

# Town to fight Hydro at OMB

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**MONSTER POTATO**, weighing about 12 to 13 pounds, was grown in Lorne Saunders' garden at R.R. 2, Acton. Neighbor Mrs. Clarence Harding brought it in to the Free Press where it posed beside a pop bottle.

The town will join residents in fighting Ontario Hydro's proposed power corridors through Halton Hills by objecting to Hydro's request for an official plan amendment before the Ontario Municipal Board.

At last Tuesday's planning board meeting and again Monday at council the town's objection to both the North-South and East-West corridors were voiced.

The October 24 OMB hearing is supposed to deal with just the East-West corridor crossing the bottom of Halton Hills but residents and several councillors believe there is more to it. There is some evidence to suggest the controversial North-South corridor is also tied in.

John Schneider, Interested Citizen's Group (ICG), said based on Hydro's rezoning request and official plan amendment application it would appear there are two corridors, not one, under consideration.

He noted the East-West corridor had an independent study while the North-South hasn't. Hydro's land requirements for both corridors are confusing he explained but it appears the land Hydro wants rezoned is much larger than needed for just a few towers. Hydro wants 1,750 feet in Halton Hills plus another 250 feet in Milton rezoned. This amounts to about half a concession.

Just two years ago, at hearings in Hillsburgh, Hydro said it would need just 675 feet. Halton Hills resident Dave Moffat told council "In two years this requirement has escalated to 2,000 feet."

Schneider said the size of the land Hydro wants in south Halton Hills and Milton indicates there might be as many as 17 power lines converging in that area by the 1990s coming from Kitchener, Bruce, Nanticoke and Pickering.

He urged council fight any rezoning until the width of Hydro's land request is justified with establishment of the number of lines both now and in the future. Schneider noted Hydro evidence at past hearings and in their documents contradicts itself as to the number of lines needed in this area.

He said it was dangerous to give in to Ontario Hydro for even one line now because they add parallel lines later. Schneider claimed Hydro says they have approval for one line now and turn around and want land for three to five on the North-South corridor.

He said nobody knows what's really going on because "Hydro won't tell you."

Schneider said the area where the lines are supposed to meet is confusing. It is hard to determine if the land is for the North-South lines or East-West. He said he

thought if the land is just for the East-West then Hydro shouldn't be asking Halton Hills for anything, just Milton. Schneider said he could appreciate the fact the upcoming hearing deals just with the East-West lines but warned the North-South is tied in then Hydro will use approval to "leap frog" their way into Halton Hills as "they always do."

He said there are "funny" things going on just as they always are when people deal with Hydro.

Moffat said Hydro says there would be just one line coming from the North and two on the East-West but their land requirements make this questionable.

Noting he runs a pick-your-own farm operation he said he is very concerned about liability to the public because of the danger of the lines. He said the town should also be concerned about liability with the lines criss-crossing parts of Halton Hills. Moffat gave examples of high voltages on common objects like school buses and irrigation pipes caused by the lines.

"There's liability to me and to you. Before you allow Hydro carte-blanc, look at liability," he warned.

He described Halton Hills as the nerve center of Hydro's future expansion. Moffat said the town was facing a real "hazard and a time bomb."

Council beefed up planning boards recommendation by adding to it the official plan amendment and rezoning were "refused" by the town and not just referred to the OMB. This beefing up was urged by ICG solicitor Dick Howitt. He was afraid the original motion would indicate no comment on the part of council when the town in fact objects.

Councillor Roy Booth, who said he is opposed to the North-South corridor but the town should be specifying which one it objects to.

Mayor Tom Hill said this wasn't necessary since council is opposed to a rezoning for both corridors.

Later Councillor George Maltby presented a motion calling for the planner and solicitor to appear and object on behalf of Halton Hills to Hydro's application. He also wanted the solicitor em-

powered to subpoena witnesses in support of the town's cause. Maltby said witnesses have been retained by the town in the past.

Councillor Peter Pomeroy was concerned about this suggesting the town likely couldn't afford to fight Hydro. He said all the town need do is go and object but not fight the residents' case for them.

Maltby said the part about subpoenas wasn't as ominous as it sounded. He said the town would fight on the basis of legalities and good planning while residents are fighting Hydro's entire plan.

