

Corridor struggle goes on before OMB

Another chapter in the struggle between Ontario Hydro and opponents to a major power corridor through Halton Hills is being played out before the Ontario Municipal Board this week at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena in Georgetown.

Ontario Hydro wants to rewrite old Esquing township's official plan and bylaw in order to permit a 250-foot wide transmission corridor down the centre of Halton Hills. The town has resisted all Ontario Hydro bids at persuading the municipality, on its own, to let the public utility have its way.

At stake is 12 miles of strip down the back lot line of the Fifth Concession's farms. That dozen miles is all Ontario Hydro needs to complete a 109-mile transmission corridor from the Bruce Nuclear generating station, on Lake Huron, to Milton Station.

Facing Ontario Hydro are lawyers from the town, Halton Region and the Interested Citizens' Group (ICG). They are united in a call for an independent study of the corridor. The ICG in particular has spearheaded requests for a study of the Bruce-Milton corridor, which would be equal to the Solandt Royal Commission study car-

ried out on the east-west line, which also passes by Milton.

Ontario Hydro last week produced one expert witness, a planner to testify concerning the visual and agricultural impact of the line through Halton Hills. The opposition countered, through the week, with its own experts.

One such expert, Ken Slater, criticized Ontario Hydro's corridor from a systems planning point of view. He recommended one of the ICG's oft mentioned alternate routes—Bruce to Essa, where it would join an existing 500 kV line.

Another expert for the opponents last week was an environmental planner who performed work on the selecting of corridors in the area. That expert, Bruce Howlett, said it would be worthwhile restudying the proposed path of the towers.

Another of the main witnesses for the ICG is also no stranger. Dr. Fred Gilbert, a zoologist with the University of Guelph, told the board that within Halton Hills there is no adequate environmental assessment and without such a study "it's impossible to ascertain the routing." "We stand to lose the natural by default."

Gilbert was also critical of Hydro's cutting procedure. As an example of the need for detailed studies of environment, he presented a series of colored slides of a stand of "reasonably rare" hard woods, to the north of Halton Hills, which fell to Hydro's chain saw. The trees were between a century and 150 years old.

Hydro became aware of the inadequacy of such detailed environmental information, when, while constructing the east-west corridor, crews came upon a rare West Virginia butterfly habitat. The line was diverted as a result, said Gilbert.

Gilbert testified on similar matters to the Environmental Hearing Board three years ago.

Gilbert, Slater and Howlett were the main witnesses which confirmed the need for more study on the line, according to the ICG's John Schneider.

Several area farmers have augmented the evidence of the professional experts. One resident, Dave Moffat, R.R. 3, Georgetown, delivered a ten-page submission.

Contradictory statements by two ministers of energy were questioned by Moffat. On the one hand he had a quote from Den-

nis Timbrell of July 23, 1976, when the minister assured Moffat "the Bradley-Georgetown transmission line is definitely not planned for export purposes."

Nearly two years later Reuben Baetz wrote: "If there is a ready market and we have the capacity to sell electric power... then I see nothing wrong with selling that power to another province or, for that matter, to the United States."

Moffat told the OMB that ratepayers wonder why with the carrying charges and an overbuilt hydro system there has not been time for an independent study of the Bruce-Milton corridor.

Moffat lives at the southern point of the Bruce-Milton corridor where it joins with the Nanticoke-Pickering corridor. For a length, if all the lines envisioned in the Solandt Commission report are built, there will be eight corridors immediately to the west of the Moffat property.

Moffat hinted he had difficulty believing Ontario Hydro will be satisfied with one corridor from the north, when three 500 kV corridors are mentioned in the royal commission report. "I am concerned with what will happen later on," Moffat told the OMB.

Moffat was one of two residents who appeared before the board as witnesses who had no lawyer at the hearing. The other man was Douglas Farrugan, R. R. 5, Milton. Farrugan, who also sympathized with the ICG's stand concerning an independent study, was mainly concerned with what appeared to be efforts to use the railway line in the southwest section of Halton Hills, near Sideroad 10.

In previous testimony by Hydro's hired planner John Bousfield and later by Bhi president Bruce Howlett, it became clear the railway alternate was of little value.

The ICG called as one of its witnesses, Walter Scott, R.R. 3, Georgetown, who as a standards engineer addressed many of the safety concerns especially from the point of view of operating farm machinery.

The current sitting of the OMB concerning the north-south line through Halton Hills is expected to end today. The board is mainly interested in the planning aspects of the arguments by both sides. The hearing began January 2.

To date more than 60 exhibits have been filed with the board.

The OMB first started hearing debate concerning the north-south corridor last July. However, the hearing was cut short because some residents affected by the proposed line were not properly notified of the hearing.

Prior to that, the board decided to approve the east-west corridor through Halton Hills, in the southwestern section of the town, because adequate study had been carried out by the Solandt Commission.

