

# Impending legislation threatens Escarpment

By Jim Robinson

Halton Region Council will today ask for an emergency meeting with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to discuss a bill which could spell the end of all environmental protection areas (ESA).

Bill 127, which already has been given first reading in the Legislature, sets new and increased quotas for sand and gravel pit operators that, in effect, will allow these firms to "rape the entire Niagara Escarpment" according to Milton Councillor Bill Johnson.

In essence, Mr. Johnson said the proposed bill would allow operators to take enough sand and gravel to meet the new quotas under a licence from the Natural Resources Minister. Nowhere is there mention made of input by the Ministry of the Environment, or protection of ESA.

Following a special region meeting last week on Bill 127, Mr. Johnson said the region will be solidly against the amendments as will be the Niagara Escarpment Committee and the Foundation for Aggregate Studies.

Mr. Johnson said he believes the latter "is an association of the 'big boys' in the industry."

"What I found shocking is that the quotas set out in the act are 50 per cent higher than even the provincial working party recommended," he said.

In a detailed report by region staff, the bill was found wanting in most areas.

"Halton is disappointed that the main thrust and argument put forward by both Halton and the Ontario Mineral Aggregate Working Party has not been embraced in this new act."



Bill Johnson

The following are excerpts from the regional report:

"Halton has not yet had an opportunity to review these new regulations, nor has it been able to determine whether or not targets contained in the Ministry's Co-ordinated Programme Strategy are of crucial concern to the region."

"The Minister would be given complete responsibility for administration of the Act and its regulations. In this way, the Minister could still overrule regional

decisions where considered necessary, and would in fact, be the appeal agency for pit and quarry licences.

"What is the significance of the 20,000 tonnes for the classification of classes A and B licences, other than to signify whether or not a professional engineer, landscape architect or landowner has prepared and/or is responsible for the information provided?"

"... it appears that the Minister has already come to a decision as to the approval of the licence, prior to any circulation to interested parties. Furthermore, no mention is made as to official plans and zoning bylaws in this section."

"The Minister should not issue a licence which does not comply with any relevant official plan and restricted area bylaw."

"Although a licence application may be referred to the Ontario Municipal Board for a hearing, the board is (Continued on Page 12)

## Rec Director, assistant resign

In a surprise announcement to Mayor Pete Pomeroy just minutes before last night's council meeting, recreation director Glen Gray revealed his resignation, effective October 12.

In a letter to the mayor, Mr. Gray, who according to Mr. Pomeroy has been with the town for ten years (including the former town of Georgetown), has completed many projects which would not have been possible without the entire recreation staff.

Mr. Pomeroy wished him well in his new endeavors, which he did not reveal, and expressed the town's appreciation for the work he has done.

Just one week before, in an in-camera session at general committee, recreation co-ordinator Anne Pickering announced her resignation also. Miss Pickering has been with the town for five years serving as co-ordinator in both Acton and Georgetown, as well as pool supervisor.

## Police Beat

### Charge two with B. & E.s

Halton Regional police have arrested two suspects in connection with a rash of break, enter and theft occurrences in Acton. A 16-year-old youth has been charged with ten counts of break, enter and theft including the scout hall, Robert Little school, curling club, Acton arena and six private residences.

A second youth 17 years of age, has been charged with five counts of break, enter and theft. He is believed to be in partnership with the first youth.

Halton Regional Police arrested the suspects after only two weeks of investigation.

Eleven 12-volt tractor batteries were reported stolen from Murt Allison Equipment Company Ltd., sometime Thursday evening. Loss is estimated at \$1,070.

The snack bar at the change house in Prospect Park was broken into Thursday. Candy and gum was taken from the building.

An aluminum boat was reported stolen from a residence location on the Quarrle property, September 3.



While Acton area students spent last week resting up for the new school year several of the area teachers were busy preparing classrooms for today's (Wednesday's) first day. Robert Little's new principal Ron Chatten spent time discussing the year with two of his staff

members Maureen Mellor and Susan Sheehan. Mrs. Mellor was busy preparing a mural for her class. She hopes they will 'have a whale of a good year.'

