

Energy board rule disappoints ICG

by Eric Elstone

The Interested Citizens' Group (ICG) is disappointed and puzzled by the National Energy Board's (NEB) refusal to grant a hearing for the Bruce-Milton power line.

The NEB dismissed the application for a hearing from Reford Gardhouse, R.R. 5 Milton and Walter Scott, R.R. 3 Georgetown, and the ICG concerning the 500 kV line.

Detailed reasons for the dismissal have not been received by the applicants. They have only press reports to go on. Ontario Hydro, which has built much of the 109-mile line, is in the same boat.

"We're, of course, disappointed again. We're still convinced power is going to the United States. With all the surplus power they've (Ontario Hydro) got, what else could it be used for?" was Gardhouse's reaction to the NEB decision.

The power line splits the Gardhouse cattle farm in half.

Scott shares the Gardhouse view concerning the export of power. He too was disappointed, but he was not surprised.

For both men the other major issue is compen-

sation. Scott said he received \$1,000 for bush land for which non-Ontario Hydro evaluators placed a higher value. Gardhouse maintains he has received no compensation for the provincial utility.

The matter of compensation has been turned over to the Guardhouse lawyer.

The ICG, which has opposed the 500 kV line for about six years, asked the NEB to halt construction of the line because, contends the ICG, it is to be used for sending power to the United States.

Also the citizens' group asked for a public hearing to assess the need, plus the environmental impact, "of the international power line."

The federal board decided, on the basis of written submissions, that the Bruce-Milton line is not an international power line in the definition of the NEB Act.

ICG spokesman John Minns still believes otherwise.

The NEB also found no reason to lift Ontario Hydro's licence EL 95 which the ICG contends will be contravened by Ontario Hydro because it is exporting electricity to the United States.

Meanwhile Ontario Hydro is preparing to string

wire from Belwood, in Erin Township, to the Milton station. That step will complete the 109-mile corridor from the Bruce nuclear station on Lake Huron. It will be the first 500 kV line completed from that generator.

All 87 towers down the centre of Halton Hills are erected, according to Ontario Hydro spokesman Chris Taylor. The utility hopes to complete the line by July.

The work will progress from Milton to Belwood. A helicopter is to be used to place a fly rope on each tower, according to Taylor. The conductor will be pulled into place.

Minns said Monday there will be an appeal of the NEB ruling by the ICG. An appeal can be launched through the federal court. There are two other methods of appeal however, Minns said no decision has been made concerning which one will be tried.

"There are three appeal processes. But people are fed up. Here we've federal law. Is the public interest being served by not having a chance to present evidence to the board?"

The amount of electricity needed by the Americans, especially General Public Utilities, is much

more than can be supplied by the fossil burning plant at Nanticoke, according to Minns. There is a proposal by Ontario Hydro to investigate the techniques of laying a cable from Nanticoke to the U.S. under Lake Erie.

In '77 and '78 more than 3-million kilowatt hours of electricity produced by nuclear plants was exported, according to Minns. After the Bruce-Milton connection is scaled, the closest nuclear plant to the Lake Erie crossing is at Bruce.

The sale of electricity to GPU by Ontario Hydro has been going on for some time. Ontario Hydro indicates such sales help pay the Provincial utility's debts.

The American customers, though, get a better deal from Ontario Hydro, than do Canadians, according to the ICG. The cost of power during the day, six days per week, is 2.7 cents per kilowatt hour. At night the rate drops to 1.9 cents per kilowatt hour. The split rate applies to the export sales. All Sunday the cost is 1.9 cents.

Ontario customers on the other hand, do not get such a break, according to Minns. Ontario buys bulk power at 2.78 cents per kilowatt hour.

The ICG contends, in its submissions to the NEB, that the Bruce to Milton line is part of Ontario Hydro's plan to increase exports to the Americans.

An exchange of dialogue between Liberal MPP Julian Reed (Halton-Burlington) and Ontario Hydro vice-president of planning and administration M. Nastich, as recorded in Hansard, is one piece of evidence cited by the ICG to support the idea that the Bruce-Milton line will be used as "an international power line."

