

"Gone as far as he can go" Timbrell says



Dennis Timbrell

The delay in the construction of the Bradley to Limehouse Hydro transmission corridor has cost \$25 to \$40 million dollars to date, the Hon. Dennis Timbrell, Minister of Energy told Progressive Conservatives at last week's nomination meeting, where he was guest speaker.

He emphasized the cost is borne by every hydro consumer in the province. He forecast an additional cost of \$340 to \$500 million if the delay continues another three years to accommodate a full scale enquiry. He claimed the loss would be due to the use of American coal, rather than nuclear power from the Bruce station.

He said all this comes at a time when the government has reduced hydro capacity and fossil fuels are becoming scarce.

Timbrell said he had travelled the route by car and helicopter, and ordered Environmental Hearing Board to take another look at part of the route. He said it was not an easy decision to make because it raised the prospect of further delay.

"The Environmental Hearing Board did not recommend any further studies", he said he has a responsibility to all energy consumers.

The Energy Minister said he had recommended a route between Colbeck and Limehouse. "At some point somebody says the buck stops here", he said he was sorry the government is charged

government did not play games or engage in useless rhetoric, and suggested the people are looking for leadership. He said governments have to cope with the same problems in a minority situation as they do at any other time. He termed the present a time for tough decisions, and claimed those in opposition make all kinds of promises, but the government has the responsibility.

The Energy Minister said the P.C.'s will not try to spend their way to an artificial prosperity, that will haunt future generations. He told the Tory audience the Conservative government had put the lid on civil service salaries at the top echelon, and restricted the remainder to 10 per cent. He said it was a necessary step to preserve what we have, "and it's worth preserving."

Timbrell said health costs are the biggest part of the Ontario budget, and put the cost at \$400 for every man, woman and child in the province. He said costs this year are \$3 billion, \$400 million and forecast if there had been no cuts. He said cuts would save \$243 million, but health costs would still rise 11 per cent this year.

He raised the spectre of New York City as an example of borrowing into bankruptcy.

He concluded by saying there should be no apologies for the big blue machine, "since 600 cogs in that machine are sitting here tonight."

Gary Dawkins, of Acton, defeated Tory candidate in the last provincial election, introduced the Energy Minister, and thanked the Tory gathering for their support in the election.

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WATER, WATER everywhere, except out of the water fountain. The trough in the park near Fairy Lake waits the summer sun to dry the baseball diamonds and draw kids near for a drink.

Recovery House plans blitz for donations

Halton Recovery House, a rehabilitation home for alcoholics scheduled to open in Milton in mid-April, is planning a one-day "round-up" for items people all over Halton have offered to donate to the project.

Rev. W. R. Lewis of Milton, chairman of the Recovery House board of directors, said director Will Hamilton of Georgetown is organizing the blitz.

Many people and groups have offered to donate furniture, furnishings and equipment for the house and the directors figured the best way to collect and deliver them to the farm home near Milton was a one-day pick-up.

Anyone wishing to donate items can still arrange for pick-up by calling Mr. Hamilton at 877-7018 or Pat Watters at 877-5325 or Milton contacts Doug Haslam 878-6739 or Dave Brush 878-6507.

Recovery House board held a meeting last week and agreed to name a part-time director to get the home project launched. An announcement of the director's name will be made soon.

Directors are also considering an open house before the Recovery House opens, so people can see what materials and volunteer labor are needed.

The board has obtained a good rental price on an older farmhouse on Five Sideroad north of urban Milton and the first of five alcoholics will be welcomed there in mid-April.

Cabinet decision soon: Timbrell

Ontario Energy Minister Dennis Timbrell told this paper last Wednesday that a cabinet decision concerning the ombudsman and the Bradley to Georgetown hydro corridor was imminent. No word of the decision had reached the ombudsman's office yesterday, a spokesman said.