Photo by ROBIN INSCOE

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## Changes galore for next week's fair

A new midway, new layout of the park and entertainment Sunday afternoon are just a few of the changes the 66th annual Acton Fall Fair will see next week according to fair board president Brent Marshall.

Many of the changes this year, Mr. Marshall explained, were actually planned last year, but the public did not get a chance to see them Sunday, the first day of the fair when it was rained out. He cited the show and the waterball contests as examples.

Advance weekend passes, good for the three day show, September 14, 15, and 16 are available at all Acton banks, including the Credit Union. These will not be available at the gate, Mr. Marshall said. The pass is good for three days, for the admission price of just two.

Parking will be available on the grounds Friday evening, but not Saturday or Sunday. There will however, be parking on Elizabeth Drive, across from the senior citizens apartment.

New this year will be a bus travelling the streets of Acton at regular intervals. The Christmas Shopping bus route will be followed, but final details are not yet sorted out.

A new midway will be on the grounds this year, Mr. Marshall pointed out. This fair, the rides will be operated by the Acadian Shows portion of Happyland shows. The layout of the fair has been altered, with the midway now at the east end of the park. This affords room for two more additional rides than usual Mr. Marshall said.

The fair kicks off Friday at 4 p.m. with the midway in full swing. The heavy horse pull is slated for 8.30, followed by the annual variety show and Miss Acton Fall Fair contest at 8 p.m.

This year, an array of performers will be headlining the show. With Brian Perkins, of CJOY radio as master of ceremonies, performers will be: Ron Leonard; Billy Meek; William Brothers, Mary Lou Collins; Alex Laurier, Johnny Main and the All Star Trio. Ontario Minister of Agriculture Lorne Henderson will officially open the fair.

So far, there are no entries for the Miss Acton contest, but organizer Maggie Hall says this is usual. Most of the contestants will step forward later this week or next week.

Judges for this popular portion of the show are: Donna Fyaleigh, co-ordinator of the professional modelling course at Sheridan College; Marilyn Kane, of CKLM-FM radio in Guelph, who has her own talk show; and John Hardy, of CHML, Hamilton.

Prizes are still flowing in for the winner, who will compete in the Miss Sweetheart of the Fairs contest at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto next August.

Spot on the Park opens Friday evening as well, and operates until Saturday evening.

Saturday is an action-packed day with gates opening at 9 a.m. The light horse show takes place at 11 a.m. with the English show at the same time. It will also be held Sunday at noon. The cattle show will be held at 11 a.m. and again Sunday at noon. The heavy horse show commences at 1 p.m.

The parade gets underway at noon with the Acton Citizens' Band, the Dutch Boys Cadet Band from Kitchener and the Sand Hill Pipe Band. The Legion is planning to bring in bands, but final details are not yet known. There will also be floats, decorated bicycles, tricycles and doll buggies.

The popular baby show gets underway at 2 p.m. in the arena.

The Old Tyme Fiddlers Contest, slated for 6 p.m. already has 16 entries, Mr. Marshall said. Organizers expect a good turnout with the show running until almost midnight.

Meanwhile, the fall fair dance will be held at the Acton Curling Club, with the B.J. Wright Dance Band.

Gates open Sunday at noon. Attractions will be a swine show, a pet show and waterball contest, with area fire departments competing, all at 1 p.m. Fair goers can also see the dairy cattle show, tractor pull, English horse show, western horse show and a poultry show. The Acton Bull Dog tug of war team has challenged anyone who dares to take them on. Entry forms are available at the fair office, the Blue Goose.

Something new this year is western entertainment with Smilin' Johnnie Shoe, 1.30 to 3.30. Mr. Marshall said the Manitoba entertainer was engaged to offer the residents of Acton something to do in case of rain, as was the case last year.

As usual, throughout the three days of the fair, there will be hall and field exhibits, as well as food concession booths, and the poultry building.

The Acton Sabres hockey team will once again be providing the security for the weekend event.

Mr. Marshall is optimistic about both the fair and the weather. He explained there is no last minute rush on any particular attraction making it run smoother.

## Inside today

One hundred years ago the land now occupied by the Blue Springs Scout Reserve was bought from The Crown. See story on Page 7.