The ICG has consistently asked for an independent study of the entire length of the corridor from the Bruce generating station. When the Ontario Supreme Court's divisional court starts listening to the jurisdictional case involving the OMB and Ontario Hydro in March, it will be five years since the ICG first asked for a study by someone not connected with Ontario Hydro.

The ICG maintains there has been insufficient study concerning aspects of the north-south line. Such a study, on par with the Solandt Commission, states the group, would be accepted.

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The Acton Free Press

One Hundred and Fourth Year—No. 28.

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1979.

Eighteen Pages—Twenty Cents.



Heading for the top, Jill Morris, 13, and Amanda DeForest, 7, of Acton were selected for the "Best of Year" show on television's Talent Showcase. Both girls are students of Joyce Carpenter and performed acrobatic solos on Channel 13 in the fall.

Acton girls selected best TV entertainers

Best of the Year entertainers—that's what two young Acton girls were named on Talent Showcase, a Channel 13 television program.

Jill Morris, 13, and Amanda DeForest, 7, appeared on Kitchener television during October and November doing intricate acrobatic solos. During the final week of 1978, the best of the year were selected and reviewed and both girls found, to their delight,

they were among those chosen.

Jill, the daughter of Joan and Vic Morris, has been a student of Acton's Joyce Carpenter for seven years studying acrobatics, jazz and tap dancing. She goes to Mackenzie-Smith Middle School. Her acrobatic routine was performed to Rodrigo's Mountain Music.

Amanda is the daughter of Sandra and George DeForest and has studied with Ms. Carpenter for four years learning tap, modern jazz and acrobatics. She also studies gymnastics. Her performance was done to the song "Yesterday". She is a student at M. Z. Bennett School.

Joyce Carpenter, a well-known performer and dance instructor, said she was "thrilled" with the girls' performances and commented they worked very hard.

RCMP notice last hope to solve body mystery

Halton Regional Police detectives are hoping a notice in the "RCMP Gazette" may provide them with information leading to the identification of a woman's body found in a Milton apple farm last November.

Detectives working on the two-month-old mystery case earlier suspected the body to be that of 42-year-old Nadesda Salmi, originally from Finland, according to Detective Lee Smith of the Halton Regional Police Investigation Unit.

The Scandinavian native was known to be a transient and moved from town to town, said police. Miss Salmi was later located in Sudbury

following police investigation.

Miss Salmi was seen in Milton in June of 1977 and was known to have spent one night at Fifth Wheel Motel.

She was not seen after that date, said Detective Smith, and was considered as possibly the same woman as that found by hikers at the apple farm.

"That was our last hope," he said.

Two Bibles found near the body failed to yield a name or address. The Bibles were among numerous articles of clothing found at the site and later examined by the police forensic lab in Toronto.

After following numerous leads, police now

hope a notice in the Canada-wide publication will generate additional information.

The remains of the caucasian woman show her to be approximately five feet, three inches to five feet, four inches tall with greyish blonde or brown hair.

She was slightly built with narrow hips and was unlikely to have had any children unless by Caesarian section, police said.

Police do not believe foul play was involved in the woman's death.

Clothing on the body and belongings nearby indicated she was a transient, or "bundle lady". Two plastic bags

were found nearby containing the two badly rotted Bibles and some plastic spoons. No jewellery or wallet was found.

Councillor home Friday

Halton Hills councillor Les Duby will be returning home Friday following a two week stay in Guelph hospital.

Mr. Duby entered the hospital on New Year's Day following a few days of illness over the holiday week. He has a record of good attendance at council and other meetings and his absence has been sorely noticed.

Council drops severance appeal

Despite planning department recommendations, Halton Hills council voted to withdraw an appeal against a Halton Land Division Committee decision, Monday night.

The land division committee granted a separation of half an acre from a 9.5 acre of land owned by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Jarvis, on the First Line, north of Highway 7, Acton. Halton Hills planning department contended it contravened the Esquing Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw, and recommended an appeal, which was agreed to by council in July. The hearing had been scheduled for January 22.

Councillor Roy Booth claimed at that time council did not have all the information they now have. He said a severance had been granted, before the present owner bought the land, but it had not been registered on title. He said it was bought at two parcels of land, and the town was billing taxes on two lots.

Councillor Mike Armstrong suggested discussion should be deferred until the planning staff are present.

Councillor Harry Levy contended council must base its decisions on planning staff recommendations.

On a recorded vote of six to five, the appeal was withdrawn. Voting against the dropping of an appeal were Councillors Armstrong, Levy, Biehn, Serjeantson, and McDonald.

Mayor says By-law invades privacy

Invasion of privacy is one of the reasons Mayor Don Gordon said he is against a tree by-law the region is considering.

Halton Regional Council sent the proposed by-law back to the planning committee at its meeting Wednesday, Jan. 3.

"I don't think the region has a right to tell a property owner what tree or trees he can cut down," Gordon said.

