

OMB winds up nine days of hearings

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argued, because of what a Hydro witness testified concerning "bottled-up power" at the nuclear generator.

The question of "bottled-up power" was contested, mainly on the evidence of John Minns, of the ICG, but nevertheless, Parkinson pressed for an early decision from the OMB.

A side issue for the board, which effects the timing of its decision, is a looming court case which is being promoted by the ICG and Halton Hills. The case, to be heard in March, is to test the jurisdiction of the OMB in matters relating to Ontario Hydro.

Parkinson urged the board "not to be intimidated" by the pending court action. If the board permits the line, the court matter will be reduced to academic argument because Ontario Hydro will build the line, argued Parkinson. If the ICG and Halton Hills win the court case, they establish Ontario Hydro's right to build the line without regard to local planning, stated Parkinson.

The ICG asked the OMB to hold off on its decision and allow an independent study of the line, a study they have been asking for five years.

The independent study was a thread through arguments by both sides. Devine outlined the request of his client, the ICG, for an examination from the points of view of systems security, environmental impact and safety, an examination based on up-to-date information plus planning matters as detailed in the government policy on food land guideline. Such a Solandt

Commission grade study would be accepted by the ICG, indicated Devine. A quality study today (the ICG argued there is time) would look at taking power from Belwood to either Kleinburg or Clairville and at making the Belwood connection permanent.

Another way of taking power from the nuclear generator to the grid would involve study of an Orangeville-Essa link, said Devine.

Originally the ICG asked for study of the complete 109-mile line plus alternative ways of joining Bruce to the grid. According to Parkinson there has been an independent study in the south part of the Bradley-Georgetown line, and an Environmental Hearing Board study along the middle section, including Erin, so the only section he said could be in such a study was the northerly wing of the line—which is built.

Halton Hills' position concerning such a study was briefly outlined by its lawyer Fred Helson who said the town thought the Ontario Hydro proposal was premature before proper study. Halton Region lawyer Ken Anderson echoes that point: "There still may be time to get in there and make the study."

Just how far the Solandt Commission studied the line was open to dispute. Ontario Hydro, on the one hand, maintained Solandt or Bruce Howlett received expanded terms of references which went far north of Halton Hills' borders. Hydro's opponents argued Solandt only went as far north as Limehouse, and that path of the proposed line remains unstudied well into Erin

Township.

The only flesh-and-blood argument came from Halton Hills' lawyer Helson who took up the cause of Milton R.R. 5 beef breeder Reford Gardhous. "Of all the evidence I heard, his really brought the human equation to mind," Helson said to the board members. The Gardhouse farm will be divided if the line goes through. For generations the Gardhouse family farmed and raised prize beef, but the hydro corridor introduces more uncertainty.

Helson told the board Gardhouse's ambition is to turn over to his son the prize herd operation. "His concern, is, can he do it? He recognizes that he may be able to do it for a while," said Helson. But in order to see the effects of a high power transmission line on cattle may mean a wait of 100 years. "To stay or to go. To go somewhere else may not be possible," Helson said. He continued by saying he doubted if Gardhouse could be compensated, under the circumstances.

Both sides took turns punching holes in the argument or evidence of his opponent. For example, on the matter of planning—an important regard for the board—Ontario Hydro's position was that there was only a "title of evidence" concerning a re-examination of a jog in the line near Milton transformer station.

The ICG, Halton Hills and Halton Region took turns undermining the planning evidence introduced by Hydro's planner, John Bousfield. They pointed out, among many other issues, the manner of the study and the use by

Bousfield of a four-year-old photograph. They also criticized Bousfield's acceptance, without his challenging, the selection of Limehouse as a crossing of the Niagara Escarpment.

"They (ICG et al) have not called cogent or relevant evidence calling for movement of the line within Halton Hills," claimed Parkinson.

In all the OMB collected 85 exhibits during the nine days of hearings. Eight days were held this year. The first day, last July, saw a victory for the opponents of Ontario Hydro, when it was shown the public utility failed to properly give notice of the hearing.

About two years ago, another OMB hearing permitted Ontario Hydro to proceed through Halton Hills with the east-west line. That line is constructed and has power.

Just less than five years ago the first opposition to a proposed hydro corridor, started to form. It grew and strengthened, once the ICG numbered about 4,000, and became a citizens' organization to be contended with. Interest grew from people's concerns about safety, how the line would affect their farms, countryside, and other issues.

The single issue which has seen the group through is to do with equality. If other taxpayers elsewhere deserve a thorough, independent study, the ICG members say they feel they are no less deserving.

Not all people in the path of the corridor backed the ICG. Many came to terms with Ontario Hydro.

Mileage goes up

Mileage rates for employees and councillors engaged on regional business went up one cent.

Halton Finance and Administration Committee approved, Wednesday, Jan. 10 the rate increase to 22.5 cents a mile from 21.5.

The rate applies to the first 500 miles travelled in a month. If the mileage is over, the rate is 19.3 cents, which is also up one cent.

The rate increase applies to regional employees and councillors who have to use their own car while on the municipality's behalf.

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Retiring from the staff of Georgetown District Memorial Hospital, Catherine Hart receives luggage and cheque, from hospital administrator Fred Morris and pharmacist Bill McCormack. Mrs. Hart has been with the hospital since it opened.

Agreement renewed between church, town

The agreement between the Town of Halton Hills and the Trinity United Church for the church owned parking lot has been renewed.

The property is leased to the town for \$25 a year, with the town paying maintenance costs. Slight revisions of the agreement concerned some councillors as they objected to a phrase "every effort will be made in 1979 to hard top the property." This would cost about \$5000, engineers estimate.

Councillor Ross Knetchel, admitted he was a member of the United Church, but did not feel he had a conflict of interest as he was not a trustee. He reminded council how in the past it had been an informal agreement between Acton and the church. "Now it becomes more formal to get things done." He said he did not think the church would be upset if council decided the paving could not be done this year.

Mr. Miller again emphasized the money. "It is unfair to be taking everyone for the benefit of a few." Mr. Knetchel pointed out to council that the lot is the best possible parking place in Acton, right on the main street, "and it doesn't cost the town a nickel," he said.

Councillor Mike Armstrong, who has been working with the trustees said he felt the agreement was confused and misconstrued. He pointed out the only part of the agreement bothering anyone was the "every effort" clause. "I can say I will make every effort to make \$100,000 this year, and I can try my damndest, but I won't make it."

In addition to agreeing to the agreement renewal, council also passed a resolution to consider the regulation of overnight parking in the lot.

Halton board sets liquor use example

No bar bills will be run up in Halton schools.

Halton school board trustees stuck to a no liquor in schools policy, at Thursday's meeting at Burlington.

The re-affirmation of policy was prompted by a motion from Burlington trustee N. Cooper, seconded by Halton Hills trustee Betty Fisher, to allow community groups, who regularly use the schools, to sell alcoholic beverages provided no student activities were going on at the same time.

Cooper and Fisher were the trustees who voted for the change in policy.

he said, because of the responsibility the board would be placing on principals who would have to decide on the merits of applicants to use his school.

Director of Education Em Lavender assured trustees he would keep the student interest first and the community's second if there was a conflict in the scheduling of a school's use.

Milton Separate School trustee John Bradley said he would vote against the bid to amend the policy.

The question came before the board because of a request by a Burlington group to have liquor for an event at the Pearson high school. An agreement exists between the board and Burlington concerning the use of the building, and that agreement is not clear, according to Lavender.

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