

## Two hour limit said "second best" parking

Halt Hill works committee has recommended council pass a by-law to repeal the existing traffic by-laws in Acton to bring in a two hour parking limit between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. in downtown Acton.

The new regulations will apply to Main Street between Knox and Mill on the west and St. Albans Drive and Mill on the east side.

The two hour limit will also apply on Mill Street between Main and 100 feet west of

Bower Avenue on the north side and on Mill Street between Main and Wilbur on the south side.

Willow Street between St. Albans Drive and Church Street and John Street between Mill and Church will also have a two hour parking limit.

No parking zone on the west side of Willow south from Mill will be cut back from 125 feet to just 60 feet while parking will be prohibited on the west side of John Street 100 feet

back from Mill Street.

Parking will be illegal on the north side of Mill Street 100 feet west of Bower and there will be no parking on the south side of Church Street between Main and Willow.

There will be no parking on the east side of Churchill Road North between McDonald Boulevard and Queen Street and on the north and west sides of Mill Street between Park and Cobblehill Road.

The town will also post no parking zones within 30 feet of each intersection.

It will take anywhere from two weeks to two months to have these new regulations approved by Queen's Park after the by-law is passed.

Engineer Bob Austin said the parking law changes were the second best solution to traffic problems in Acton. He said he would prefer to have parking taken off one side of Mill Street altogether but this proposal would meet with too

much opposition.

Don Lindsay of the Acton Business Association said he and other merchants would agree to no parking on one side of Mill Street if there was adequate off street parking but there isn't. He said the drive for more off street parking isn't progressing as well as it should be either.

He said there are people who won't invest in off street parking until such time as parking restrictions, like

those proposed by Austin, are instituted.

Councillor Les Duby said he hopes everyone realizes more street parking regulations will be coming once there is off street parking available.

Parking Authority will be asked to look over the parking restrictions committee approved and the town will ask police to enforce the new laws as stringently as possible.

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## Hydro looking at Essa power line longer than original ICG idea

Ontario Hydro is considering a 500 kV power corridor from Bruce to Essa that would be longer than the one often proposed by the Interested Citizens' Group (ICG), an inquiry learned last week.

The ICG's John Schneider introduced as evidence an Ontario Hydro plan from last year which shows a 500kV right of way from the Bruce nuclear generating station to Meaford in a straight line, then takes an L-shaped route to link with a 500kV north-south line south of Essa. The north-south is from near Sudbury to Woodbridge.

For four years the ICG has suggested taking power from the Bruce to Essa, but according to Hydro such a route has not been worth study.

Previous testimony from a Hydro witness shows the provincial utility has indefinite plans for property near Meaford, Ont., on Georgian Bay, and also that Hydro owns 900 acres along the coast at Delphi Point, near Collingwood. Both properties do not figure in the L-shaped right-of-way on the Hydro map.

The revelation of Ontario Hydro's plans for the next 20 years came from expropriation hearings in Acton's Legion. The hearings concern Hydro's proposed Bradley-Georgetown power corridor.

The only witness called so far in the inquiry, Hydro's Art Mosher described the plans contained in Planning of the Ontario Hydro East System, June 1, 1976, as "conceptual". "This is one of about a dozen considerations", Mosher said. One of the maps is

marked as "conceptual east system arrangement for mid-1990's."

Hearing officer Donald Meyrick pleaded with Ontario Hydro to introduce evidence tabled at previous inquiries on the ICG's Bruce-Essa alternate, but which Hydro lawyer Tom Marshall refuses to enter.

"We are required to look at alternatives, and that's the Essa situation. But I don't think we'll be allowed, in any way, to do that at all", Meyrick said.

