

Supreme Court cops out

The Supreme Court of Ontario has declined to issue a decision on the appeal made by the Town of Halton Hills and the Interested Citizens Group (ICG) after the Ontario Municipal Board directed the town to include a zoning amendment allowing the building of the long-battled Hydro corridor. The Town and ICG must pay costs.

Although a Toronto newspaper stated Halton Hills lost the decision to Hydro in a copyrighted story Thursday, transcripts of the court's decision, handed down by three judges, indicates, no decision was made.

The Town of Halton Hills has been holding up the Hydro corridor, backed by the seven-year-old Interested Citizens Group, because their zoning by-laws didn't permit such a corridor.

However, a decision by the OMB, directed the town to write an amendment to the by-laws allowing Hydro to continue. The town took that decision to the Supreme Court.

Justices Donald Steele, John Holland, and Robert Montgomery released a statement saying they were "seriously concerned" that the Court was being asked to exercise its discretion and make a decision in a matter from which no practical effect would flow but which decision would have far-reaching effects on other persons not before the Court.

The statement concluded with "I would refuse to exercise the discretion of the Court and would dismiss the application with costs."

Mayor Pete Pomeroy told this newspaper he hadn't then seen a copy of the

decision but he believed judgment wasn't passed at all.

"We're back where we were before", he commented adding that it looked as if the town would have to abide by the decision of the province and process the amendments as directed.

Pomeroy said he couldn't comment until the council saw the court decision but felt, the town would be forced to comply with the Ontario Municipal Board and change the zoning.

ICG spokesman John Minns said the non-decision, which took three months, simply means the Court refused to get involved. He noted the Town and the ICG took the only avenues open to them to challenge the OMB decision. He said the chances of success were remote or negligible if the applicants had taken the route outlined by the Court as well as

tremendous cost.

Minns said he noted the decision didn't say the ICG and the Town was wrong.

"Some people feel deep down inside the Court did not know what to do with it and left it for someone else to decide," Minns said. The Cabinet can't intervene, Mr. Davis won't intervene and now the Supreme Court won't intervene. "Who can," he asks. Some of the land owners along the route are bitter and determined the buck won't be passed again.

Minns said the ICG may appeal the decision but they would try first to see William McCauley, the new Hydro chairman, who is reputed to be more approachable and open-minded than his predecessor.

ICG will continue to fight Hydro

Residents along the route of the proposed Bruce to Milton hydro corridor through Halton Hills voted Monday night to continue their fight for an answer to their concerns about the hydro corridor. Consensus of a meeting was that residents felt the courts had done a disservice by trying "to delay justice" and they will try one more appeal to the courts for answers.

"The people want to see if the courts will make a decision," ICG spokesman John Minns said. The problem is not going away although their opportunity to fight in some quarters has been taken away, he said. Money for the appeal is in ICG and Halton Hills funds tabbed for the fight.

Meanwhile, he said, the ICG and the town will pursue a meeting with Hugh McCauley, the Hydro chairman, and offer some solutions for the present stalemate.

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Site F doomed

By Jim Robinson

Site F is finished. That was the consensus of Halton Regional Councillors Russ Miller and Bill Johnson and Mayor Don Gordon following a Friday meeting of the Solid Waste Management Committee which gave tacit approval for studies to begin on making Site A (the National Sewer Pipe lands in Burlington) a regional landfill site.

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Gordon said the foreseen legal battles and the possible quick approval of Site A all but doom the Milton Site F landfill site from reaching fruition.

"If you ask me," Mr. Gordon said, "I say that we won't have Site F."

"The hearing on Site F has now been put off until November and we're going to have a long hearing after that."

"In the meantime, if all runs tickety-boo, I think we could have Site A approved next year... I mean 1980."

Halton Hills Councillor Miller, during the meeting on Site A, put it directly.

"It seems that now Site F is down the drain," he said.

Mr. Johnson said he feels there will be swift approval of Site A because it is beside the current Burlington landfill site. Consultants are in agreement the National Sewer Pipe shale pit will be hydrogeologically safe.

