

One commission for town town rates up - rural down

The two existing hydro commissions, one in Georgetown and one in Acton, will disappear, and one commission will serve Georgetown, Acton and Esquesing, beginning January 1980, if a draft Halton Hydro Electric Act is passed by the provincial government.

Under the new system Georgetown users will pay 5.3 per cent more, Acton 3.1 per cent more, but Esquesing users, formerly serviced by Ontario Hydro, will get a break with a reduction of 12 per cent.

The households in the tiny portion of Halton Hills, formerly in Oakville, will be hit the hardest with an increase in rates of 17.1 per cent.

The news was broken Friday when representatives of all the Halton Hydro commissions met at the offices of the Ministry of Energy, and, in the words of Councillor Roy Booth, were told what would happen, regardless of the study by the Hydro Restructuring Committee, of which he was a member.

The restructuring committee had suggested three hydro commissions, Acton, Georgetown and Esquesing, or alternatively two with only Acton and Georgetown plus a rural representative. This was turned down flat by the Ministry staff.

The Halton Hills commission will have five

members with one being the mayor. The first transitional committee, whose term of council will be appointed by council. After that council has the authority to determine whether the commission should be elected or appointed.

Booth said the commission will probably be elected with one from each of the four wards. The Ministry staff who drew up the draft Hydro Electric Act, had recommended the commission candidates run at large all over the town, but when the large area, and the cost of campaigning in it were explained, the staff agreed one from each ward was logical.

The transitional commission, according to the proposed legislation, will see two members of the present Georgetown Hydro Commission and one member from the present Acton Hydro Commission, plus one appointee from the Esquesing area, as well as the mayor.

The retail assets of Ontario Hydro in each municipality will be transferred to the new commissions at their original cost, minus depreciation and equity and will be financed by Ontario Hydro over 25 years. If a price cannot be agreed upon, it will be determined by arbitration.



Marie Murray, '79 Halton Dairy Princess, introduced the public to a sample of dairy products—cheese and milk—during a one day demonstration in the Bank of Montreal Friday.

Lots to enjoy at Summerfest

Summerfest, being held this year at Acton high school, both indoors and out, offers a variety of entertainment, Saturday, June 2 as well as exhibitions of art, crafts and hobbies.

Opening ceremonies with Julian Reed M.P.P., Mayor Pete Pomeroy and a representative from the Ministry of Culture and recreation, will be held at 1 p.m., on the lawn if Mother Nature co-operates, or in the auditorium if she doesn't.

Square dancing by the Acton Stepettes, music by Acton Citizens Band, and comedy by Georgetown Little Theatre are only part of the program.

Bill Ken and Janine Prouse will entertain with folk music as will the MacKenzie Smith and Robert Little school choirs, and Georgetown high school folk singers.

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Many Acton and area residents are finding the fishing at Fairy Lake this year good. David Mitchell is only one of many who spend spare time at the lake. David and friend Steve Raine were not very

successful this particular day but they said they have been reeling them in on occasion. Most fish caught in Fairy Lake are pike or bass. Photo by Robin Insoce.

Medical Centre closes doctors pull up stakes

The Glenlea Medical Centre is closing its door permanently June 22.

The decision came yesterday after attempts by the three doctors involved, Joseph Vukovich, Brendan Smith and Hans Grundmann, to get someone to take over their practices failed.

In a letter to their patients, the doctors explained that costs of running a clinic, rents, salaries and equipment, were rising faster than the Ontario government was increasing OHIP fees. In order to make up for the balance of costs and income, the three physicians have been

working many extra hours including every third night and every third weekend, in addition to their daily office hours.

"This has increasingly interfered with our personal and family lives," the letter states.

The doctors, noted Dr. Smith, did not feel they were being remunerated adequately for the time they devoted to the job. For every dollar they earned, he said, overhead costs were absorbing 40 to 45 per cent.

For these reasons, and after a great deal of thought and consideration, the three men

have decided to pursue other areas of medicine.

Dr. Grundmann will be returning to university in Ottawa to specialize in obstetrics and gynecology. He has been in Acton for one year.

