



SUSAN THIBODEAU represented the Acton Agricultural Society at the Miss C.N.E. competition last Tuesday and Wednesday. Miss Acton joined 94 other girls for the busy two days of judging. Miss Niagara Region took first place.

Report from Queen's Park

by JULIAN REED
M.P.P. (Halton-Burlington)

Recently Liberal Leader Stuart Smith called upon Premier Davis to reconvene the Legislature as soon as possible to discuss the Government's handling of environmental matters. He set out a number of issues the Minister of the Environment faced and the issues cited were:

- (1) Absence of a provincial policy for toxic liquid industrial waste disposal.
- (2) Withdrawal in March of the ban on non-refillable pop bottles.
- (3) Government handling of the \$35-million suit against Dow Chemical for mercury pollution of Lake St. Clair—dropped in favour of a paltry \$250,000 private settlement with affected fishermen.
- (4) Failure to make the Environmental Assessment Act effective and meaningful.
- (5) Failure to develop a policy to deal with the serious problems of solid waste disposal in Metro Toronto.
- (6) Failure to act on problems of lake acidification in the cottage country, where fish can't survive.
- (7) The inability of Ontario to comply with commitments to the International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes clean-up.

Stuart Smith's statement followed closely upon the announcement of the Government's decision to relax an eight-year old air pollution control order on International Nickel Co. Ltd., which has been described as demonstrating the hopeless irony of Ontario pollution enforcement policies.

In 1970, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment ordered INCO to stop using two 500-foot chimneys and one 350-foot chimney at its smelting plant at Copper Cliff, West of Sudbury. INCO complied, replacing the stacks with a 1,250 foot chimney in 1972.

However, the Ministry at the same time ordered the company to reduce its emissions of sulphur dioxide, from 5,200 tons a day in 1970 to 4,400 tons by the end of 1974, 3,600 tons by the end of 1976, and 750 tons by the end of 1978. According to the Ministry, this order was based "on a need to restrict tonnage emissions due to the unpredictability of dispersion under all weather conditions" and "on potential adverse effects on vegetation, soil and water in a large area surrounding Sudbury."

Today INCO continues to emit 3,600 tons a day. Yet the Ministry has issued a new order permitting INCO to maintain the level until June 30, 1982, simply requesting a report by December 1979 "evaluating the feasibility of controlling the smelter's pollution. Instead of penalizing the offender, the Government has been over backwards to rationalize and excuse failure to comply with the 1970 pollution control order.

Apparently, 1976 statistics indicate that Sudbury sulphur emissions accounted for only 4 per cent of North American man-made emissions, and only 1.3 per cent of global emissions. Also, "the problems of high ground level concentrations of sulphur dioxide and widespread acute vegetation damage in the Sudbury area have essentially been resolved even at current emission rates."

As the Ontario Government sees it, the International Nickel Company is merely doing the same as everyone else: moreover, the 1,250 foot smokestack has dispersed the emissions to some extent, which has minimized the concern which prompted the issuance of the 1970 order.

Murray Gaunt, Liberal Environment Critic, believes that if the Government is not prepared to agree to an emergency debate on the environmental control order, "the best thing would be for George McCague (Environment Minister) to resign... I think he's sold out to big business (in that he's) agreed to almost five times the previously set limit for the next four years." (Mr. McCague has since been replaced.)

The condition of the Great Lakes has received some publicity recently, following release of a report by the Pollution from Land Use Activities Group, which indicates that both the United States and Canada have adequate laws to prevent lake pollution, but the laws should be enforced more strictly. The group is urging broader and stronger control measures.

During the last Provincial Election, Premier Davis, in a tough statement, called for the revision of the Canadian-U.S. Great Lakes water quality agreement, to provide for massive (million dollar) fines to be paid into an environmental clean-up fund, administered by both countries to aid pollution research. An official of the Ministry of the Environment recently described this statement by the Premier as a bit of "dramatic wishful thinking."

As Dr. Smith has indicated, we believe that the recent INCO decision is the last straw in a series of inept Government decisions on environmental issues. "We are in a period of drift and inaction by the Government, the results of which could have far reaching and deleterious consequences for Ontario."

He has indicated that our Party would move that the Legislature empower the Standing Committee on Resource Development to meet without delay to review the INCO decisions. As the Legislature is not currently sitting, a special session would be the only way that a legislative committee could be empowered to carry out such a review prior to October, when the Legislature is at present scheduled to reconvene.

Ballinafad

Bride-to-be honored at community shower

by Mrs. Winifred Smith

A shower for an October bride was held in the Community Centre on Sunday afternoon. Lorraine Burt and members of the Bride-to-be's family jointly entertained the many friends and acquaintances of the guest of honor who is an Erin girl, Gwenda Greig.