Mr. Gordon said another reason why he expects Site A to move much quicker than Site F is "We have said right from the start that everything... all information is going to be right on the table."

"During the hearing on Site F, I learned more at the hearing than I ever did during the discussions."

"I don't want any wheeling and dealing to go on like

we had in Site F," he said.

National Sewer Pipe executive vice-president Bud Christenson told the meeting his firm is prepared to offer 68 acres of the 200-acre site for landfill.

Estimates by the company see the site being able to accommodate three million tons of garbage. This would be enough to handle Halton's dump problems for 10 to 14 years.

There is some suspicion on the part of councillors why National Sewer Pipe, once opposed to using their land for fill, has now changed its mind.

Mr. Johnson said he feels it could be the revenue to be gained from the region.

"They say they can handle about 3 million tons of garbage and the uppage rate we pay, is just about \$9 a ton."

"So you look at some simple arithmetic and you see National Sewer Pipe stands to make about \$27 million."

Mr. Christenson told this newspaper he could not place any figure on what the firm would make on tip-page fees, as this is just a conceptual plan now and nothing has been worked out.

He did say the firm is quite interested in resource recovery.

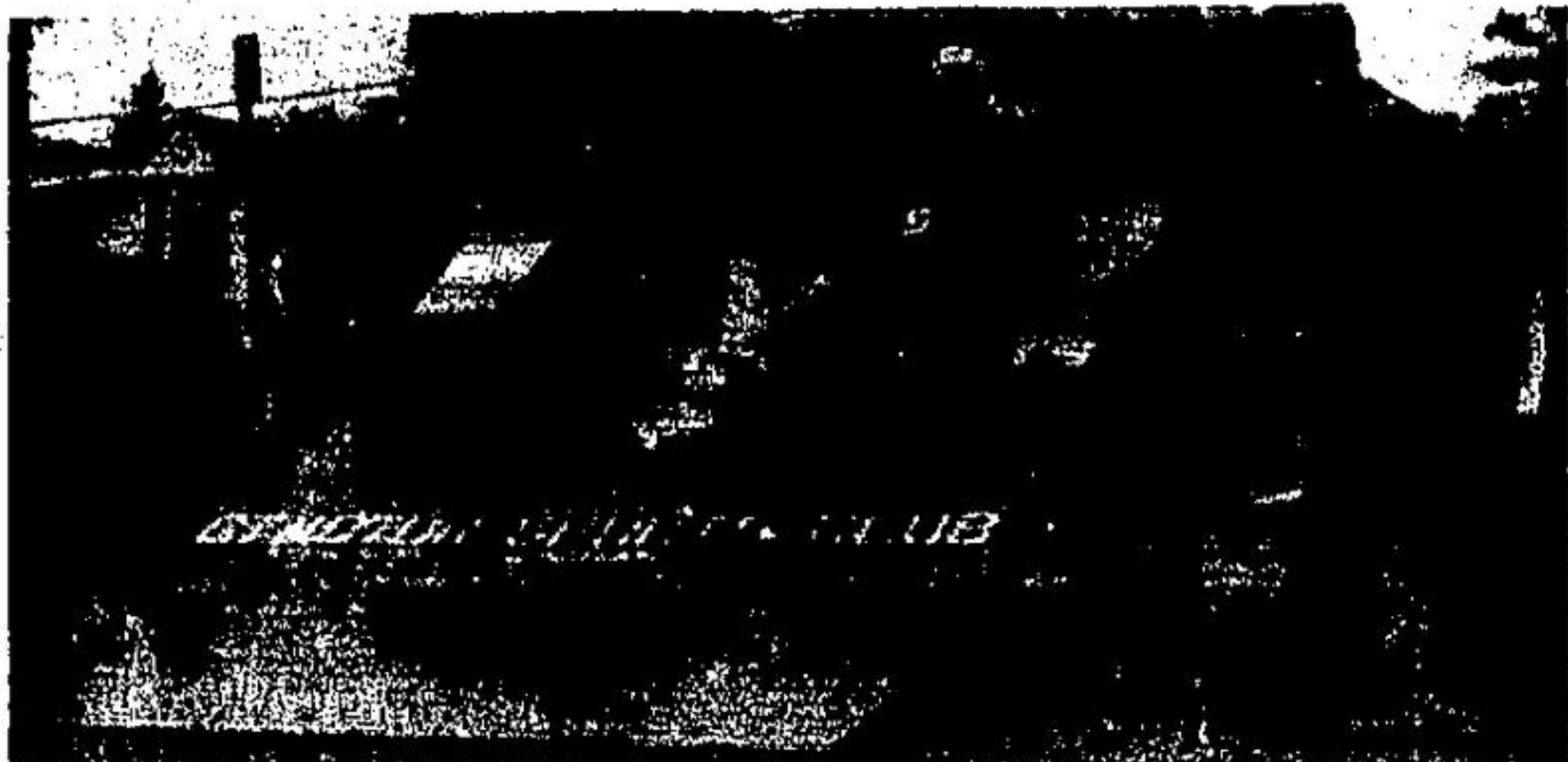
Mr. Gordon said he expects National to get into resource recovery "because the region is committed to it."

