

Hydro fight drains ICG purse, group may be on the ropes

The cost of justice is high, too high for what one gets, some members of the Interested Citizens' Group (ICG) felt during a long meeting in the Stewarttown Hall Thursday. "We've spent \$100,000 and five years to learn the courts are political," ICG executive member John Schneider of RR 2 Acton said at the end of the 3 1/2 hour gathering. The ICG held the meeting in the wake of a reversal in the courts last week and in the face of a \$600 a day Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing this spring. Members of the ICG executive asked members for direction in the battle against Ontario Hydro and money. They got little of either. "Financial support is pretty well dried up," Schneider said at the meeting's close. "Just how far we can go, I don't know," he said. "There's a chance for legal aid, and if we can find someone with \$100,000, we'll take them on again," he said. The ICG spearheaded ef-

orts by mainly area rural residents to oppose construction of an Ontario Hydro 500 kV transmission line from the Bruce nuclear generator on Lake Huron to Milton. Plans for the line call for it to pass through Halton Hills from north to south, nearly parallel to the 5th line between Georgetown and Acton. No appeal Residents in the central part of the line, from a point north of Highway 7 to Colbeck said they thought better of going ahead with an appeal of the court decision. "Right now, we think no," Mrs. Howard Switzer of RR 1 Hillsburgh said. "My reaction would really be, it's a waste of money," Gord Van Gils said. "I got bills to pay," Dave Moffat from the Halton Hills section said. "Why pay more?" "The amount of money has reached a point where we should be careful," Norman Bird said. The Halton Hills wing of the ICG has paid Georgetown lawyer Dick Howitt \$8,000.

The balance for his work and that of Windsor lawyer Leon Parolan and others amounts to \$27,000, Howitt said. Sixty people started out in the audience at 8.15 p.m. After a brief break nearly two hours later, 47 remained. The meeting ended at 11.35 p.m. Hydro winner Last week's court decision allows Ontario Hydro to take lands along the northern section of the corridor. The ICG sought leave to appeal a divisional court hearing concerning the northern part of the line. It tried to have a report which recommended expropriation, set aside. Howitt said he thought the best course of action would be to concentrate on the OMB hearing. "The \$8,000 would be best spend on the OMB," he said. If they lost the appeal and he rated chances at less than ten per cent, Howitt said he had no doubt the court costs would be awarded against the ICG. Ontario Minister of Energy James Taylor has approved

expropriations in all three sections of the nearly 110-mile-long line. "Can I simply say that the courts are very loath to interfere with a political decision," Howitt told the gathering. "It's virtually impossible," Howitt said about the chance of success in an appeal. That's my opinion in view of all the things that've happened in the south. He continued to expand his view later with: "My gut sort of reaction at this point is the courts have decided on and spoken. And they're not going to be swayed by picky points of law on this line." An appeal would attempt to square different views concerning the subject of alternate routes for the corridor. The views came from two previous decisions from courts on different levels. With most of the audience gone a vote was taken as to whether or not to enlist lawyers McCarthy and McCarthy of Toronto to gauge the ICG's chances in an appeal. In a 6-3 vote they decided not to hire more lawyers. Apply for aid ICG public relations officer John Minns, of Glen Williams, told the group it could apply for legal aid to finance its efforts against hydro. In an appeal to the audience for direction Schneider told them they still had not had their hearing after 4 1/2 years. The engineer's report states the line chosen by Ontario Hydro is, from an environmental point of view, the third worst. From an engineering point of view, it's the seventh, he said. An attempt to reorganize the ICG structure into a united front was postponed after David Coleman, head of the delegation from the centre section, said his group wanted to study the idea first. Estimates of the cost of lawyers in the three sections of the line hit \$80,000, according to Minns. When the time people spent away from chores and the office was added in, the cost is well over \$100,000, Schneider said. "And all because the government said get involved," he added. Schneider told the group it would still have the possibility of an order-in-council over its head if it stopped the line passing through Halton Hills at the OMB hearing. No date for the hearing has been set, according to Howitt. About two years ago the ICG held a fund-raising meeting in the same hall. Howitt rated their chances then at less than ten per cent, but the lawyers were given a green light. Howitt explained there is pressure to get started on further legal action in the Halton Hills section. He has perfected a case in the central part of the line, which passes through Erin Township. Doing the same in the south may cost as much as \$3,000, he said. The idea of holding a spring auction to raise money to pay the lawyers was aired. MPP Julian Reed, Mayor Tom Hill and councillors George Malby and Russ Miller attended the gathering. The better part of the first two hours saw press officer Minns detailing the conflict between the ICG, the Government and Ontario Hydro.



Morette trial

Following a preliminary hearing last Wednesday Dale Harold Morette, 24, 3 Dale Gate, was committed to trial for manslaughter. Judge William Sharpe handed down the decision to send the case to trial after the hearing in Georgetown Provincial Court. No date has been set for the trial but it will likely be referred to the Ontario Supreme Court spring assizes which begins March 6. Morette was charged with manslaughter following a disturbance September 16 in which Lloyd Sedore, 45, died outside the McGibbon Hotel. For the second time he was released on \$10,000 bail. He was in custody in the Halton Jail in Milton from September 18 to September 26. Morette was released until New Year's Day when his bail was revoked and he taken back into custody until the preliminary hearing January 11. Sharpe ruled no details of preliminary hearing testimony could be published.

