

# Questions but few answers

Ontario Hydro could save \$12,500,000 by abandoning the Bradley-Georgetown route it has chosen for the 500 kV hydro line in favor of another route an expropriation hearing officer was told Monday in Durham.

The proposal was advanced by John Schneider of Acton. Mr. Schneider is vice chairman of the Interested Citizens' Group.

He told the hearing officer A. D. Miller, by going with a longer route than necessary there would be a dramatic loss of power.

"You would have a \$28,000,000 plant with people operating it and there would be 28 megawatts lost. All it would do is heat South Western Ontario."

Hydro's proposal would take power from Bruce to Milton and back north again. According to Mr. Schneider by going from Bruce to Essa Ontario Hydro could save \$12,500,000 in capital costs and dramatically reduced power losses.

"By going to Essa you would still have a \$28,000,000 plant but people could use the power," he said.

The Interested Citizens' Group has maintained all along the route they have proposed from Bruce to Essa is shorter and would save Ontario Hydro millions of dollars as well as preserving hundreds of acres of valuable farmland and the aesthetics of the countryside. It would also use existing routes owned by Hydro, making years of

battles over land acquisition unnecessary.

Mr. Schneider told the hearing that the route had to go to Essa and then north. He said it was pointless taking power south and then north again.

Mr. Schneider cross examined two hydro witnesses for close to three hours Monday night. The meeting got underway at 10 a.m. and wasn't finished until after 11 o'clock that evening.

Hydro Project Supervisor Art Mosher said he felt Schneider was wrong and that it would cost more to go to Essa with the line than to Milton.

He said there had been no route established and no study carried out. He said there would be costs Schneider would not be aware of and the route would cross environmentally sensitive areas.

Schneider countered Mosher's testimony by noting the cost per mile was estimated at \$734,000 per mile and he noted Essa was 92 miles from Bruce and Milton was 109.

He said power was being produced but much of it would never be used because it would be lost in the transmission. The amount of power loss increases correspondingly with the length of the line.

Mr. Schneider reiterated the group's call for an independent study of the Bradley-Georgetown transmission line. He told the hearing that

was the only section of the line that had not been the subject of an independent study. "People in our area ask why us?"

The independent study had been ruled out earlier this year by energy minister Dennis Timbrell on the basis of costs that would accrue if the work is delayed any further.

Peter Fallis, a Durham solicitor representing citizens along the northern part of the line had cross examined both Mr. Mosher and a second hydro official for about six hours during the day.

Both Mr. Fallis and Mr. Schneider were continually frustrated with their line of questions when witnesses refused to answer questions.

Hydro Lawyer Tom Marshall insisted that any alternative for a line from Bruce to Milton was outside the jurisdiction of the hearing.

He said the expropriation act set out the parameters for the hearing and he argued that everything that did not relate directly with the study area should not be considered. It was on that advice that he ordered hydro witnesses to withhold reports, documents and printed information as well as refusing to answer questions.

The Hearing Officer, Mr. Miller said the witnesses could not be compelled to answer. He said he was prepared to listen to almost any line of questioning but if the witness didn't want to answer that was up to him.

He explained as a hearing officer his job was to report to the Minister of Energy and indicate whether the proposed taking of land was fair, just and reasonably necessary. The hearing officer has no power to compel a witness to answer or for that matter to call a witness.

The hearings were expected to conclude today after more than a week's testimony and cross examination.

During his cross examination Mr. Fallis attacked the credibility of the study on the line. Under questioning Mr. Mosher acknowledged that many changes had been made on the line that was originally proposed by Hydro.

Mr. Collins said he felt all of the necessary approvals had been received. But Mr. Fallis produced letters from a number of municipalities that indicated Hydro officials had never even contacted them concerning crossing of township and county roads.

Mr. Fallis asked Mr. Mosher how many of a series of about 40 meetings had been attended by land use expert with Ontario Hydro. Mosher was adamant that the man had attended all but one or two of the meetings.

Mr. Fallis then turned to a transcript and read testimony from the land use

specialist during which he admitted attending only one meeting.

At that point Mr. Mosher said, "My memory must have failed me. I thought he had attended more."

Mr. Fallis succeeded in entering several pieces of evidence that conflicted with testimony from the Hydro specialists.

Mr. Fallis argued that the expropriation sought by Ontario Hydro was premature because officials weren't certain that all necessary approvals for other parts of the line would be forthcoming.

He argued that the hydro report was a self serving report and intimated that the route had been chosen and officials went to work to justify it. "The impact study is wanting because entire towns are missing from maps. How can you determine impact on a town if you don't know it is there?"

Ontario Hydro is advising householders to check identification of persons claiming to be electrical inspectors before admitting them to their homes. Several cases of impersonation of Hydro inspectors recently have resulted in burglary and theft.

"Ontario Hydro electrical inspectors do not wear uniforms but they carry cards identifying them as electrical inspectors, with name, signature, employee number and picture so that identification cannot be mistaken," said Leslie Stech, Inspection Superintendent of Hydro's Central Region.