Unisal upsets Electric in the industrial league football playoffs. See Page B1.

Hugh Graham of Limehouse rode to a third place position in the Rothman's Grand Prix. See Page B3.



Acton Firefighters Harold Townsley (left) and Larry Frizell proudly display the trophy the Acton Fire Departments 1927 Studebaker picked up as the 'Best in the Show' at the B.F. Goodrich competition in Waterloo. About 40 vehicles, including cars were entered in the competition. The Fire Truck was transported to Waterloo by trailer for the event.

## Request no hearing for shopping plaza

Halton Hills has asked the Minister of Housing not to request an Ontario Municipal Board hearing on behalf of Jerry Sprackman who is doing battle with the town over a proposed shopping plaza in the east end of town.

Town planner Mario Venditti recommended to council last week that the members point out to the Minister that several points in a report by Mr. Sprackman's solicitors were incorrect.

In the 1974 and 1978 reports, Mr. Venditti's recommendation said,

underlying assumptions relied upon by the application of Acton is to expand over 10,000 people, and the existing sewage treatment plant will be expanded between 1981 and 1986. This These are "incorrect assumptions," his report said.

Mr. Venditti also pointed out "there is no evidence to support the population needed in Acton and surrounding area in order to justify the commercial shopping centre facility even if it is assumed that the support population needed is ac-

curately set out in the submitted reports."

The town is also concerned, the planners report said, that a shopping centre facility of the type proposed would have an adverse impact on the existing central business district in the town of Acton.

Council approved Mr. Venditti's recommendation to request the Minister not refer to the OMB the applications for the official plan amendments requested by Mr. Sprackman.

## Scouting movement searches for leaders

The Acton Scout movement may be forced to turn interested boys away if they are unsuccessful in their search for new leaders.

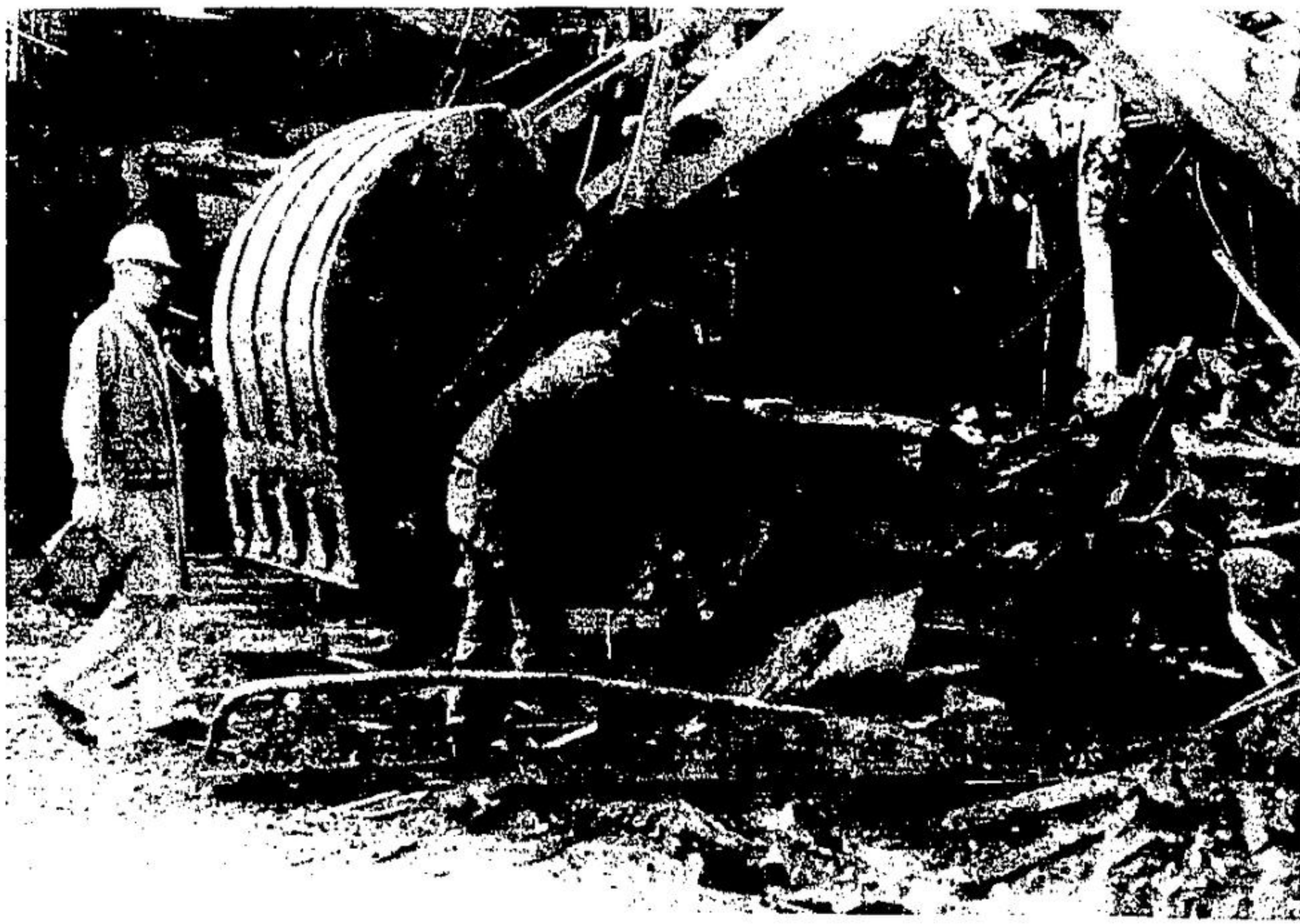
Don McDonald, group committee chairman, said the groups don't like to turn away interested boys but they are limited by the number of leaders they have in each division.

