



Sonia Smith, accepts a Valentine rose from a gallant Troy Nolan. The Valentine party at the library on Friday evening had all in a romantic mood.

## Board asks Province for dollars

The province is sending too many education demands and not enough money to Halton. That is the message Halton Board of Education trustees sent back to Ontario's Ministry of Education last Thursday.

"We've had enough," Halton Director of Education Em Lavender said after reading an eight-page motion and argument to trustees at Burlington.

Halton is calling upon the province to increase its financial and other types of support for local education, or reduce its demands for programs. That would mean more local decisions regarding programs.

The board's message to the province is not a reaction to the recent announcements by the Ministry of Education of cutbacks on grants to local boards from Ontario. "This was prepared before information on grants came out last week," Mr. Lavender told trustees.

"This board can no longer heed contradictory memorandums from the ministry," he said. Obedience to the first

(memo) makes impossible obedience to the second.

The ministry generally urges boards to expand services while also urging financial restraint. Mr. Lavender acknowledged ministry grants have increased since 1970, however. "These increases in dollars have not kept pace with inflation and the gap between increasing cost of present programs has been or will be widened by the implementation of additional Ministry expectations," he said.

He paraded several examples and their costs for trustees.

Minister of Education Bette Stephenson, whom Mr. Lavender excused from some of her ministry's actions, recently announced there will be changes in The Education Act which are to make mandatory special education course.

A recent ministry memorandum defines students with learning disabilities in such a manner that possibly half of the 50,000 pupils could qualify. In connection with another memorandum concerning class

size, the combination could cost \$900,000 the report states.

Another of the provincial ministry's expectations concerns religion education. For about a decade the ministry's position concerning religion education has been unclear, according to Mr. Lavender. A recent ministry memo calls for an hour of such instruction in elementary schools each week.

But, states Halton, the ministry provides no pre-service training for teachers, no curriculum guide, unlike other subjects, no resource materials and no help in preparing teachers. The price tag for that expectation is \$300,000.

And there are more. The cost of ministry expectations would run about \$1,850,000, according to figures in the report.

Proposed changes in The Education Act this spring have potentially "devastating effect on local mill rates and on Ontario taxpayers," Lavender writes. Board trustees passed a motion to the

ministry asking that no new programs be added without lessening the load in some place. Part of the petition asked for provincial recognition of the board's right to pick or turn down new ministry programs.

Halton is also asking the province to hold up on the mandatory part of the special education memo.

Further, the board is asking the ministry to put a freeze on changes to provincial legislation, specifically on special education, until "the full financial implications are determined and until there is a long-term Ministry commitment to finance the increased costs."

Halton vice-chairman Bill Lawson, Milton Ward 2, told trustees another expectation has grown out of the one for equal education. He said that phrase seemed to imply equality of results. "Perhaps we have to return to the realities of life. Everything is not equal out there, including education," Mr. Lawson said.

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## OMB approves corridor ICG ponders appeal

The Interested Citizen's Group (ICG) is down but not out in its efforts to halt Ontario Hydro's 500kV transmission line through Halton Hills.

The ICG is recovering from the initial shock of last week's decision by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) to allow Hydro to connect the last link of the controversial corridor through Halton Hills.

The ICG, Halton Hills and Halton Region have until March 5 to appeal the OMB decision to the Ontario cabinet. Today the ICG is planning its next moves which may include a division court case.

The OMB in its nine-page decision directed Halton Hills to amend its official plan and bylaw to permit the utility corridor. The ICG, Halton Hills and the Region pinned their arguments during January's eight-day OMB hearing at Georgetown on the former Esqueping Township bylaw which banned large corridors. Esqueping is incorporated in Halton Hills.

"It (the decision) does not surprise me," ICG chairman Bill Mann said Monday. "The OMB seems to be like many other government

groups. It just rubber stamps."

"Not the most enlightening decision", is how ICG spokesman John Minns described the OMB work. "Some will, I'm sure, say they knew what the results would be. But I looked at it optimistically because of the way the evidence was coming." Minns went on to say his optimism stemmed from a belief there was still a chance for the OMB to

uphold the wishes of Halton citizens.

Minns criticized OMB members H. E. Stewart and W. E. Dyer for permitting Ontario Hydro "to split its case". "It is not normally the way a case before the OMB is presented," said the ICG spokesman.

Ontario Hydro lawyer John Parkinson persuaded the OMB at the hearing he was proceeding correctly in

his presentation of evidence.

Minns testified at the hearing concerning the need for the corridor.

"No alternative route was suggested or proposed throughout the hearing. The evidence has convinced us that the connection is necessary and the subject route will minimize the impact on the area as much as possible," states the OMB.