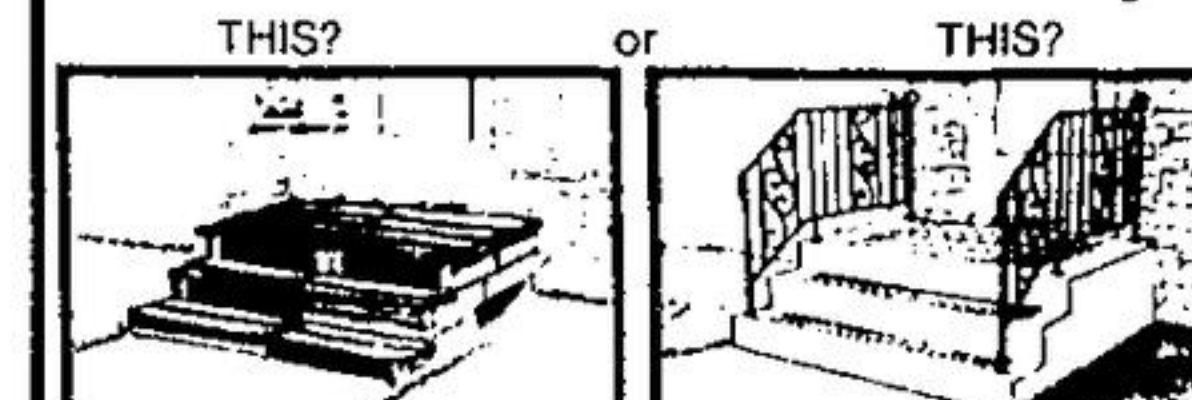
Ontario Hydro is responsible for inspection of all new electric wiring and electrical appliance installations throughout Ontario.

Names of the new officers of Acton branch of the Legion were incorrect in last week's paper. Here's the right list: Past president is Fred Allen; president, Ab Irwin; first vice-president, John Goy Sr.; second vice-president, Alex Waldie; secretary, Brian McDonald; treasurer, Gord Mc-

Cutech; executive committee, Robert Angell, Kevin Conroy, Ed Footitt, Gord James, and Earl Walter; sergeant-at-arms, Ted LeBlanc; and public relations officer, John McHugh.

The Rev. Andrew McKenzie is the chaplain.

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CLEANING HOUSE at Erin Founders Day meant sweeping the elephants before they appeared in their circus act. Ian Garden of Trafalgar Road, co-owner of Garden Brothers Circus, brought together several independent acts for Erin's big weekend.

## I.C.G. says hydro could save millions

Ontario Hydro's effort to provide public participation in the determination of 500 kV hydro lines is nothing but a farce according to Interested Citizens' Group Vice Chairman John Schneider of Acton.

It was late Monday night and both he and solicitor Peter Fallis had been questioning Ontario Hydro officials for the past 13 hours. It was the fourth day of the expropriation hearings for the Bradley-Georgetown line held in Durham.

Time after time the Ontario Hydro lawyer Tom Marshall told Hydro witnesses "don't answer that question. No we won't produce that report. That question is irrelevant and no we won't respond."

Both Schneider and Fallis prodded on but any mention of an alternative routing or system was met with no answer.

No facts

Mr. Schneider quoted Provincial Treasurer Darcy McKeough when he said the line must go ahead but it can't be imposed on an uninformed public.

Mr. Schneider told hearing officer A. D. Miller that the Citizens' Group had been working in an information vacuum and had received no straight answers since 1973.

"We have not had any answers. This is our last forum, our last chance. This is the only line without an independent study. People along the line say why us?"

He criticized hydro for working in a clandestine

fashion. "It is because of this that we think decisions have been made for reasons other than the obvious."

"If we could get some of these things explained we might say ok. But these fellows want to play games and say that's a no, no and we're not going to talk about it."

No authority

Enquiry officer Miller explained the witnesses did not have to answer if they did not

want to and he had no authority to do anything let alone force a witness to answer. "If this is the way they want it I guess that's the way it will be," he said.

Schneider said that if that was public participation the whole thing had been a farce. "There's a lot of money and time down the drain and a lot of reputations will do down the drain too," he said angrily.

## Ospringle Holiday season hits

by Doris Fines

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Howes enjoyed a visit for a few days with their daughter and son-in-law Dr. and Mrs. James Petru, Robbie and Ruckie, at Ottawa.

The local Presbyterian church will be closed for a month while Rev. George Lewis is on vacation. The congregation are invited to attend services at Burns Presbyterian Church or the United Church in Erin, where Rev. Jack Gillip is preaching on alternate Sundays.

Out west

Mr. and Mrs. Barry Clarke were holidaying for three weeks in Western Canada. They visited with Barry's brother and sister-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Clarke at Kelowna, B. C., in the Okanagan Valley. Rainfall was plentiful there also, as a sign had been erected in the town, saying, "Where has sunny Kelowna gone?" They visited Mr. and Mrs. John Clarke, a nephew at Langley, near Vancouver, and went across to Vancouver Island.

Mr. and Mrs. Brian Boyd and daughters Jennifer and Joanne, of Ottawa, visited a few days last week with Mrs. Boyd's sister and brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Barry Clarke.

Mr. and Mrs. George Lang and Bonnie were camping last week at Parry Sound.

Donnie Jackson of Douglas Point spent two weeks holidays with his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ferguson, Pat and Dan.

Michael Ferguson is progressing favourably at home following surgery in Guelph General Hospital to remove a steel pin from his leg. This pin had been inserted last year after his leg had been broken in an automobile accident.



**DR. T. C. COBURN**

Dr. T. C. Coburn wishes to announce the opening of his medical practice at the Glenlea Clinic, 294 Queen St. E. Acton.

Dr. Coburn received his B.A. from the University of Ottawa in 1970. In 1974 he obtained his degree in medicine. He did a 2 year residency in the Family Practice Unit at the Ottawa Civic Hospital. He has recently received his certification from the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

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