

# Baetz turns down review of 500kV hydro corridor

Neither the 500 kV hydro corridor or the Ontario cabinet are being moved by a plea for a rerouting of the line to cheaper and what some experts considered a better route than proposed from the Bruce generating station to Milton.

In a letter to William Mann, chairman of the Interested Citizens Group Tuesday, Energy Minister Reuben Baetz said the Ontario cabinet this week reaffirmed its decision to run the corridor from Bruce through Limehouse and connect with the east-west corridor near Milton. The cor-

ridor with its 160 foot high towers will march up the middle of the Fifth Concession of Halton Hills.

The minister said the letter would be disappointing and frustrating for the ICG but he said it was impossible to turn back the clock far enough to reroute the line, a theme used for the last four years both by Ontario Hydro and the Government.

Baetz said the cost of replanning and rebuilding the line on a different route would be so large he couldn't in good conscience recommend a basic change.

Bill Mann, chairman of the ICG, said he was naturally disappointed by the decision. He said he could understand the minister's feelings that the clock could not be turned back, but, "We've been working on this for four years now... they keep changing the game and changing the ministers... If they had realized the errors they recognize now, this line would be in the correct location."

The ICG was given some consolation. Baetz in the conclusion of his letter, said, "For whatever consolation it might be I do believe as one who has been active in

citizen organizations for many years that your citizens' group should sustain as articulate efforts have made a permanent impact on the planning and routing of future transmission power lines. Therefore, while in your view you may have lost the battle, you have contributed enormously to winning the war of increased citizen participation in public decision making."

The full text of the letter follows:  
March 13, 1978.  
"At the conclusion of the meeting with the Interested Citizens' Group on March 6, 1978,

called to enable you to discuss the Slater report with representatives of Ontario Hydro I said I would respond to your request for a review of the alternatives to the Bruce to Milton transmission line no later than today.

"As I promised I have given the matter top priority and have reviewed in detail the sequence of events and decisions made in respect to the line. I have also personally flown slowly by helicopter over the whole length of the line as well as much of the alternative transmission line routes which

have been proposed at one time or another. "As you know since February 14, 1978, I have met with the ICG on two occasions and I have had an opportunity to appreciate your concern and to learn of the alternatives which the ICG would propose to the Bradley-Milton line.

"I hope you would agree that the meeting on the Slater report provided ample opportunity for everyone present to question both Ontario Hydro officials and Mr. Slater on

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## The Acton Free Press

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### Speakers take top honors

Acton students swept the Georgetown Optimists public speaking contest at North Halton Golf and Country club Tuesday evening.

In the girls' competitions there were four speakers. In first place was Victoria Rodriguez of M. Z. Bennett school, a grade five student. In second place was Janet Reast, a grade four student at M. Z. Bennett school. In third place was Mary Vito of Holy Cross school in Georgetown.

In the boys' competition there were three speakers and in first place was Steve Saxon, a grade eight student at M. cKenzie-Smith.

Doug Magwood phoned the Free Press at 10.45 p.m. Tuesday so the good news could be published.



KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS of Speyside school have been working for almost two months on a quilt for their teacher's new baby. The quilt was presented to teacher Mary Shier this morning (Wednesday). Front row, Jenny Farragan, Melissa Harrington, Tammy Landry, Judy Eaton, Catherine Reed, Beth Cameron and

Lee Ann Munday. Middle row, Colin Akehurst, Ryan Weaver, Stacey Sproule, Laila Kahn, Jennifer Lamon, Todd DeForrest, Darryl Maxwell. Back row, David Henderson, Jason Seads, Tommy Tenjis, Shawn Court, Brett Gillett, Steven McDonnell, and Geoffrey Kosa.

### Smoke detector alerts residents

What could have been a major disaster early Sunday morning was professionally averted by two nurses at Jeannette's Home for Senior Citizens.

At approximately 4 a.m., a burst of smoke caused a smoke detector in one of the bedrooms to buzz, alerting the night shift of fire in the building.

Sandra Ross, registered nurse, and Doris Jones a qualified nurse, woke up all 32 residents of the home and led them to the sitting room where they sat prepared to leave the building if necessary.

Acton Volunteer Firefighters arrived at the scene seven minutes after the alarm was put in, but were unable to locate any fire, although they could smell

smoke. A complete search of the premises revealed no fire, or sign of one having taken place. They reset the detector and left. Fire chief Mick Holmes pointed out each room has a detector but only one was set off. He still does not know what activated it.

Mr. Holmes said the two nurses should be commended for their quick thinking. Had there been a fire, he said, the two would have saved many lives. Jeannette Fernandes, owner of the home, is also very proud of the women. Within 10 minutes of the buzzer sounding, all were safe by the door ready to escape into the night.