Gary Giuliani, who said that the proposed corridor was part of his responsibility in the ombudsman's office, said that he had not received word of the executive committee's decision. Mr. Giuliani was interviewed from Toronto Tuesday morning by phone.

A cabinet decision concerning the ombudsman's authority to investigate the 500kV line would be made in a day or two, the energy minister said last Wednesday.

Authority

"The cabinet is considering if the ombudsman has the authority to investigate the Bradley-Georgetown question," Mr. Timbrell said.

Mr. Timbrell was speaking to reporters after he had addressed Progressive Conservative delegates at the party's Halton-Burlington riding nomination meeting at Milton.

The energy minister had told more than 500 party members that to carry out the wishes of the Interested Citizens' Group for an investigation of the entire hydro corridor from the Bruce nuclear generating station to Georgetown would be too costly. He said a delay of three years would cost between \$340 and \$500 million.

The ICG have repeatedly called for a study, independent of Ontario Hydro, to be carried out.

During the six weeks of Environmental Hearing Board meetings conducted at Hillsburgh last summer the ICG maintained that a cheaper path for carrying power out of the Bruce station would be via Essn near Lake Simcoe.

Hydro corridor fight reported by Global

Residents throughout Southern Ontario learned of the fight being waged by Concerned Citizens in Halton Hills and Wellington County against the Bradley Junction to Georgetown Hydro corridor when the topic was the subject of a news report on Global television last Wednesday.

News anchorman Peter Trueman informed his viewers at both 6 and 10 p.m. that in Halton a citizens group has spent \$25,000 in a fight against the hydro corridor and said so far it appears the group might just as well saved their money and effort.

Reporter Peter Silverman said the hydro corridor will run 10 miles cutting a swath hundreds of yards wide through rolling farmland and for four frustrating years the citizens have been fighting Ontario Hydro bureaucracy and Queen's Park for an independent study into the \$50 million corridor.

"I am concerned about a very serious impact on farmland which is certainly necessary and even more necessary in the future and because I don't think the citizens of this area have received a fair treatment from the government or Hydro," said Halton Hills farmer Gordon Kidd explaining the reason for the fight against the corridor.

Silverman said the group has been rebuffed by Premier Bill Davis and Energy Minister Dennis Timbrell and noted the citizens had been heard by Environmental Hearing Board.

"After thousands of pages of testimony the board said the citizens group had a just cause to complain," Silverman reported.

"I know and the group from that area know that I acknowledge that the procedure that has been gone through in this case has not been perfect. I'm the first to acknowledge that. What I have tried to do, as I've said before, is to make the best of a bad situation," Timbrell told Global news.

Silverman said according to Timbrell it would be too

costly to delay the project to have an independent inquiry.

"It's now up to the government of Ontario to decide whether or not to give Ontario's Ombudsman permission to investigate the proposed hydro corridor. The chances are the cabinet will say no, for as Premier Bill Davis wrote to the concerned citizens in February of this year, the main reasons for the original government decision in 1972 remain valid and there is no intention to do any further review," Silverman concluded.

The whole report lasted a little over two minutes and included video shots of the farm lands affected, hydro lines, Kidd, Timbrell, and the president of the Concerned Citizens, William Mann.

Lake ice is dangerous

Ice on Fairy lake is termed thin and dangerous. Police Tuesday said people should keep off the ice to be safe.

People were out ice fishing as recently as Sunday.

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If outdoor recreation is your idea of a way to spend your Spring Break and yet you don't want to travel miles and miles to do it, hiking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing at any of the Grand River conservation areas are just some of the ways to enjoy

your day. All conservation areas, while officially closed, are open free of charge for these winter activities. Especially featured are the self-guiding nature trails at the exceptionally scenic Rockwood and Elora Gorge areas.

Some people enjoy snowmobiling and it is reminded that both Belwood and Conestogo Lakes are open in the winter months for this winter activity, snow conditions permitting. Skiing of both the downhill and cross country varieties can be enjoyed at the Chicopee Ski Club near Kitchener.

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