"We don't want just another dump... and if they have that in mind, then they had better forget it," he said.

The proposal to bring in an independent hydrogeologist to start work on a report on the groundwater effects of the 68-acre dump, goes to regional council today for approval. This is expected to go through swiftly, Mr. Gordon said.



Attempting to get a child to avoid a large pile of fallen leaves is like getting him to avoid a large mud puddle. Both tasks are impossible. Morgan Vaughan is no exception as he enjoys a romp into a pile of fall-colored leaves. The roads in the area are lined with the brightly colored leaves, a reminder that winter is just around the corner. Tired of raking? It's a lot easier than shovelling snow. Photo by JEAN VAUGHAN



Acton Optimist Erik Peterson brings down the starting flag at the Optimist's Soap Box Derby Saturday. Racers Robbie Leitch, hidden from view, and John Sullivan watch intently as they wait for the safety blocks to come down.

Council backtracks — ask report

A 50 home subdivision in two separate subdivisions on both sides of Churchill Road, Acton, was approved too hastily, last week, by Halton Hills planning board, contended Councillor Roy Booth.

Booth argued normal procedures of referring the proposal to the planner for a report was not followed, and contended it set a precedent. Planning board recommended both parcels, one seven acre site on the vacant land between existing houses on Churchill Road and the high school, and the other

a seven acre site across the road between Acton Curling Club and the Bovis subdivision he approved last week. Booth pointed out the plan needed an Official Plan and zoning amendment, and contended the land is zoned rural. He admitted the concept sounded good, and said he had nothing against, but was definitely opposed to the method used.

Turning to the Planner, Booth asked, "Do you feel this is the proper recommendation for this proposal?" Planner Mario Venditti replied "We don't feel the deviation from the normal is acceptable."

Councillor Russ Miller agreed the process should not have been side-stepped. Councillor Ed Woods said the area was pre-planned for other development when Bovis was built, the services are in, and as are parks, schools and roads. He claimed it is simply a matter of infilling on a small area of a total of 13 acres.

He said the well-documented report showed sewage capacity and abundance of water. Councillor Walter Blehn, who was absent from the planning board, said at Council, he would have opposed it. He contended if council is going to ignore the planning department they might as well not have them. Councillor Harry Levy, who was alone in opposition at planning board, said reports from staff are necessary to make an informed decision. Councillor Pat Patterson argued it was simply a matter of infilling and urged council to get "something going in this town."

Pressure, budget cuts cause resignations

Extreme pressure and the continual budget cuts could have led to the sudden resignations of the Halton Hills recreation director and coordinator Anne Pickering, says Mayor Pete Pomeroy. The mayor told this newspaper there will be a noticeable difference in the level of recreation service in Halton Hills at least until the new year, because of the resignations. Mr. Gray and Miss Pickering both announced their resignations last month, to be effective in a few weeks.

Pet has rabies Family must take shots

At least six Acton people are undergoing the anti-rabies series of injections after coming in contact with a rabid dog. The dog's owners and their young son, two veterinarian students and Acton vet Ron Trenton are receiving the serum, as a preventative measure, the vet says. Dr. Trenton is undergoing the rabies boosters while the others are enduring the entire series of 21 shots in the stomach.