The town, region and citizens' group stressed the need for up-to-date information on any line through the area. All three also called upon the board to permit an independent non-Ontario Hydro study of alternative routes.

The OMB decision gave Ontario Hydro what it wanted most—the line and an early decision. Opponents asked the board to delay its decision until the Ontario division court heard a challenge from the ICG and the town to the OMB's authority to hear Ontario Hydro matters. That case may hear in late March.

Meanwhile emotions are mixed concerning the actions of the Legislature's select committee on Ontario Hydro affairs. MPP Julian Reed (L. Halton-Burlington) expressed disappointment with the defeat of a motion which would have called upon senior Ontario Hydro staff to answer charges made by the ICG at recent committee hearings.

Linked to Reed's motion was an invitation to former minister of energy James Taylor to testify. Taylor resigned the ministry after experiencing troubles in controlling it. During his

## Davis, ICG meeting expected soon

Premier William Davis' office is scheduling him for a meeting with Halton politicians and representatives of an anti-hydro corridor group, though the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) recently kicked some of the pins from under the group.

Arrangements for the meeting, which result from an exchange of letters between Minister of Energy James Auld and local MPP Julian Reed, are still being made.

Premier Davis supported Auld's proposal to Reed of a meeting which Auld thought may include Halton chairman Jack Raftis and Halton Hills mayor Peter Pomeroy.

The premier's support came in a letter to Reed, but it makes no mention of participation by the premier. Reed checked with the premier's office

concerning dates, and said Monday in a telephone interview he has every reason to believe the premier accepted the meeting.

While trying to nail down a time and place for the meeting Reed is also endeavoring to include representatives of the Interested Citizens' Group (ICG). The ICG is a long time opponent of the proposed Bruce-Georgetown Ontario Hydro transmission corridor. The OMB last week cleared much of the legal way for Ontario Hydro to proceed with construction of the final link of the 109-mile line through Halton Hills.

"So far as I'm concerned, the (premier's) letter and our follow-up tended to confirm the premier agreed to the meeting," Reed said.

The meeting is expected by Reed to take place after February 26. That is the earliest date from Davis' office.

## Janice Ellerby top graduate

Janice Ellerby was the only Ontario Scholar from Acton high school for the first semester of the 1978-79 school year.

Miss Ellerby earned her standing with an 80.5 per cent average in grade 13.

Other grade 13 graduates were Paula Gardin, Nancy Scott and Nancy Shoemaker.

Six students graduated from grade 12. They are Cathy Biffis, Lesley Carter, Lee-Anne Clarke,



Janice Ellerby, Sharon Cunningham, Scott Ingles and Sandra Splinter.

## Shopping plaza meeting tonight

It could be a real showdown tonight at the Acton high school at a public meeting at 7:30 concerning the proposed shopping plaza at Churchill Rd. and Highway 7.

Halton Hills councillor Mike Armstrong is expected to chair the meeting which will hear stories both for and against the plaza.

The shopping centre has come under much controversy in the past few months, with some local mer-

chants and residents opposing it, and some in favor.

The public meeting was planned last month when parties from both sides demanded to be heard at a council meeting, although they were not on the agenda. Heated arguments ensued before the meeting was suggested by developer Jerry Sprackman.

Pamphlets advertising the meeting have been circulated around town, asking for a huge turnout tonight.

## Third time

# Leishman Park fate in OMB hands - again

The fate of Leishman Park is, once again, in the hands of the Ontario Municipal Board.

That was the decision of the Halton Hills General Committee Monday evening after Bruce Payne, of Payne, Smith, Campbell and Gazzola,

solicitors and notaries appeared before the councillors asking a decision on the land's future. Mr. Payne explained he has been involved in the park's fate since 1969.

Last June after a third reading of a restricted area by-law 77-67 was given and notice of ap-

plication to the OMB was circulated to area residents, the resulting reaction saw town staff and area residents meeting to discuss the matter. In July, three objections were lodged by 45 people against the by-law to rezone the park land to residential.

Following the meeting, it was found necessary to do a review of the past history of the parcel, including a 40 year title search by the town solicitor.

In a report to Ken Richardson, clerk administrator, from B.J. Kropf, deputy planning director, it was noted the land in question is almost one acre, bordering Mill and Acton Blvd. The property was donated to the town of Acton in 1946 by John and Aimee Leishman and Darwin and Helen Cripps and is listed as "park and playground" according to an owner's certificate, appended to the plan. The deed memo said, "Those plans are now fully developed included the conveyance of 3.8 acres of land ("Bovis Park") to the town on the east side of Wallace St., north of Division. Includ-

ing portions of the school grounds in the area, this results in a ratio of seven acres of neighborhood parkland and playground per 1,000 population compared to the official plan standard of two acres per 1,000. Council should be aware that if a passive park is desired, the Bovis Park property is available and in our opinion, has superior site and locational characteristics to those of the Leishman park."