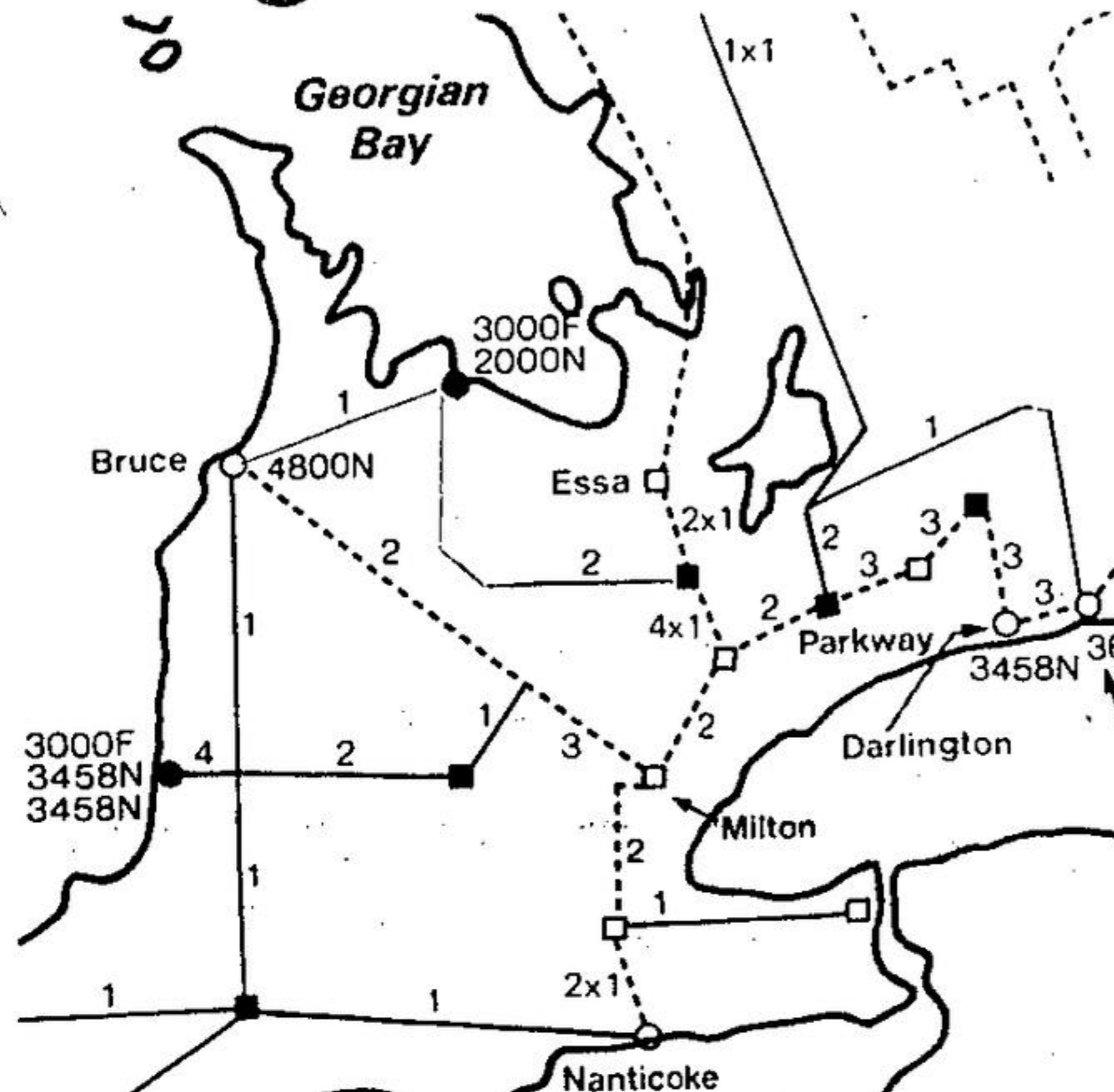
Meyrick last November ruled that evidence concerning alternate routes could not be entered into an expropriation hearing. The Supreme Court of Ontario, however, directed—in an appeal by the ICG—that hearing officers must listen to evidence about alternate routes.

"Ontario Hydro is avoiding the consequence of the court's ruling", charged ICG lawyer Leon Paroian.

"Now you've hit the nail on the head", replied Meyrick. Meyrick also rebuffed Hydro's contention that the Bruce-Essa route was never considered. In the Solandt Commission hearings, in 1972, there are references to Hydro probes into the Essa concept.

"We invite Hydro to at least present to me a review of what was given to the Environmental Hearing Board and the Solandt Commission on the question of the Essa ruling," Meyrick pleaded.