Dr. Smith, here for two years will be looking for a position as a family physician with more regular hours and Dr. Vukovich, here for eight years, is heading for Iowa, where he has accepted a position in a hospital emergency department. He will be working regular hours and able to spend more time with his family.

The doctors at no time

considered following the current trend and opting out of OHIP. Dr. Vukovich pointed out the people of Acton deserve good medical attention, and feared that having to pay cash for a doctor's visit would discourage those who sincerely need the attention and can't get it.

Dr. Smith said he felt opting out of OHIP would not solve their problems of heavy workload but merely antagonize patients.

Advertisements in medical journals and leads around the province failed to produce anyone interested in tak-

ing over the clinic. If they had found anyone willing it would have remained open.

Meanwhile, patients are asked to consider who they want to continue their medical needs in order that records may be released and transferred.

Dr. Smith said that although he has no definite plans for the future, he is considering a few offers. He said he and the others have been very happy working in Acton, but just could not keep up the pace they have been keeping for the past two years. "It was not working out financially, tak-

ing into consideration the type of training, and the comparable salaries of those making the same or more money in other professions."

Dr. Smith believes there is going to be a real crisis in medicare in the country if the government does not do something soon. He cited the case in Queensway Hospital, Toronto recently where patients were sleeping on stretchers in halls because there were not enough beds. Although this has never happened to him in the Guelph hospitals, the possibility is there should more cutbacks be granted.

Party may face charge

Halton's Chief Returning Officer Joe Anderson will wait until after the official vote count is taken, before deciding if charges will be laid against an agent of one of the major parties.

However, Mr. Anderson said he doesn't anticipate that charges will be laid against the "over-exuberant" agent since the claims of voter harassment can't be defined.

"I don't think charges will be laid," he said. "I've found nothing." Several deputy returning officers complained of harassment of voters last Tuesday by one of the agents from one of the major parties.

Mr. Anderson would not disclose which party the agent is associated with since, at the present time, no charges have been laid.

He said the issue "has been temporarily dropped, until after the

official vote count has been taken."

According to Mr. Anderson, the agent was questioning the eligibility of some voters, which is an offence under the Election Act.

The official vote count was completed late yesterday. However, details were unavailable at press time.

The latest unofficial figures on last week's vote showed PC Otto Jelinek winning with 26,997 while runner-up Liberal Frank Philbrook had 17,217 votes. New Democrat Doug Black had 7,881, Libertarian Karen Seick 146, Independent Robert Ritchie 130 and Marxist-Leninist Charles Shrybman 21.

Glove boss fired lady union member

Superior Glove Works manager Frank Geng revealed to the Ontario Labor Relations Board (OLRB) he knew one woman fired since unionizing activities started at the plant was in fact a union member.

Until last Wednesday's OLRB hearing in Toronto, the list of fired employees at the plant included non-union workers.

The Canadian Union of United Brewery, Flour, Cereal, Soft Drink and Distillery Workers contends Superior Glove laid off about 12 workers because of union activities.

The company, on the other hand, holds the layoffs result purely from business reasons.

Under the union's complaint it wants all the laid off workers reinstated with full compensation.

Mr. Geng acknowledged to the board that he knew Audrey Wheeler was a union member when he laid her off work in March. Union lawyer John McNamee raised the issue because Mrs. Wheeler received different reasons for her dismissal.

The reason written on the Unemployment Insurance Commission (UIC) slip was that she was "missing too much time", an assertion union lawyer

McNamee suggested might interfere with her collection of benefits.

In a dismissal letter from Mr. Geng to Mrs. Wheeler on March 25 the following reason was given: "You have been given an extended training period of six months, and since not much improvement has been made, we feel now, that we cannot train you any longer." The letter gave a week's notice. According to the UIC slip Mrs. Wheeler worked at Superior for six months.

In testimony Mr. Geng lumped both reasons together.

Mr. Geng said he did not fill in the UIC slip. He went on to explain the difference in reasons for dismissal by saying "communications between the plant and payroll is not too great."

The Wheeler layoff came about seven weeks after the bulk of dismissals from the plant. In February some junior employees were laid off.

Company lawyer William Phelps asked Mr. Geng if he had given raises last year to employees he would later suspect of joining the union. These were mainly older employees. "They all had increases not later than September," said Mr. Geng.