No trailer for family

Council will not permit Earl Penick to move a mobile home onto his property and place it on a cement slab. Mr. Penick, a six year resident of Eramosa township, owns a 50 acre farm at R.R. 5, Rockwood. His wife's family winters in Florida. He had proposed that his in-laws use the 50 foot trailer as a summer residence, 60 days each year.

Council felt that his request was contrary to the by-law.

served. Gwenda thanked all for the gifts and those responsible for getting up the party for her.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hajar and family have returned from a trip to the Okanagan Valley, B.C. where they visited with Mrs. Hajar's parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Shortill spent last week in Parry Sound.

Mr. and Mrs. Conklin and little daughter Julie recently moved from the Seventh Line and are now residing on number five sideroad near the 10th Line.

Mrs. Ruth Shortill accompanied her father Al Thompson to London on Saturday where they attended the funeral of Mr. Thompson's sister Alma, she was in her 90th year.

We extend sympathy to the Lawr family as they recently received word that Mrs. Lawr's brother Ronald Spink passed away in London, England.

A nephew, Richard Spink, of Hampshire, England with his friend have been spending some time visiting with the Lawrs in the village here and some time with his cousin Jean Lawr in Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Eckert have returned from an enjoyable holiday which they spent

touring the United States. They visited many states including New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington while there they visited the White House. Their travel also took them to North Carolina, Baltimore and a few others before returning home.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Jamieson, who recently had cousins visiting from overseas planned a trip to show them Western Canada. They motored as far as British Columbia and spent some time in the other western provinces before returning home in time for the relatives to take the plane back. They all agreed it was a memorable holiday.

Many members of the U.C.W. and their husbands were invited to spend Sunday afternoon at the camping grounds of Bud and Eveline Snows, in the Mount Forest District. The weather was ideal for a picnic supper which all enjoyed.

Vacation dampened

With the Air Canada pilots threatening to strike tomorrow, many travellers wonder how they are going to get home.

Many Acton residents on vacations, and others on vacation in Acton are worried. It throws holiday plans for a loop and can actually spoil the trip with worries of travelling home.

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Halton to hire specials to baby sit for police

Halton Regional Police will no longer baby sit prisoners under a scheme adopted in principle during Thursday's police commission meeting at Oakville.

Instead, police will turn the prisoner minding chores over to seven special constables, still civilians, who are to be screened by Halton Regional Police Chief Ken Skerrett.

The plan also calls for the use of the now idle cells at the police headquarters on the Seventh Line, Oakville.

Farm help mobile homes

Two farmers received final approval to have mobile homes on their farms for farm help this week, four months after they first sought permission.

Halton Hills planning board gave Clarence Coles and Walter Scott the go-ahead after receiving Health Unit approval.

The permission for the mobile homes is for a two year period. The Coles farm is on Lots 28 and 29, Concession Five, and the Scott farm is on Lot Four, Concession Five.

County bills for library use

Eramosa township residents will pay for the privilege of using the Wellington County Library, council has decided.

Sixteen residents are currently registered using this service. The fee is \$8 a year. Eramosa residents pay to use the Guelph Library System as well. The small but expanding community library at Rockwood Centennial School is free to township residents.

Ebenezer

Trio leave for festival

By Mrs. Ron McLean
Sandra and Laurie Early and Jessie Munro leave this week to attend the Festival for Youth, being held at Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B.

White gladioli and yellow daisy mums decorated Ebenezer for the marriage of Barbara Shane, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Norman Shane, and Ron Kelly of Rockwood. The church was full.

Police administrator Ray Munro estimates the saving to the police force, from overtime, to be \$240,000 per year.

"There will be an immediate saving in overtime?" asked commission chairman William Hourigan.

Yes, said Munro. Every time you transfer a prisoner it costs \$64 per hour for two constables to baby sit. That is assuming you are going to use those cells.

The plan was adopted pending complete cost figures on overtime and reimbursements from the province by the chief.

Halton police have transported and guarded prisoners to and from the courts.

Chief Skerrett advised the board the change may mean placing all Halton prisoners in Hamilton rather than some of them in the Toronto West Detention Centre. He said the force would be able to handle the transportation with its present number of vehicles.

Chief Skerrett reminded the police commissioners the responsibility for keeping prisoners remains with the police until the court hands down a sentence.

The seven special constables will act as escort officers and jailers at headquarters and be involved with other work, said administrator Munro. A jailer is to be on duty 24-hours a day, according to the chief.

With the police handling prisoners Skerrett said "We're running into a real rough spot. We're losing an awful lot of man hours in this situation."

Commissioner Harry Barrett said the cost of hiring the seven men would cost about \$29,000 for the balance of the year with about \$10,000 recoverable from the province.

Chief Skerrett said he did not give a darn if there is no money in the budget for the project. Money was found to build a garage for the public utility commission's trucks. This is a priority item. "It's people we're dealing with, not trucks."

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