"If a person is going to build a pool in his back yard, he should do as he pleases.

"If he has to cut down a tree in the process, he shouldn't have to seek regional approval."

Gordon said the by-law would cost the region money because it would have to hire a tree inspector.

"To restrict and regulate the destruction of trees by cutting, burning or other means and for the appointment of officers to enforce the provisions of any by-law passed", the by-law doesn't conflict with any law the four municipalities have, Ernie Reid said.

The executive officer said the by-law meets approval from the Ministry of Environment.

The tree by-law passed by the former Halton County Council has elapsed, Mr. Reid said.

Halton Hills Councillor Roy Booth said the by-law omitted several species of trees.

Cantrakon home in Halton Hills?

But in an interview yesterday (Tuesday) the mayor indicated there was only slight hope that Halton Hills would become the home of the proposed \$16 million conference centre.

Pomeroy said the town had received a letter asking for specific sites and would make a submission.

Controversy over the site arose last fall when Claude Bennett, provincial Minister of Housing, over-ruled a decision by a hearing officer for Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) that denied the site on 477 acres north of Cheltenham.

But following public protests, Bennett invited Cantrakon and a committee of the protesting groups to review alternate sites.

"They want to locate the building where Bennett gave approval," Pomeroy said, adding that the provincial cabinet directed otherwise.

"It's just an exercise," the mayor said, "But we'll pursue it."



Frank McConigal signs up for the Painting and Drawing course at Night School registration at the high school Thursday night. Registration was down this year according to organizer Dale Sale. He blames poor weather. As a result many classes were cancelled.

No mail Saturdays

The Acton post office will be closed Saturdays commencing February 3 in an effort to save money, according to postmaster Gord McKeown.

Mr. McKeown told The Acton Free Press there will be no one in the office on Saturday sorting mail or manning the wicket so mail will not be available. He pointed out both

Georgetown and Oakville offices are also closing their Saturday operations, following similar action in other centres.

"Acton is actually one of the last to be hit," the postmaster said.

Substitutions will continue to remain open, said Mr. McKeown. In Acton, the Glenlea Drug Mart sells stamps, sells money orders, etc.

Election costs down \$5000

One municipal cost, at least, dropped this year. Cost of the municipal elections was just over \$19,000, while the last election in 1976 cost \$25,000.

This surprising news came from Treasurer Ray King, who explained the town saved on printing the voters' list. This year the staff used their own photo-copying equipment, rather than having the job done elsewhere.

In addition, fewer lists were printed, after it was discovered more than necessary had been printed for the previous election.

Another savings was in the forms used for voter notification and by the poll clerks. This year a standard form was used, rather than having one specially drawn up for Halton Hills.

Police chase ends in crash

A 15-mile police chase in the early morning hours of Thursday ended abruptly at Halton Country Inn following a crash between a police cruiser and a stolen van.

The chase began shortly after 5 a.m. when Milton OPP Constable Robert Biscup spotted a 1973 GMC gold van travelling on Highway 401 near Highway 25.

"I was going to pull him over for speeding, when he took off onto the ramp onto Highway 25," said Constable Biscup. He estimates the van was travelling at approximately 130 kilometres an hour on Highway 401 and 120 kilometres an hour on Highway 25, as it headed north towards Acton.

The Milton officer pursued the van to 15 Side road and down Sixth Line to the Inn.

A police car roadblock set up on Sixth Line did little to stop the van said Constable Biscup and the van shot into the entrance of the Inn.

Both the van and Constable Biscup's cruiser met near head on as the van attempted to make a quick exit out of the single entrance.

Neither driver was injured but the crash gave police time to arrest two Ferguson youths riding in the van, for theft and dangerous driving.

The van was stolen a few hours earlier from its Ferguson owner, James McLean of 630 St. Davids St. S.

Police estimated damage to the van at \$400 and \$275 to the police cruiser.

Officers approved

Halton Hills council Monday evening gave official approval to the Acton volunteer firefighters 1979 slate of officers.

The men held their elections December 4. Bern Van Fleet was elected district fire chief with Alf Dudy as deputy district chief. Herb Dodds is no. 1 captain, Wayne Kelley, no. 2 captain and Brent Marshall, no. 3 captain. Phil McCrystal and John McNabb were elected as lieutenants.

Mick Holmes is fire chief for all of Halton Hills.

Speakers stolen

Two speakers were taken from a vehicle while it was parked at the Acton arena according to Halton Regional Police.

Police say the man left his car doors unlocked, and when he returned, he found the speakers gone.

An Acton youth has been charged with drinking under the legal age limit, police report. The 17 year old was discovered when police were checking several youths.



BRRR! That's cold. Bruce Lukes checked his thermometer yesterday and discovered why his ears were cold. Some readings in town showed as low as 12 degrees fahrenheit below zero. Blowing snow, and cold winds compounded the dirty day. However, the sun did peek out for a few minutes.