Disston staff get reprieve

Employees at Disston Canada in Acton have received a five week reprieve from the unemployment line. The hand saw plant was scheduled to close down operations September 30, but as the deadline neared, company officials decided to extend the closure date to November 2. Goran Sorman, of Disston's parent company Sandvik Canada, told The Acton Free Press the delay was announced to give the manpower committee more time to find jobs for the some 113 hourly workers and 17 office staff. Disston plants in Acton and in Vancouver are being closed and transferred to Quebec, with no employee transfer offered. An American firm, R. Hoe was in the process of purchasing a portion of the Acton plant, which would provide employment for some 40 men. These plans, however, have since fallen through. Hand saws and metal cutting tools equipment are currently being moved from Acton to Montreal. According to former employees, all but about 40 people have found work elsewhere, since the closing announcement was made in July. These 40 are the only ones apparently left at the plant.

meningitis, which can be caused by rabies. However, he never expected a rabies diagnosis because the animal was only three weeks overdue for its annual rabies booster. The dog's owner and Dr. Trenton decided to put the animal out of its misery that same morning. The body was sent to the Veterinary Services Lab at the University of Guelph to find the exact cause of the animal's behaviour. A few days later, after no sign of rabies had been discovered, the university sent the head to the Animal Disease Research Institute in Ottawa. There they discovered rabies in the brain. An investigation of the dog's activities led Dr. Trenton to an area where he discovered several dead rats. Although the rodents are not known carriers of the disease he has sent a carcass to Ottawa for further examination. Dr. Trenton said this case, which is his first in the three years he has been practicing in Acton, is not typical of rabies. He explained the more years an animal gets a booster shot, the more of an immunity it builds up. However in this instance,

the dog was 18 months old and had received only one shot in its life. As a result there was little or no immunity to the disease. The rabies germ can only be transmitted through the saliva of an infected animal, with bites the major source of spreading. An animal can have the virus for up to six months before it affects the brain, and makes it contagious. He explained if a dog is bit in the back of the leg, it could take months for the germ to travel through the nerves to the brain. However, it is a proven fact that for five days before the first symptoms start to show, the animal can be spreading the disease. Not all animals foam at the mouth, which most people feel is a sure sign of rabies. The local afflicted dog never did show any of the usual signs. Once a person feels they have been contaminated by a rabid animal they should consult their local physician who

will decide whether or not the patient should undergo the shots. In the case of the two students, Dr. Trenton said, both had cuts on their hands, and must have anti-rabies serum shots directly into the palms, two shots on the hips, and one in the stomach for 21 days. Although Dr. Trenton has not treated any more infected animals, he warned pet owners to vaccinate their pets regularly, and warned parents to tell their children to stay away from stray animals or those who appear too friendly. Pets should be kept at home and not encouraged to roam the streets, he said. Pet owners with animals at the vets the same time as the infected animal need not fear their animals' health. Dr. Trenton explained that each dog or cat is kept in its own kennel. The Kennels are disinfected between usage. Examining tables are also disinfected between patients.



Lonnie Harkin receives a needle from Halton Regional Health Unit nurse Norene McDonald during an immunization clinic held at Acton Community Services Centre last Wednesday. The clinic has been planned as a one afternoon every two month project where area residents can get TB, polio, Cholera, typhoid and tetanus shots among other things. The next clinic is planned for November 23 between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. Anyone interested in receiving their needle can book through the Centre at 853-3318.

Child hit on Cobblehill

A three-year old Acton child was taken to Guelph General hospital following an accident Saturday afternoon on Cobblehill Rd. No one was injured in a two-car collision on Church Street Monday evening, Donna Gordon said. Both cars received \$500 in damages.

Mr. Pomeroy said the budget cuts, and the lack of co-operation between the department and the council could have brought troubles to a head. There have also been resignations in Acton and Georgetown arenas, Mr. Pomeroy said. An arena worker in Acton has left to pursue a job in Brampton, and two workers in Georgetown have gone their separate ways.