Years ago Ontario Hydro proposed taking power from Bruce to Kitchener, the



MAP SHOWS HYDRO'S 500 kV right-of-way from Bruce nuclear station on Lake Huron. The route first goes to Meaford on Georgian Bay, then takes an L-shaped path south and east to link up south of Essa. The map shows Hydro's concepts for the mid-1990s. The Interested Citizens' Group has, for years, called for a line from Bruce to Essa, rather than from Bruce to Milton.

nearest large centre. The distance would be about 86 miles. Instead the then energy minister Darcy McKeough ruled Hydro must

take the power to Milton area on a line that's about 109 miles long.

Using rough figures ICG lawyer Paroian determined a

cost of \$61 million resulted in capital costs and line loss in having to switch from Kitchener to Milton.

Schneider pressed Hydro's

Mosher for cost of a Bruce-Essa line, after Mosher said the price of lines is an important consideration in Hydro's choice of routes.

"Do you have it?" (the cost), asked Schneider. "Can you provide that cost data?"

"The answer is no!" Hydro lawyer Marshall stood up and replied for Mosher. "I don't know if they can or they can't. The answer is no."

Earlier on Paroian, the ICG's lawyer, asked Hydro to study the ICG's alternate while the hearings recessed. There is a break until August 15, because of lawyers' holidays and previous commitments.

"In the time we stand down, they'll (Hydro) have an opportunity to study the alternate", Paroian said.

Charges of biased rulings sparked exchanges in the earlier sessions last week. Paroian accused hearing officer Meyrick of favoring Ontario Hydro, while Meyrick maintained he was being fair.

Since the Supreme Court's ruling Ontario Hydro has maintained a position of not bringing forth evidence or witnesses. The hearings went for two-and-a-half days.

Toward the end of May Energy Minister James Taylor granted Hydro the right for expropriations along the middle section of the proposed line, from a point near Colbeck to just north of Highway 7. Expropriation of lands has already started in the northern leg of the line, from Bruce to Colbeck, near Orangeville.



WALKING THE PLANK: Sue Buchanan picks her way along the boards which construction crews put up Thursday. Bridges allowed customers to get into shops while work goes on along Mill St.

### Art Meunier

## Fear leads man to crime

An immobilizing fear of society kept Arthur Meunier in jail for 42 years of his life. Prisons were his only homes and convicts his only friends until March, 1977, when he was released for the final time.

On July 1, Mr. Meunier moved to Acton with a business partner, and now they are facing the loneliness of a strange town.

Mr. Meunier's story has been told in every major newspaper in the world. His face is familiar to every newshound across North America, and his experiences in prisons are so invaluable, he has been named prison ambassador, and named to special committees investigating various penal institutions in Canada, he says.

Problems start young. Mr. Meunier's story began when he was three years old. His parents were killed in a boating accident, and the small child was sent to live under the care of the Catholic Church.

Because of the depression, the church could not afford to keep him, so, as Mr. Meunier says, a childless couple was forced to adopt the orphan. His new parents believed in corporal punishment, and beat the child regularly. They gave him nothing, and taught him to steal for their own means. He was only punished when caught, then he was beaten.

When 11 years old, Mr. Meunier was caught by the local law enforcement agency at Moncton, New Brunswick. He spent the night in jail, and put on two years probation. When he returned home the next day, his mother beat him black and blue, as Mr. Meunier recalls, and threw him out of the house. She had broken bones and her last words to him were that she never wanted to see him again.

With no place to go, no money, bleeding and in pain, the child had no choice but to go back to the police. He asked them to let him serve his sentence in jail, because there was nowhere else for him to go. At this time, there was no Children's Aid Society to take him in, Mr. Meunier says, and the police agreed it would be the best thing for Arthur.

Once in jail, the boy was accepted by the other prisoners. They became his friends, the first ones he had

in his life. He was not rejected; as he was on the outside and he was not subjected to the daily beating and abuse. For the first time in his life, he was treated like a brother or son. He felt as if he had finally come home.

When the two years were up, Arthur was 13 years old, with no place to go. Within a few days of his release, he stole a piece of lead and a watch fob, and went immediately to the police to admit his crime, with the intentions of getting back into jail. His plan worked, and once again

he was put behind bars.

Pattern set. The pattern was set, and continued for many years. As he grew older, Mr. Meunier's crimes grew more sophisticated. He mainly was caught for fraud, writing illegal cheques, and joy riding. All this was done with the deliberate intentions of returning home—to jail.