"We're talking about 1985. We expect, hopefully, that the first line out of Bruce will be in, so the difficulties of transmission will not cause us to negate this particular deal, if it comes," states Nastich.

That means, according to Minns, if Ontario Hydro fails to get the Bruce line, they do not get the deal with GPU.

The ICG further contends the sale of electricity to the U.S. by Ontario Hydro is being done in contravention of NEB regulations. One rule states that exporting of power would not result in prices in the U.S. being materially less than the least cost alternative for power and energy at the same place.

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Examining the dangers of smoking, with the help of the Canadian Cancer Society's education kit, are St. Joseph's students Shawn Taras, left, and Donna Ferguson, seated. Teacher Joanne Lebel right, has been using the kit in her grades six and seven health classes. Most schools in Acton are using the kits, designed by the Society to educate children not only of the dangers of smoking, but the benefits of good health. Photo by DIANA WALTSMANN

Kits teaching pupils smoking dangers

by Diana Waltmann

The Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society lives by the rule—an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure.

That's why they developed the widely-used and popular education kits. The Society believes by teaching children the dangers of cancer-causing habits early, chances of them contracting the disease later on in life are minimized.

There are two kits in use in Acton schools. Dave Boycott is using the grades 4-6 and grades 7-8 kits in McKenzie-Smith Middle School, while Brian Morris at St. Joseph's is using the same.

There are 11 "Ally" kits for kindergarten class in Acton as well.

Mr. Boycott of McKenzie-Smith has been teaching the dangers of cancer for seven or eight years and has been using the kits since they first appeared on the scene three or four years ago.

He teaches only boys from grade six to eight. He said anyone who has rapport with the kids can teach from the kits because they are well-designed and well-thought out.

"It's all decision-making," he said. "You give the class the information about lung problems. It even houses a simulated lung to show kids what smoking

can do to their system. As well Boycott often shows films available through the society.

"The films are kind of scary," he said. "But I don't use scare tactics. I use more decision-making."

He said it was more difficult with the grades seven and eight. Some of them he admitted, were already smoking a pack of cigarettes a day. Those students won't relate to the kits as easily.

"They see older kids smoking and think it makes them look sophisticated," he said.

"When I ask them why they smoke, they tell me they enjoy it and don't want to give it up."

"To me as an educator, I can't possibly understand this. How can anyone enjoy something so bad for you?"

Mr. Boycott said for some students smoking is just a phase. For others however, they are starting a habit they will have for the rest of their life.

He also noted students still find a way to purchase cigarettes although they cost \$1 a pack.

The Kit for grades seven and eight get the students more active than the earlier program.

It includes posters with lessons, games like cross-words and word scrambles, and board games. All the posters are colorful and attract the kids at-

ention.

Mr. Boycott said the class was especially interested in the posters and comment mainly on the films. One film in particular showed a middle-aged woman first romping on the beaches in Hawaii, then after chemotherapy treatments.

She had lost all her hair and weighed only 83 pounds. Mr. Boycott said the film got across the message that smoking and cancer are not exactly sexy.

The Cancer Society has given enough information in the kits for up to 10 hours of lessons. Rena Arbic, head of the education program for the Acton branch of the Society, said she plays a small part.

"I just approach teachers and invite them as part of the Society to our meetings," Mrs. Arbic has been with the Society for 16 years, as president, past president, campaign worker and daffodil sales-lady.

As well as providing kits for teachers, Mrs. Arbic makes available several films, two which have been used by Ann Lepik and Dave Sale at Acton High School.

Mrs. Arbic said although the kits and films are aimed at the school children, the Society has an education program for older groups.

Back to Acton Days

Stay in town June 27, 28, 29

Plan to stay home the last weekend in June. The third annual Back to Acton Days celebration is set for June 27, 28 and 29 and Terry Grubbe, chairperson of the event, promises it will be a great weekend to stay in Acton rather than go away to cottage country.

Back to Acton Days is Acton's celebration of Canadian Confederation.

