

# OMB forces town's OK on hydro line

The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) has ordered Halton Hills to allow Ontario Hydro to build a 500,000 kV east-west transmission corridor through the municipality.

The decision allows the provincial utility to construct 3.6 miles or corridor through Halton Hills as part of the 96-mile line from Nanticoke to Pickering. The corridor will be 250 feet wide.

The town and Halton Region opposed the east-west line during OMB hearings in the 7th Line offices last summer.

The OMB officials, D. S. Colbourne and E. A. Seaborn, stated the municipalities, concern for sufficient study on the line "is an absurd position at this stage, in view of the evidence."

According to the nine-page OMB decision the region and town could only raise concerns about the visual affect of the line.

The town and region suggested the line be shifted into Milton. Milton, however, objected to this suggestion.

The OMB decided there has been ample study, mainly by the Solandt Commission, about the east-west line. The board also concluded the route chosen by Hydro would be safer than the one suggested by the town and region.

The report was released February 7.

The town has referred the OMB decision to the planning board, where it is likely to be discussed in a meeting tentatively set for February 21.

Another OMB hearing is in the works concerning Ontario Hydro's other proposed line through Halton Hills: the north-south corridor. In the opinion of Georgetown lawyer Richard Howitt the decision about the east-west line does not affect the hearing on the other corridor.

"It's (the OMB decision) supposed to deal strictly with the east-west line", Howitt said in a telephone interview Tuesday. "It's still open for the north-south line to join the grid in another location," he said.

The proposed north-south line is another 500,000 west corridor, which if approved would mainly parallel the 5th Line.

The two lines, if approved will join at Milton Station.

Some property owners have settled with Ontario Hydro. Others, mainly members of the Interested Citizens' Group (ICG) are continuing to ask the provincial government for an independent study about alternate routes for the line.

The ICG argues that the north-south line, from the nuclear generator at Bruce to a point near Limehouse, has not had the benefit of an independent study such as the one carried out by Dr. Solandt on the east-west line.

No date has yet been set for the OMB hearing concerning the north-south line, Howitt said.

Halton Hills council also opposed construction of the north-south line. The town went so far as to give the ICG funds to enable it to continue its fight against Ontario Hydro.



JANE MATHIESON HAS decided what she wants at the Valentine's sale. Last Friday's sale was held in the Carpet Corner, and was a great success.

# Town police report

Damage was split down the middle in a two car mishap on Bower Avenue Friday at around dinner time.

Damage to the auto driven by Gilberto Pereira of Lot 25 on Concession 3 is about \$150, according to Halton Regional Police.

They put the same figure on the damage to the auto driven by Steven Garrett of 298 Arthur St.

Elmore-Elizabeth drive collision pitted a car against a bus last Wednesday morning. Damage to the bus, driven by Randy Mitchell of 138

Elizabeth Dr., is estimated by police to be \$20.

Damage to the auto driven by Carol Campbell of 70 Nelson Cr., is about \$700, police say.

Vandals damaged several signs and a couple of doors at the Acton Medical Centre on Mill Street East Sunday.

## Bed crisis at hospital

An accommodation crisis has developed at Georgetown Hospital. Unless expansion plans are approved soon, the situation is going to worsen, Hospital Administrator Fred Morris says.

In an interview this week, Morris said patients are being accommodated in corridors. He said there have only been a few days all winter when there haven't been patients in halls. Most days there are anywhere from five to 10 or more patients living in the corridors.

The problem has become "chronic," Morris declared.

The only response from Queen's Park has been a flat no.

## Nassagaweya chimney fire

Acton Firefighters rushed to the Ken Dodds home on the Nassagaweya 4th Line north of Sideroad 15 Monday afternoon.

Firefighters used chains to clean the chimney.

An employee has been charged by police in connection with the theft of merchandise, valued at less than \$200, from an Acton store.

A two-car mishap on Queen Street resulted in a total of \$500 in property damage Friday at supper time.

Halton Regional Police estimate there is \$300 in damage to the vehicle driven by Harry Schupp of Lot 23, Concession 1, Esquesing.

Damage to the auto driven by Daniel Hitchcock of Lot 16, Concession 6, Nassagaweya is put by police at \$200.

# ICG encouraged after meeting with Minister

An eight man delegation from the Interested Citizens' Group which met with the new Minister of Energy Reuben Baetz, his deputy Malcolm Rowan and adviser Andy Frame, for three hours Tuesday morning came away encouraged they might get a better deal from the Government and Ontario Hydro.

Baetz indicated an openness to investigate credible alternatives for the proposed Bruce to Milton hydro corridor noting he had been disturbed in the past through reports in the press about how Ontario Hydro deals and listens to the public.

The ICG representatives opened the meeting with the Minister's own statement on how he wished to improve communications between Ontario Hydro, the Ministry and the people. He stated earlier, that "if a hydro line is

to be built in someone's backyard they must be told why."

