaze which sent one woman from her Third Line home in the middle of the night, according to Acton fire chief Mick Holmes.

The fire is believed to have started in the family room at 1:10 a.m. The house is occupied by Mrs. Christine Fray. The Christmas tree caught fire, spreading flames throughout the rest of the room and the kitchen. Both rooms received extensive damage. The rest of the house had excessive smoke damage, Mr. Holmes said.

New owner: Wallace Swackhammer, of R.R. 2 Acton, purchased the house just two weeks prior to the fire, and plans to move in this spring.

The owner said there was very little structural damage to the building and commended the Acton firefighters for a job well done in controlling the blaze.

Mrs. Fray is staying with relatives at the present time. Acton firefighters were on the scene for two hours, using air packs, the smoke ejector and two of the three fire trucks. The new truck was not used.

### Police calls get a boost

Radio communications have been improved for the men of the Acton detachment of Halton Regional police, since the installation of a new receiver atop the Beardmore water tank. The police calls are now relayed from this receiver via cable to a tower at Rattlesnake Point, where the strength of the call is increased as it is forwarded to Oakville regional headquarters.

All communications between Acton cars and office and other detachments go through the radio room at Oakville. Police officers had been having difficulty with radio sets here and Beardmore had agreed to the installation of an antenna on their tank.



Midnight music

PIPING IN THE NEW YEAR at an arena party is Scott Malcolm. Scott, who is a member of the Guelph Pipe Band, played Amazing Grace before a crowd of celebrants at the stroke of midnight. The party-goers formed a wide circle for Scott and many of them hummed along with the popular selection.

### New Year's Day

## Four new people— for a brand new year

The Stork dipped its wings four times over Guelph General Hospital New Year's Day.

Two of the New Year babies are new Acton citizens, one is from R.R. 5, Rockwood, and the other is a Guelphite.

First baby of the day was Theresa Christine Boutlier, born at 12:08 a.m. Thursday. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Brian Boutlier of Sackville St., Guelph.

Next to arrive was Gregory Eugene Braida, a second son for Mr. and Mrs. Paul Braida, 81 Bower Ave. Gregory weighed 6

lbs. and was born at 8:17 a.m. He already has an older brother Jason who is three and a half.

Third New Year arrival was Heather Lorene Kingdon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kingdon, R.R. 5, Rockwood. She was born at 10:15 a.m. and weighed 10 lb., 3 oz. She has a sister Carolyn who is seven.

Fourth baby on the traditional record-setting day was Seth Christian Homer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Homer, 127 Churchill Rd. S. He is the first son in the family, with two sisters, Sarah, nine, and Laura, three. He weighed 7 lb., 8 oz.



ONE MORE FLASH and I'll scream! warns New Year's baby Gregory Eugene Braida. He was born at 8:17 a.m. Thursday in Guelph General Hospital. Proud parents are Mr. and Mrs. Paul Braida, Bower Ave. More New Year's Day babies pictured inside today's Free Press.



BRUCE McPHAIL, PETE MUSELIUS, and Wade Vickery lead the Firefighter bantams in congratulating the Valentuna team after they defeated Acton 4-2 at the community centre

Sunday. More than 1,000 spectators crowded into the arena to see the first European team to play in Acton. For story of the game turn to page 4. For full page of pictures turn to page B1.