Mr. Meunier emphasized that not once in his entire life of crime did he ever commit an act of violence. He never

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AFTER 42 years in Canadian and American prisons, Arthur Meunier was released for the final time in March. He and Richard Erdmann, the young actor who will play the ex-convict's youth in a movie about his life, are living in Acton, and planning to write a book.

## Will petition

"Very good" was the assessment of the members of the Actonians for Action committee Monday when they surveyed petition sheets signed voluntarily in stores and banks by 1,650 people. The petition sheets will accompany a brief which will be presented to the provincial government. The brief appeared in the Free Press in full.

The committee will also be attending a meeting of the regional committee which is reviewing regional government. They do not yet know the date.

## BIA improvements depend on parking

A consultant, hired by the Business Improvement Area (BIA), told his employers he did not need the job if they

continue to bicker over moving some parking spaces. The consultant, Doug Flowers, told a BIA meeting:



CRANE HOISTS A section of the old curbs at the corner of Willow St. and Mill St. New curbs have been poured and lockstone sidewalks follow.

"If you're going to sit here and resist moving a half-dozen parking spaces, then get rid of us. Because you don't need us and we don't need you."

Mr. Flowers and partner Dan Nixey, of Anthrogram Limited Planning Consultants, were at last Wednesday's BIA meeting in the Y building to exchange ideas with merchants on what the downtown area is to look like. Also on the agenda was taxes, but the chatter hopped onto parking, the Christmas bus, littering, loitering and other downtown topics.

Parking dominated part of the evening's discussion with Don Lindsay's suggestion the BIA lobby the Esqueping and Georgetown councillors to get Halt Hill council to kick in 50 per cent of the cost of buying the Hochen's Bakery land. The Acton councillors are all in favor of the purchase, Mr. Lindsay of A-B Market said.

Council last week turned down a bid for the town to pay half the cost of parking.

Mr. Lindsay agreed with the consultants that future beautification of the downtown core, beyond the interlocking brick sidewalk, hinges on a solution to the lack of off-street parking in and near the core.

The BIA was created under provincial legislation late last year. A BIA undertakes to improve municipal lands,

create an image for itself and promote the downtown as a place for shoppers.

The BIA in town stretches from near the CNR tracks in the east to Park Avenue in the west. The blocks flanking Mill Street are also in the area.

BIA board of management came under heavy criticism for its handling of money. Elma Braida, Acton Home Furnishings, and Bert Hinton, Hinton's 5 cent to \$1, said they would like to have been told before they got their tax bills, just how much money they are expected to pay. Tax bills were delivered the Monday and Tuesday before the meeting.

"I really resent not being told how much I had to pay," Miss Braida told the group of 33 merchants.

"I take great exception to raising \$20,000 for the BIA rather than parking," Mr. Hinton said. He also asked if it would have been too much effort for the BIA to print a proposed budget and present it to members.

BIA president Henry Stachyra said the group handed the budget the way it did for fear of criticism. "We had to do it this way because of fear of being accused of dragging our feet. And rightly so," he said.

BIA treasurer Bill Yundt, Acton Pharmacy Ltd., agreed with criticism of a lack of communication between the

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### Hydro power boosters



Art Mosher



Tom Marshall

## Committee defers new Hydro bid

Regional Land Division Committee deferred for one month an Ontario Hydro bid to assemble land south of Steeles Avenue for two 500 kV corridors planned to intersect near Milton.

N. Chalkley moved the hearing be postponed because he said he was concerned over the lack of public awareness of the meeting before the committee. He said he was also concerned, as were other committee members, because the town of Oakville's planners had not sent in a report.

The meeting was in the Seventh Line offices Tuesday. Des Morrow observed Ontario Hydro failed to post notices of the application. J.W. Matheson, appearing for Hydro, said he was aware

only the day before the meeting that notices had to be set up for neighbors to read.

Notices must be posted 48 hours before a committee meeting.

The land in question is 28 acres in the south-west half of Lot 15 on the Fifth Line. The area used to belong to Oakville.

Mr. Matheson contended that the use of the land by Hydro would conform to the Oakville official plan. He had a copy of the bylaw for the committee to read.

However, Mr. Chalkley said he would like to know how Oakville interpreted its official plan and also how Halt Hill interprets Oakville's official plan since the

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