Taking the minister at his word, the ICG met with him to discuss concerns of opponents of the Bruce to Milton 500 kV corridor.

Although the meeting lasted three hours and covered a number of topics the primary question asked of Mr. Baetz was, "Why the people have been denied an independent study of the line."

Baetz replied, "We can't turn the clock back all the way but we will examine what alternatives remain."

The alternatives include a discussion of the technical, economic and political options still available.

In the technical field the minister will examine possibility of setting up an examination forum to compare the independent

consultant's report submitted by Slater Energy Consultants with any additional information that Systems Planners of Ontario Hydro might offer, including active participation by spokesmen of the Citizens' group.

The Slater report contended serious deficiencies exist in the presently proposed Bruce to Milton system and that better options are available. Arthur Hill of Hydro contended, however, that Slater did not consider all the facts.

One of the stated purposes of the forum would be to examine all the information and consider pertinent facts of the systems plan for the Bruce to Milton corridor.

The Minister says he will reply to ICG co-chairman John Schneider within 48 hours as to the procedure the forum might take.

Furthermore, Mr. Baetz has offered to receive a list of the specific areas of concern of a number of the citizen land owners on questions that have remained unanswered over the past five years. These include Hydro property acquisition practices and field conduct, the possible hazards and safety aspects of the line, environmental and social impact and effect on agriculture.

The ICG representatives felt Mr. Baetz was exhibiting genuine concern especially when he said citizen groups like the ICG should be consulted in the decision-making process. He said he is always wary of specific monopolies because there appeared to be no alternatives to their decisions.

Representing the Interested Citizens' Group at the three hour meeting were co-chairman John Schneider, Norman Bird, David Moffat, Walter Scott, Bob James of Hillsburgh, Ted Lang, William Allen of Hillsburgh and John Minns.

# Should replace old jail soon

The century-old Halton Jail in Milton must be replaced as soon as possible, according to the Ontario Ombudsman's Report on Correctional Institutions in Ontario, released this week.

A \$14,000,000 detention centre with 180 beds is proposed at the site of Maplehurst Correctional Institute in Milton, to replace the Milton jail. It would also be used to house some inmates from the Brampton area, who are presently housed at jails in the west end of Toronto.

"From what I understand the new detention centre will not be built until 1980 or 1981," stated D.C. Hinks, Superintendent of Milton Jail.

Built in 1878, the old jail faces severe overcrowding problems — particularly on weekends — noted Mr. Hinks.

The official capacity of the jail is 31, but weekends often see 50 or more inmates, said Mr. Hinks.

A basic design, complete with blueprints and updated master plan has been prepared for the proposed new detention centre to replace the jail, but plans have not proceeded.

"If the money is there, we are all set to go," he stated. Although institutional morale was judged low in November 1975, by October 1976 staff morale had improved considerably, with the appointment of a new superintendent and the initiation of a program of ongoing staff training programs, the Ombudsman's report said.

Despite the overcrowding, Mr. Hinks finds the present morale of the staff high. "They are very capable of handling the situation and have learned to cope with it," he stated.

The report further recommended the establishment of a community resource centre in Brampton which would allow part of the centre to be used for "appropriate minimum-security inmates from Milton Jail," or "that the ministry establish a community resource centre for the use of the Milton Jail."

Resource centres are styled along a half-way concept and are funded and controlled by the ministry, providing certain inmates the opportunity to work and live in a particu-

lar community.

A resource centre in Brampton would have little effect in relieving the overcrowded situation at Milton Jail, stated Mr. Hinks. There are resource centres in surrounding areas, but problems arise when an inmate has his driving licence suspended and is unable to commute between the job and the resource centre.

A resource centre in Milton is unlikely in the near future, according to Arthur Nuttal, director of Community Resource Centres in Ontario.

"Resource centres are developed with public money," and care has to be taken to expand as facilities are need, he stated.

The present Centre services the western, industrialized section of Toronto.



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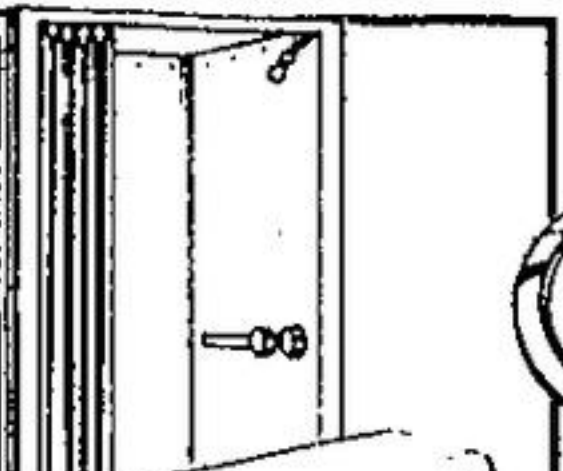
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