Staff also pointed out in the report that the disposition of Leishman Park is related to the acquisition of 3.4 acres of land adjacent to Prospect Park. "On March 6, 1978, council resolved to trade the Mill St. property, zoned residential for lands on Elizabeth Drive which are the subject of a draft plan of subdivisions."

Based on the findings in their report, the report noted, the staff could see no reason to change their minds and to alter the conclusions and recommendations reached in a planning report in 1978. "In our opinion, the lands are inappropriate for active recreational

An OMB hearing in 1964 denied permission to rezone the land from parkland to residential. The matter was again brought before the OMB in 1967 and, once again, at that time rezoning permission was not granted.

A newspaper article appearing in the Acton Free Press in 1967 reporting on that particular OMB hearing stated that the rezoning would again be reconsidered when the land surrounding the parkland was developed.

More recently, the report stated, a petition by area residents requesting the town to develop the land as a passive park was referred to the planner for a report. "Following consultation with the town engineer and director of parks and recreation, the planner recommended a residential development be considered rather than a park."

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Heart Fund canvassers are ready for the big push into the last half of Heart Month. Canvassers Vic Bristow and Sue Robbins found Barb Robinson in her aunt's home at 30 Willow St. North.

Last year the collection from Acton was \$3,600. Mrs. Robinson's aunt, Marguerite Taylor, was not home when canvassers came knocking. Photo by ERIC ELSTONE

## Driver claims no recall of car dragging woman

The driver of the car which dragged a woman several yards along Main Street, turned, climbed a curb, returned to the road, climbed another curb, then pinned a man against a truck told provincial court he was unconscious at the time.

Leslie Winter, 19, was convicted on a charge of dangerous driving by Judge Douglas Latimer Thursday at Milton. Mr. Winter, Maria Street, was remanded in custody until February 26 when a pre-sentence report is expected to be completed. Then he will be sentenced.

The defence agreed with the facts presented by the Crown relating to the Oct. 21 incident which saw the then 18-year-old pedestrian Karen Cooper, Main Street, dragged by Winter's car. She suffered a broken ankle, scrapes and bruises and a 20-stitch long cut to the back of the head. She used a cane to

get about in Court, but neither she or 10 other crown witnesses were called because the facts were not questioned.

The man who was pinned by Winter's car, Ken Elliott, suffered only a bruised knee, court was told.

Judge Latimer ordered the presentence report and had Mr. Winter held with the knowledge the man may lose his job at Building Products of Canada Ltd. The judge told the court the case was very serious and involves drink, marijuana and drugs.

After the conviction Judge Latimer heard testimony from defence witnesses as part of the evidence to determine sentence.

Mr. Winter testified he consumed three beers and shared two marijuana cigarettes with three other people before he took the wheel of his car which was parked in front of the Sunoco outlet on Main Street.

"I backed onto the road, put it (the

car) into drive; and then my vision went blurry and I blacked out," Mr. Winter said.

"The next thing I remember, the car was stopped and there was a commotion outside. I was told I'd hit a girl. I panicked," he said.

Mr. Winter also told the court this blackout was similar to one he experienced about two months prior to the accident. He said too, he experienced occasional dizzy spells before Oct. 21.

No drug was involved with the first blackout, Mr. Winter told court. He, however, did not seek medical attention regarding it. He sought medical help after the accident.

Defence attorney Robert R. Callahan, Brampton, told Judge Latimer the Winter's car was "thrown off the sidewalk" and that the change of direction from south on Main Street to east on Church Street was "not a deliberate left

turn, more of a recocheting."

Immediately prior to getting into the car, Mr. Winter talked to Herman Paulsen who told court he noticed nothing unusual about Mr. Winter's behavior. He also testified he was not aware of Mr. Winter ingesting narcotics other than marijuana.

Crown Prosecutor Brian Calhoun introduced a forensic report which stated there was evidence of an additional drug, other than the marijuana, discovered in Mr. Winter's urine.

Mr. Winter testified he does not know how the other drug came to be in his body. He drank one of the beers with a friend at the Dominion Hotel. Mr. Winter said he left the table for about five minutes to go to the bathroom.

The crown withdrew charges of careless driving and impaired driving against Mr. Winter.