



The Niagara Escarpment is like a giant spine in Southern Ontario running from Niagara Falls to Tobermory.

Report says

Ease Escarpment Commission controls

Restrictions on development along the 450 mile long Niagara Escarpment area may be eased if the province accepts the recommendations of a three man tribunal of Ontario Municipal Board members.

The 1400 page report by Armour McCrae, Walter Shives and Dean Henderson which takes issue with many points in the original NEC proposal has been sent to all municipalities along the Escarpment and to Ontario Resources Secretary Lorne Henderson.

Among the many recommendations put forth by the hearing officers the right to seek the creation of new lots on Escarpment Natural areas is included. It states owners should not be denied the right to apply for new lots, and points out certain lands now designated "natural" which would result in private owners providing open space or natural areas without the lands being

purchased by a public authority.

The report also would allow transportation and utility facilities in "escarpment natural" areas. In another reversal of the original proposed NEC Plan, the report would allow applications for low density rural subdivisions or condominium on "Escarpment Protection areas, if other requirements are met. The comment "if this recommendation is not accepted then a great number of landowners will have been dealt with unfairly," is added.

A frequent request from older farmers may be granted, with the recommendation that a farmer may be allowed to create a retirement lot on farms in the "Escarpment Rural" area.

Another departure from the proposed plan is the suggestion minor urban areas be allowed to expand into either Escarpment Natural or Escarpment Protection areas,

providing other equipment can be met.

The hearing officers find fault with the NEC for relying on a proposed Aggregate Act which they say may or may not see the light of day. In fact, by now these provincial proposals have been changed and a new Act is under consideration.

The Hearing Officer's report suggests that high priority mineral resource areas be identified and included as part of the plan. The mineral resource areas include extraction areas and areas of high priority mineral resources. High priority mineral resource protection areas would be designated by means of overlays which would be part of the Plan.

The report advocates handing development decisions back to the municipalities, after the Plan is approved. It states the implementation of the NEC Plan should be by zoning bylaws at the local level, "not by

development control." This is the term used by the NEC for allowing any building. The report calls attention to the phrase "additional criteria" used in the proposed NEC as added conditions and points out the application of such a clause without all the parties having advance knowledge "is in our opinion distasteful to say the least."

Another seeming rebuke to the NEC recommends that any reference to the Land Compensation Board be removed, since the report claims it is not its function to determine fair market value without conducting a hearing arising from expropriation. The report also considers the one year period given the NEC to decide whether or not to purchase private land too long and would cut it to six months.

And there's good news for woodlot owners

who wish to make a dollar. The report says there should be provision for cutting if it meets with Ministry of Natural Resources approval, and goes on to state the MNR is the best equipped body to give such approval.

The hearing officers express "grave doubts" about the practicality of local bylaws being more restrictive than the policies of the NEC Plan, as they have revised it.

The recommendations will be studied by the 17 member Niagara Escarpment Commission, then the final master plan for controlling development along the escarpment will be sent to the Ontario Cabinet.

This article by no means covers the whole 1400 page report but only what has been gleaned in a few brief days.

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Sheriff Andrew W. Frank
1958-1970

Andy Frank our musical Halton Sheriff

by Sheriff Mac Sprowl

Sheriff Andrew W. Frank was born in Nassagaweya Township on August 6, 1902, the son of a plasterer.

He attended public school in Nassagaweya Township, Halton County. The family moved to Acton when Sheriff Frank was 12 years old and for a brief while he worked in the plastering business.

Following his marriage in 1928 to Miss Elsie Storey, Sheriff Frank bought a fruit farm near Brookville and grew strawberries and raspberries.

Mr. Frank was one of nine members of the famous Sod Busters—a depression era musical group from the Campbellville area who played all over Ontario and were regularly heard on Hamilton AM radio and station CKOC. His parents and sisters were in the group and Mr. Frank played the violin. They played country music in 1931, 1932 and 1933.

As well as fruit farming Sheriff Frank sold real estate before his appointment as Sheriff in 1958. He served as Sheriff from 1958-1970.

After retirement Sheriff Frank formed the Farmers' Market in Milton and was made the first Mayor of the Market. He was later made one of Milton's Citizens of the Year a few years after the success of the market.

Sheriff Frank attends the United Church in Milton, is a member of the Masonic Order, and past President of the Milton Lawn Bowling Association. Mr. Frank and his wife Elsie have three daughters, Jean, Joan and Donna and a son, Reid.

C.A.S. appoints P.R. person

Ron Coupland, Executive Director of the Halton Children's Aid Society, announced the appointment of Colleen Kelly-Forrester as Public Relations Co-ordinator.

Kelly-Forrester has been part of the public relations field for six years, most recently with The Spectator in Hamilton. She is also qualified in working with young people, having held two provincial high school teaching positions.

CONE lambastes report

The long-awaited report on the Niagara Escarpment Plan, which comes after two years of hearings, negates 15 years of provincial initiatives and wastes millions of dollars of taxpayers' money, says Lyn MacMillan, President of the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment.

She puts the Hearing Officer's Report squarely on the side of development and says "an orderly plan for this magnificent provincial heritage is now in tatters. She claims the hearing officers showed lack of understanding of environmental planning of the objectives of the NEC.

CONE is sharply critical of new lots and houses in the most sensitive areas in the

Escarpment, rural subdivisions, including condominiums in the protected areas, and unlimited expansion of minor urban areas even into "the most unspoiled escarpment land."