Mrs. Fernandes also commended the volunteer firefighters and Mr. Holmes for their quick service and efficiency upon their arrival.

### Hydro employees to read water meters

Acton Hydro Electric Commission will read water meters for the Region of Halton outside Acton limits—for a fee.

At the present time, hydro employees read the meters at the same time they do the hydro meters. However, they only cover meters in town. Many homes on town water up Churchill Rd. N. and in a few other sections of the outer town limits are serviced by Ontario Hydro, meaning the Acton workers do not read their meters.

Halton Region sent Acton Hydro a letter requesting them to read the other meters. The commission was

willing to have their employees do this, but added they needed more money per house than the 27 cents they were now receiving.

Hydro superintendent Doug Mason suggested the workers read the extra meters once and take note of their additional time. In this way, the region can be billed according to actual time instead of the commission estimating.

The commission decided to charge the region 27 cents per meter, plus time and mileage. They decided even at this rate, it would still be cheaper than the region trucks out just for the job.

### Students make quilt for teacher

Wee Cathy Shier does not know it yet, but she is the recipient of a gift sure to be treasured by her mother and herself for generations to come.

Cathy was born on February 1, to the Speyside school kindergarten class teacher Mary Shier. Mrs. Shier has been off on a leave of absence from December and will return to the class room after the March break.

However, this morning (Wednesday), Mrs. Shier returned to visit her students and was presented with a handmade quilt, with 20 different blocks. Each student drew a different design on each block in crayon, and then it was ironed into the material. It will be given to the teacher on behalf of the baby.

The children have been working since February 1 on the project.

### Take hammering over region budget

Hostilities and frustrations that have been building up for months were ushered to the fore last week during a heated meeting of Halton Region's Administration Committee.

The meeting exploded when members of the committee battled in an effort to come to grips with the proposed \$33,000,000 budget.

Regional Chairman Ric Morrow and Regional

top, only confrontation and the chairman adds to this at every opportunity," Eriksen said.

Burlington Mayor Mary Munro supported Eriksen's contention and said the budget had been presented in a dishonest fashion.

When Chairman Morrow protested and took issue with Munro's charge of dishonesty, committee chairman Mac Anderson suggested "I see no leadership at the

### Council aims for \$5,000 grants cut

Halton Hills council is aiming for a \$5,000 cut in the grants budget, which has been tentatively set at \$23,000 the same as last year.

In a brief discussion at finance committee Monday night, Chairman Russ Miller said the town would have to "bite the bullet" and bring it down to \$18,000.

The largest items on the grant budget are \$4,860 to the Acton Citizens' Band, \$5,438 to Acton Community Services Centre, \$4,334 to Halton Helping Hands, and \$2,500 to North Halton Contact Centre.

A request from Acton Agricultural Society to up the grant from \$700 to \$1,200 was questioned by Miller who compared it to Georgetown Agricultural Society at \$450. He also suggested they query the amount to Acton Citizens' Band, and suggested they speak to committee.

Councillor Walter Biehn said they could spend hours cutting bits from everyone, but perhaps the easiest way was to cut one thousand from each of the five largest grants.

The grants were discussed fully at a budget meeting in camera Tuesday night.

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EARNING WHILE THEY are learning. Rockwood Centennial students who live in the Eden Mills area cross country ski to school and back daily. As they go, they earn awards from the Canadian Ski Association for the amount of

kilometers skied. Left to right, Sarah Brown, Dave Levi, Mark Godding, teacher Bob Love, Don Godding, Dave Van Rhijn and Brad Billings. They ski a total of 12 kms a day. For story and more pictures see page 9.

### Harry Mainprize 90

A resident of Acton since 1920, Harry Mainprize celebrated his 90th birthday Thursday. Mr. Mainprize was well-known as a barber, with his business since 1938 in the shop adjoining their home at the corner of Mill and John Sts.

They came to Acton from Orillia. Mr. Mainprize worked for Sandy McLean before opening his own bar-

ber shop. He retired in 1962 on his birthday - at the age of 74.

They have three children. Bill Mainprize lives at home, and daughter Helen Egan in Guelph. Their son Jack of Montreal is presently working in Brazil, but his wife Ann made a surprise visit from Montreal for the birthday celebrations.

The Mainprizes have six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary next Christmas.

Long life runs in the family. Mr. Mainprize's father lived until he was 101.

They are members of the Presbyterian church.

Friends dropped by last week to extend congratulations.



HARRY MAINPRIZE celebrated his 90th birthday Thursday at his home on John St. His wife of 59 years wishes him "Happy Birthday".

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