Tentative plans call for part of Mill Street East to be closed off Friday at noon and sidewalk sales both Friday and Saturday. Friday night there will be opening ceremonies for the celebrations followed by entertainment and a street dance.

Saturday starts off with the calithumpian parade starting in Lakeview, Kingham-Cobblehill and Bovis-Glenlea neighborhoods and merging in downtown Acton.

The day downtown will be filled with booths for baked goods and craft displays and contests will abound. Last year's contests, many of which will be repeated, included watermelon seed spitting, log sawing and drinking. There will be demonstrations like last year's health hustle and skateboarding, and a teen band playing day long is on tap.

That evening a Monte Carlo night and dance is being planned for Acton Community Centre.

The last years rain has washed out Sunday activities so Mrs. Grubbe says they are back planning for Sunday again this year. Possible events include a fishing derby, exhibition ball and soccer games and folk dancing.

Mrs. Grubbe says the organizers are looking for lots of help from both individuals and groups in the community. If you're interested in assisting in Back to Acton Days call here at 853-3310 or 853-0222. An organizing meeting will be held next month.

Tax bill is cut by \$6

There's good news for taxpayers. A provincial grant will cut the increase in the tax bill just over six dollars.

The grant is aimed at easing the burden on taxpayers in Halton, so the grant has been made to the Region. On the average house in Georgetown, Acton and Esquering the regional levy increase amounted to approximately \$6.40, but with this new provincial grant that will be all but wiped out.

An Acton house assessed at \$4,498 will now pay \$637.23 instead of \$643.62.

An Esquering house assessed at \$4,638 will now pay \$606.74 instead of \$613.09.



Boat people arrive

The two long-awaited families of refugees from south-east Asia arrived at their new Acton homes Thursday and Friday. In the top photo Pastor John Cooper of Beth-El Christian Reformed Church hands the keys to their new Mill Street home over to Le Van Xuong. Below, Rev. Das Sydney, head of the Acton Clergy Association, was on hand to welcome Fhung family to town.

Too much mortgage doom and gloom

The real estate market in Acton isn't as poor as one might think in these times of high interest rates according to Acton area resident Dave Whiting. He says there is too much "gloom and doom" over high mortgage rates.

An agent with Fobert Real Estate in Georgetown who does considerable selling in Acton, Whiting came forward to comment on townhouse semi-detached prices and sales in the Kingham area after a story appeared in this newspaper earlier this

month. In that article two Acton men complained about high mortgage rates and said many people living in the Kingham area were trying to sell their homes, some at less than they paid for them, with no luck. They are trying to spark a protest here over high mortgage rates.

Whiting says townhouses here are now finding their own market price level.

He recalled when they were first built the supply was low and the demand high and that forced prices up rapidly. Townhouses and semis are less expensive to build and so cost less to buy, but people still get a lot of house for their money.

High mortgage rates are affecting some people, Whiting admits, but there is far too much "gloom and doom" over the issue he feels.

"It has been a 'jolt' as rates rose quickly and it 'set everyone back on their ear' for a time but now the market here is 'steady'."

He is concerned many people have panicked to sell because of the high interest rates, but they should hold on because "even now people are starting to get breaks on mortgage renewals." Whiting expects the situation will improve greatly by the

end of June.

One of the big problems is many people have quit setting aside income for rising house costs after they are locked into five years of mortgage payments, Whiting says.

He explains the "general rule of thumb" is spend 30 per cent of your income on a home. In fact you can't buy a home and qualify for a mortgage if the house will cost more to carry than 30 per cent of a person's income.

Because their housing costs have been locked in for five years people have forgotten to set anything aside to pay for their homes. "They aren't allowing for inflation on their mortgages and they have a problem when five years down the road the mortgage company wants to catch up with inflation." Too many people commit their extra income to new debts or purchases and so are in a bind when it comes time to spend more to carry their home. Whiting allowed that for some people it is hard, in today's inflationary times, set money aside for higher housing costs.

"You can't go wrong," he says of buying a townhouse.

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Next week is Education Week and area schools have lots of plans. See stories on page 2 and B7.