CONE takes issue with looser severance policies, gravel extraction and condominiums in agricultural areas. The group, consisting of various conservation organizations and individuals, warn of implementation of the plan by local municipal zoning bylaws without a provincial overseer role.

CONE points out none of the proposals to strengthen designations by Halton region were accepted, and noted the report would deny municipalities the right to pass plans

more restrictive than the Escarpment Plan. CONE president MacMillan noted development approval of the Speyside Quarry is recommended despite local opposition and expert testimony.

Councillor Pam Sheldon a leader in the Speyside area fight against extension of the aggregate industry, describes the Hearing Officers' Report as a watered down version of the NEC plan which took ten years and millions of dollars of taxpayers' money to develop.

She emphasized the original plan gave local plans, if more restrictive than the NEC, precedence, but the revisions suggested is reversing that stance.



Sap time

Part of the fun during maple syrup time at Mounsbury Wildlife Centre is the horse-drawn ride to the sugar bush, where the sap is boiled down into syrup. There is

also a candy house for those with a sweet tooth who want to buy fattening goodies.



Five year old Christopher Price of Oakville looks like he's having problems chewing the gooey taffy in the snow during the Mounsbury Wildlife Centre's maple syrup time on the weekend.



Twelve year old Andrew Wernaart, who lives at Mounsbury Wildlife Centre, shows how the trees are tapped by drilling. The mild weather made maple syrup time come a lot sooner to the Centre.

No support for new committee

A move by Councillor Pam Sheldon, backed by Councillor Finn Poulstrup, to set up a committee to look at other ways of funding rural road work was shot down by Halton Hills general committee this week, with only the mover and seconder of the motion voting in favor.

Sheldon suggested a representative of each ward be on the committee, and emphasized she did not intend to change the existing road program.

Councillor Russ Miller pointed out the Town has been following the Roads Needs Study which he felt should be adhered to.

Poulstrup contended new ideas are needed and suggested a reserve fund be established for road work.

Finance Chairman Ross Knechtel won-

dered if there are any alternative methods of raising money. He noted the Town has only 30 cents of the tax dollar to spend, which he claimed can't be stretched much further.

"It seems to me the committee would be doing the staff's job," commented Councillor Mike Armstrong.

Town Engineer Bob Austin told council if his department is given more money they can do more, adding "If the committee is set up we'll work with it. I can see who's going to do most of the work."

Councillor Harry Levy objected to such a committee, contending the priority of roads could become a political issue.

Poulstrup argued the idea would be simply to celebrate the present program

and suggested the sale or surplus property for this purpose.

Sheldon maintained she did not intend to do staff's job but simply wanted other ways of solving the road problem investigated.

"If there were other ways of funding I'm sure the engineer would have brought them to us long ago," commented Miller.

"I can tell you where you can get the money," growled Councillor Tom Hill, "take it out of the lot levy fund that's going to the big municipal complex. That money should have gone to hard services in the first place."

Armstrong suggested any ideas should come to the budget committee, and suggested the reactivation of road tours so councillors know exactly the condition of all the roads.

Region briefs

Due partly to Burlington Mayor Roly Bird's assertion that local municipalities should pay for referral services, the Acton Information Centre was denied an additional \$4,660 grant from the region.

It will receive the allotted \$21,730 regional grant, approved at the Social Services Tuesday meeting.

"It's trying to be all things to all people," commented Mayor Bird about the Centre, adding that referral services in Burlington and Oakville are met by the local libraries.

"In other municipalities, it is paid by the municipality," Bird added.

Social Services Debbie Oakley, stressing she was not "advocating one municipality over another" told Bird the multi-service centre is unique in Acton.

"In that particular community, there really is nothing else," she claimed.

Councillors Dave Whiting and John McDonald were absent from the committee meeting.

Volunteers, not money

Money will not solve vandalism problems in North Halton, councillors from Oakville and Burlington claimed Tuesday afternoon, maintaining vandalism committees need volunteers, not money.

Councillors were debating whether the Burlington Community Resource Centre who want to expand services for vandalism and juvenile distraction program into Halton Hills and Milton, should receive \$21,057.

"It is not the influx of dollars that will start vandalism committees," maintained Oakville councillor Peter Arch. "You need willing volunteers."

Director Debbie Oakley supporting the request, stressed there "is a relatively serious problem of vandalism in Halton Hills and Milton."

Committee decided to grant \$7,950 and an additional \$5,000 in reserve for the vandalism program.

Burlington Mayor Roly Bird stated that although he understood the vandalism problem, he did not believe "vandalism groups should be on a regional level."

"But this is not the same type of service that the local committees address," objected Oakville councillor Jackie Cutmore. "They have a real sense of preventative work."

Social services grants

At Tuesday's Region Social Services meeting, councillors had the task of assessing the needs of social service agencies, approving some requests for grants and denying others.

The North Halton Hospice agency was granted their request of \$2,780 for 1983. Their previous 1982 request was denied last year and they appeared at the February 15 meeting to plead their case.

The Elizabeth Fry Society, CNIB, Association of Children with Learning Disabilities, Child's Play/Parent Child Centre, Big Sisters, Milton Council, Adolescents and the Oakville Parent/Child Centre were denied grant requests.

Committee was left with \$2,271 from an original \$67,153 for grants. Director Debbie Oakley said later these agencies who were denied requests will attempt to get a part of the remaining funds.

The Acton Agricultural Society was granted \$1,365, while the Georgetown Agricultural Society was granted \$1,166.