Booth warned many more hearings could be coming up on the issue and the town could end up with a huge legal bill for fighting Hydro every step of the way.

It was decided the planner and solicitor will attend the hearings and object for the town. The part about subpoenas was dropped.

The No Parking signs, down since reconstruction, should be going back up in town soon.

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## Wintario bonus draw

Harvey McCulloch, Q.C., Chairman of the Board of the Ontario Lottery Corporation, today announced that the fifth Wintario bonus draw will be held on October 13 in conjunction with the regular Wintario draw scheduled for Milton.

The bonus draw is being

held in accordance with lottery regulations which require that all unclaimed prize money, after the expiry of the statutory one-year claiming period be transferred to a special prize account for additional or bonus prizes in subsequent draws.

## Town wants input into sewage sludge dumping

Halton Hills hopes to now be able to offer some input to Queen's Park regarding the dumping of sewage sludge in the rural areas.

Councillors have been upset because the Ministry of Environment issues a permit.

Miller said he had learned

council can forward comments and regulations which aren't too restrictive to the province.

"They are willing to work with council to arrive at a suitable program that both council and residents could accept," Miller said.

He suggested the town ask the province not to allow sludge dumping within 1,000 feet of a home.

Miller also urged no dumping be allowed near drainage ditches, water courses or on hillsides.

He thought sludge should be ploughed under within 48

hours whenever possible and equipment should be well maintained so there won't be spills of sludge on streets or roads.

Miller also called for better inspection of dumping sites by Ontario.

Committee passed a recommendation brought forward by Councillor George Maltby calling for the province to send the town details of criteria and in selecting sludge dump sites.

A representative of the Ministry of Environment will also be invited to come and discuss the problem with committee.

Serjeantson said she had learned Halton Hills comments would be welcomed since regulations over sludge dumping are slated to be amended by Queen's Park.

She noted the Ministry of Environment only has about 10 per cent input over site selection and the Ministry of Agriculture 90 per cent.

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## "Greatest day of life" Meunier in Moncton

From Moncton, Arthur Meunier has phoned The Free Press to say he is receiving the "red carpet treatment" there.

He is staying at the home of Mrs. Lillian Marshall, who

arranged to have him return to the city where he grew up. Here he was first imprisoned at the age of 11, and he has been in and out of prisons - mostly in - for the succeeding 42 years. He now lives in Acton.

Mr. Meunier says he is speaking to students at Moncton University and on local radio and TV programs. On Tuesday he was interviewed on the TV show Counterpoint which is aired from Halifax. He was also to be on a program from St. John.

He has discovered he is expected to speak in both French and English. He was delighted to meet several people he went to school with years ago.

Three Acton youths have gone with Mr. Meunier and Richard Erdmann, the 16-year-old he has adopted, Randy Van Fleet, Norris Lafin and Terry Holmes. They are participating in the plans, Mr. Meunier says, and he is proud of them. They will be returning home Wednesday evening, October 12.

Mr. Meunier says he is using the trip to initiate a national fund-raising campaign to start a boys' town here at Acton.

A group met him at the station when he arrived by train, including some who remembered him from school days. "It was the greatest day of my life," Mr. Meunier exclaimed.

Mr. Meunier said in his phone call that he has presented plaques to the university and city of Moncton commemorating his visit to his home town with an apology.

## Weedspraying will continue

Spraying of weeds along roads in Halton Hills will continue, despite objections to the practice made by Limehouse Women's Institute.

A letter sent to council earlier this year by the women's group complained about "indiscriminate killing" of many natural desirable plants which aren't weeds. They said weed cutting would be better than spraying.

Councillor George Maltby told Halton Hills works committee he had heard concerns about spray being carried into the fields by the wind.

Engineer Robert Austin noted there were complaints last year when spraying wasn't done and now there are complaints when it is done.

He said he didn't consider

the town's spraying program to be "indiscriminate killing."

Austin said the spraying is necessary to kill weeds to facilitate winter snow plowing and snow drifting as well as bacteria control and visual requirements.

He said spraying is done by professionals and is very strictly controlled. Great care is taken, Austin explained.

Austin told committee if property owners are willing to do their own weed killing and contact the town there won't be any spraying done in their vicinity.

Councillor Les Duby said spraying is very necessary and thought this should be explained in a letter to the Women's Institute.

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