Generally speaking Mr. Geng said

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Orange 'death' part of loot

About 250 potentially deadly capsules were part of the loot stolen from an RR 1 Acton man's car, Sunday.

The Diphenylhydantoin capsules are orange in color. The capsules are medicine for epileptic conditions, but if ten or so are taken at once, they can be lethal. The heart and lungs are affected.

Also taken from the car, which was parked in the man's driveway, was a snap-on socket set, portable radio, hunting knife and CB radio.

\$10,000 to fight hydro line

The town of Halton Hills backed the Interested Citizens Group another step in their battle against the hydro corridor Monday night, when at a special meeting, council decided to make application to the Divisional Court to quash an Ontario Municipal Board decision. They put a limit of \$10,000 town money to be spent on legal costs on the Divisional Court hearing.

Four councillors, Walter Biehn, Harry Levy, Roy Booth and Mike Armstrong opposed the action.

Reford Gardhouse, a member of the ICG told council the group has already spent \$125,000 in legal costs, and pointed out the line would bisect his farm, leaving his house and buildings on one side and fields on the other. He emphasized they simply were asking for an independent study of this route, as they had been for years and had been refused.

He claimed the 48 per cent surplus power admitted by Ontario Hydro showed that the corridor is not needed. He said impact studies have shown a 30 per cent devaluation of land near hydro corridors, and argued the town would lose assessment. "Are we prepared to

have our land expropriated and assume the affects of nuclear plants to export power to United States?" he asked, forecasting the hydro lines as the beginning of the end of one of the best farming areas in the country.

Walter Scott, Safety Engineer for Massey-Ferguson, and Past President of Canadian Standards Association, predicted far reaching affects on fire, and police communications systems and on the computer system which equalized the brakes on school buses. He claimed a 100 amp charge has been measured on a pipe line, which would give considerable "Zap" to anyone handling it.

John Minns said apart from visual impact of 18 storey towers, cable television is adversely affected, and cited Nanticoke where it was cut off. He said the company took Ontario Hydro to the Supreme Court and won. "Ontario Hydro had assured everyone there would be no problem."

Minns said McLean Hunter, with a tower on the Tenth Line, south of Steeles Avenue, are also having problems which cut off some of their customers, and are suing for \$200,000.

He claimed further there are biological affects not yet fully known, but suggested studies have shown altered cell growth. He claimed the existing stop-gap measure, as Hydro calls it, has proven more efficient than the route through Halton Hills. He said the farmers in the area are simply asking to get back some of the more than \$250,000 in taxes by some support from the town in their battle.

Patrick Devine, solicitor for the ICG, said the members feel a sense of injustice in being denied an independent study, as other hydro routes have had. He said the real question is who is running the planning process for the town, and whether Ontario Hydro has the right. "Is this all a charade, when Hydro asks for zoning amendments? He said costs so far have pushed ICG resources to the limit, and now are asking for town support to continue the fight.

Both contended the OMB decision was made and the Cabinet upheld it, and wondered what would happen if at another hearing the OMB changed position. Devine said the Cabinet based its decision on the OMB decision. He

said the ICG wanted an independent study to open the question up again. He said the Cabinet would be hard-pressed to overturn an OMB decision.

Biehn contended the answer has been given and there's no place left to go.

Mrs. Jo Schneider, newly re-elected councillor in Erin Township, said the question of whether the Power Corporation Act takes precedence over the Planning Act has to be determined once and for all.

Councillor Pat Patterson compared costs of other legal battles in town and claimed Focal Properties had cost more than \$75,000, studies have cost more than \$30,000 and the study of the urban area "will cost who knows how much." He said only guesses for the library-theatre-cultural centre put the cost at \$1.5 million and the town's cost at the very minimum over \$175,000. He pointed out the rural people are paying for all the urban items. He contended Milton has paid more than \$170,000 of taxpayers' money to fight the Site F landfill site.

"How would you feel if a group came in and took over any part of your pro-

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St. Alban's Anglican Church held their Youth Service and Awards day last Sunday. Young people conducted the service for the day singing and lead-

ing the congregation in prayer before receiving their awards for attendance at the Sunday School classes.