Mr. McDonald said a meeting is planned Monday night at the Acton Scout Hall. The information night for adults is designed to provide details on the various groups, explain the problems and interest new volunteers. Mr. McDonald stressed that leaders for the groups, part-time assistants and group committee members are all

needed to keep the organization running effectively.

District council president Jean Belshaw, said the importance of adequate numbers of volunteers cannot be stressed enough. "Scouting is terrific fun and very rewarding. However it is important to have enough help so that all can enjoy themselves and are not overburdened."

Elaine Hannah, a member of the district service team and a Limehouse Cub leader, said the need for leaders especially in Cubs is a growing concern. "There are two packs in Acton and a third opening in September. The interest from the boys is there."



Mum's the Word! The Ontario Fire Marshal's Office, and the Halton Regional Police have said nothing of the cause of the fire that destroyed the Dominion Hotel and took one life three weeks ago. The

Fire Marshal's Office and Halton's Police continued their investigation at the hotel site Tuesday, checking debris for any clues that could help them in determining the cause of the blaze.

## Town wants land industrial — planner doesn't

The town of Halton Hills is determined an industrial park at Highway 25 and Five Sideroad directly across from a large industrial area in Milton, will go ahead, but the regional planning committee does not want it. Norshaw Developments owns the 283 acre parcel.

Regional Planning Director Ed Cummings objects to any further urbanization of agricultural land, and contends Milton's amendment making the land industrial on their side of the boundary was a logical limit.

The regional planning committee wants Halton

regional council to ask the Ministry of Housing to insist the land remain agricultural.

In May, the MOH questioned the necessity for the industrial land in light of large industrial acreage in Milton and suggested it was premature until the new official plan sets the

amount and location of all industrial land in the town.

At that time a letter was sent to Ministry from the town setting out the need. Halton Hills council passed the amendment for the industrial lots of two acres in size and private recreation club.

Cummings said "To

date there has not been any justification for more industrial land, particularly this close to a recently approved site in Milton."

He said the regional concept does contain emphasis on job balance in the communities of Milton, Georgetown and

Acton, but on a scale of five jobs per acre. Using that scale Milton already has an excess of 300 industrial acres.

"In summary, neither the need nor choice of the location has been justified. The location calls into question the Milton urban limits," he said.

The town's position is summed up by Mayor Pete Pomeroy who said at a meeting two months ago "We want the jobs here in Halton Hills." He claimed Joe Shaw, of Norshaw Developments has commitments for industry to locate there.

See editorial