N. Halton Assoc.

Expand ARC workshop when province approves

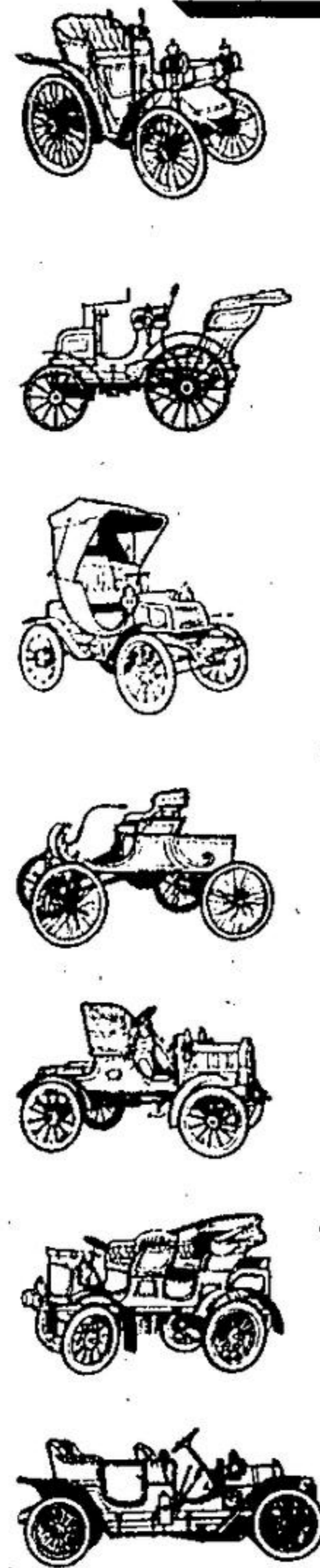
The Adult Rehabilitation Centre (ARC) Industries Workshop at Hornby will undergo a \$50,000 expansion to the building this year, provided final government approval can be obtained. Edith Hillman of Speyside, chairman of the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded, announced the project is moving along well at the NHAMR's annual meeting last week. It has received preliminary approval in principle, she said. The addition to the west side of the former Hornby Public School building on Steeles Ave. will be approximately 72 by 35 feet and it will contain a store area at the front, extra work room for the trainees, a kiln area for ceramic work and a loading dock. Mrs. Hillman explained there are currently 31 mentally retarded adults doing various jobs at the Workshop, and nine more will be added next fall, so more space was required. The addition will be built to accommodate a total of 50 trainees. "We really need more room," she said. The attractive store front should help ARC's retail business and will allow a better display of trainee-made articles for sale. It will also make it more feasible to remain open on Saturdays and during regular store hours, she said. Another project which made 1977 an outstanding year, said the president, was receiving formal government approval to allow four residents of Countryside, NHAMR's group residence at Hornby, to go out into the community to live. Four women have reached the stage where their supervisors feel they can handle themselves—with minimal supervision—in a community residence. A townhouse or apartment will be sought where the four can live together, do their own washing and cooking, shop for groceries and clothes, with only occasional visits from trained counsellors. They have been training for the move in a special "apartment" at Countryside, for the setting up of their own home, and all are eagerly looking forward to the move, sometime in 1978. The move means there will be four beds open at the group residence, and four new residents have already been selected from the long waiting list. There are currently 15 living at Countryside. Ministry of Consumer and Social Services will cover about 80 per cent of the cost of the "auxiliary residence", with the local association handling the remaining 20 per cent, Mrs. Hillman explained. A similar formula is used at the Countryside residence. During 1977 the association also managed to pay off the outstanding mortgage on Countryside, Mrs. Hillman

repeated. The cost was spread over two years. She said the fund-raising campaign last year was again a successful one, thanks to the work of the three auxiliaries located in Acton, Georgetown and Milton, which ran the spring "Flowers of Hope" campaign. The NHAMR also cashed in on the new "cash for life" lottery being run by the provincial organization, and has made close to \$3,000 selling tickets in the local area. The draws offer weekly prizes ranging from \$25 to \$5,000 and a major draw at the end of January will give one lucky winner \$1,000 in cash each month, for as long as he or she lives. Second prize is \$500 a month, third prize \$250 a month. Tickets are \$2, she said, and the Association keeps 50 cents for every ticket sold. It also wins cash for every local winning ticket. The North Halton Association is currently second in ticket sales in Ontario, she said. Another good money-making project last year was a fashion show in Georgetown in August, which netted over \$800. Association members acted as models. The annual election was held during last week's meeting and Mrs. Hillman

was returned as president. Vice-president is Charlie Clifford, Georgetown; and second vice-president Keith Couture, Acton. Mike Evans of Georgetown is treasurer, Anne Wickham of Georgetown recording secretary and Lucille Virus of Streetsville corresponding secretary. Committee chairmen included Jake Kuiken, Acton, education; Leo Virus, Streetsville, adult services; Jenny Kuiken, Acton, campaign and membership; Audrey Hillman, Georgetown, program; Leo Virus, residential services; Lee Vivien, Milton, development school; Barbara Abrey, Georgetown, nursery; Isabelle Weaver, Milton,

recreation and camp; Julie Conroy, Acton, bulletin and publicity; Karen Pitt, Acton, historian and research; Rachel Clifford, Georgetown, family services; and Jack Van Der Berg, Milton, property chairman. Balance of the executive committee includes Gay Daly, administrative assistant, Mrs. Win Isham, director of ARC industries; Carol Robertson, director of Tinkerbell Nursery; Gayle Ferguson, Audrey Hillman and Edyth Davis, presidents of the auxiliaries in Acton, Georgetown and Milton; Bob Blodeau, director of Countryside; and Pauline Stevenson, director of Halton Developmental Centre.

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