

Torstar chairman defends purchase of Inland papers

Torstar Corp. chairman Beland Honderich brushed aside suggestions that the recent purchase by Metrospan, the community newspaper division of Torstar, of the rival string of 13 community papers in the Inland Publishing Co. Limited chain, has created a "concentration of power" in the Metro Toronto area.

Appearing before the Royal Commission on Newspapers in Ottawa, Mr. Honderich said the Metro Toronto area still has a wide choice of newspapers and other media.

The purchase of Inland by the Metrospan Printing and Publishing Co. took place on Feb. 27. Purchase price was \$13.5 million. Metrospan also assumed some \$12.5 million of Inland debt.

Mr. Honderich said the acquisition was necessary to fill in the market gaps in the Metrospan coverage area. Metrospan was not making a profit and some Metrospan newspapers might have been forced to fold up and jobs would have been lost, explained Mr. Honderich. "We were facing a situation where some of our Metrospan papers were losing money, their losses were increasing," Mr. Honderich said.

He also pointed out that the area is also served by seven daily newspapers, 35 radio stations, seven television stations, and nine magazines.

"I don't know of any market in North America that has the number of competing voices that we have in the Toronto area," said Mr. Honderich.

He pointed out that by his criteria of the wide choice of alternative voices in the various Metro area communities, the takeover did not provide ground for danger.

"If I felt that in the Toronto market our action (the acquisition of the Inland chain) was seriously going to diminish the diversity of opinion, I would be concerned," stated the Torstar chairman.

Mr. Honderich insisted that, in retrospect, the Star may have made an error in underplaying the story and suggested he must accept "full responsibility" for it.

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For information call, Eileen Dix at 853-1070 Wednesday & Friday 9-5



Gloria Coats and Susan Kuechler raise the cancer flag at the cenotaph. April is cancer month.

Honor Acton boy who pulled chum from icy waters

A ten-year-old Acton boy will be honored this Friday night in Oakville by the Halton Safety Council for pulling a school chum out of the icy waters of Fairy Lake last February.

Kevin Fabian, Cameron St., pulled his best friend, Robert Jennings, out of the water after he fell through the frozen lake behind the Acton Community Centre.

They were taking a shortcut across the lake to Mill St. on their way home from Robert Little School when Jennings stopped to try and pat some swans. The ice around the edge of the hole where the fowl were swimming gave way, plunging Jennings up to his chest in water.

He kept his elbows on the ice to prop himself up while Kevin began to tug. Kevin's mother, Wendy Fabian, said this week she has always wondered how her son avoided falling in too, since he was standing on the ice. He's taken swimming lessons, but not life saving. However, her children have been made aware through television commercials that a person should lie flat on the ice and reach out as far as possible or use something to reach the person in the water. Kevin, however, just ran to the edge and dragged his chum out. She thinks either her son was lighter on the ice or the weakened part had completely broken off.

While the drama was played out some other children stood on shore and laughed at Jennings' predicament. That wasn't the case with Kevin's brother and sister though, Adam and Melissa, who were "scared" and ran home to tell Mrs. Fabian.

Mrs. Fabian said her son is "kind of excited and yet not" about the

honor he will receive Friday night. "He's not bragging about it. I guess he's shocked and excited at the same time."

Kevin isn't as excited about the award "as his parents and grandparents are." His parents, grandparents and brother and sister are all going to Oakville to see him receive the award.



Kevin Fabian, left, with his friend Robert Jennings who he pulled out of the ice waters of Fairy Lake last winter, will be honored Friday by the Halton Safety Council for his heroics.

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MY SINCERE THANKS

To all the voters of Halton-Burlington who supported me in the March 19 Ontario election.

FRAN BAINES **IIFG**

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NOTICE
NOTICE OF INFORMATION CENTRE
Construction Details - Highway 25

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications is presently preparing contract drawings for improvements to Highway 25 in the Regional Municipality of Halton. The project extends from just south of Regional Road 17 northerly to the south limit of Acton. A plan of the area is shown below.

General Information
 The Ministry is proposing the following improvements:

- 1) Reconstruction and widening of driving lanes from 6.1 metres to 7.5 metres.
- 2) Construction of partial paved shoulders (10.5 metres).
- 3) Improvement of Intersections.
- 4) Improvement of drainage.

Interested residents or other members of the public are welcome to discuss these proposals with the representatives of the Ministry who will be in attendance at the Information Centre at the time and date indicated in the schedule below. The proposed highway improvements scheme will be on display at the Information Centre.

For those residents who were unable to attend the presentation regarding improvements to Highway 25 from Regional Road 9 to Speyside due to inclement weather on February 19th, a repeat presentation will be held at the Information Centre. Questions related to this particular phase of reconstruction only should be directed to, Mr. Allan Sulavella, Senior Project Manager, Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Planning and Design Section, Central Region, 5000 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario, M2N 6E8. Telephone No: (416) 224-7569.

Schedule
 Date: Tuesday, April 14, 1981
 Time: 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
 Place: Speyside Public School (Hwy. 25 and Esqueping Road 17)

If you are unable to attend and have any enquiries you may direct these to the undersigned by telephone or in writing.

Mr. Gedas J. Smolckia, Project Manager, Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Planning and Design Section, Central Region, 5000 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 6E8 Telephone No: (416) 224-7567

Ministry of Transportation and Communications

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