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Georgetown, Ont., Thursday, June 10, 1971

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Scotch Block Dam's 'Looking Lake' Not For Anglers, Scenic View Only

Halton Region Conservation Authority's major construction project in 1970 was the million dollar Scotch Block dam, just below Speyside on 25 Highway. Motorists taking the highway "S" bend as they descend the escarpment can now readily discern the sparkling water of the new lake created by the dam on the middle branch of the Sixteen Mile Creek.

There are other farm ponds above the reservoir and a motorist gets a birds-eye view of water stretching from the new dam through trees clothed in spring vestments and swaying grass encircling ponds. Although the dam was strictly for utilitarian purposes — the conservation of water and re-

gulating the flow of the stream — it has taken on a new dimension for sightseers, adding more beauty to already scenic escarpment land.

UNUSUAL FEATURE

An unusual feature of the dam is the water level control device — a long rubberized fabric balloon or Fabridam, stretching the full width of the spillway.

Operators will be able to inflate or deflate the balloon to regulate the height of water in the reservoir, which stretches from Highway 25 back to the 3rd Line. Esqueping, swelling waters of the creek, almost as far east as the 4th Line. At normal level the reservoir will store approximately 1,500

acre feet of water and flooding will occur in the narrow valley one and a half miles upstream from the structure, which is hidden from the view of passing motorists by the Tangmere Mushroom Co. buildings.

The dam will regulate and conserve water in the reservoir so relatively constant amounts can be discharged during the growing season. Market gardeners and golf clubs in the lower reaches of the creek require irrigation water in the summer months. Prior to construction of the dam the low summer flow of Sixteen Mile Creek could not meet their needs.

BY A DAM SITE

Although the dam and lake

are bound to attract the curious they are only accessible from two vantage points — at the dam site and where the reservoir passes under the 3rd Line. Other property along the reservoir is privately owned and the Halton Region Authority has no authority to allow activity.

Consequently the new lake is off bounds for boats, fishing or any other recreational activity like picnicking or camping.

In Authority parlance, it is a "looking lake."

It is suspected there are both brown trout and largemouth bass in the waters along with a considerable number of lamprey eels, scoures which have infiltrated small creeks and

rivers emptying into the Great Lakes. However, anglers who have designs on fine specimens of piscatorial splendour which might lurk in the reservoir (which goes as deep as 60 feet) will have to restrain their enthusiasm until such time as the Authority permits fishing.

OPEN IN SEPTEMBER

Official opening of the Scotch Block dam and reservoir will likely take place during Conservation Week in September. At that time the chairmen of all the Conservation Authorities in the province will be on tour and it is expected they will be in the Halton Region September 23 to assist with opening ceremonies.

Wants to Construct Six Unit Townhouse

Esqueping council will discuss the future of a proposed six unit townhouse, in committee this week. The townhouses would be built on the 3rd line, near Acton and would be serviced by water and sewers from that town. Acton has already agreed to this proposition.

The 23 acre site is owned by Alex Zonkel who plans to build the townhouses, and develop the rest of the land later.

FRONED ON

Cr. Dick Howitt explained at a meeting last week that the drafted official plan originally called for development of the township near the boundaries of the three towns, but the Department of Municipal Affairs frowned on this, suggesting if the area was going to be serviced by the towns the land should be annexed by the town.

Scout Wins in Model Contest

A Georgetown Boy Scout was second prize winner in a contest sponsored by the Meccano company recently.

John Owen, 12, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Owen, 25 Fagan Drive, won a complete Mosport road race set in the contest to build an original model using Meccano parts, and send a photograph or sketch to the company.

The contest was published in the Canadian Boy magazine which is a Scout publication.

John's entry was a mobile crane. First prize went to a B. C. youth, and third to a boy in Newfoundland.

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Poor Control, Says Escarpment Land Prey to Speculation

The absence of adequate government control over the Niagara Escarpment — part of which runs through Halton County — has left the area "wide open for speculative forces" says Prof. Leonard Gertler, author of a 1969 report advocating preservation of the escarpment.

He said last week that without controlling land costs the provincial government's program aimed at acquiring escarpment land for public purposes may not be attainable.

BUY MORE

"A number of conspicuous gaps in the development control mechanism" have been left by the temporary Niagara Escarpment's Protection Act passed June 26, 1970, the University of Waterloo professor told the Canadian Association of Geographers in Waterloo.

The Halton Region Conservation Authority has been given grants by the provincial government to purchase more Escarpment land. However, the HRC

is still considering what property to buy.

GET CONTROL

Gertler, head of the school of urban and regional planning at the university, had recommended the province acquire complete control over 55,000 acres of escarpment land and selected control over 35,000 acres at a total estimated cost of \$31 million.

He gave two examples of substantial industrial land-holding in the Bruce Peninsula that could put the legislation to the test.

EXAMPLES

One is just south of Tobermory at Driftwood Cove, owned by Pickens-Mather, a firm dealing in iron ore, limestone and ferro-alloys and the other is owned by Dow Chemicals of Canada Ltd., south of Lion's Head on Hope Bay.

"What will happen when these firms apply for permits?" he asked. "Will we allow the

land policy for the Bruce to be made in Cleveland, Ohio, and Midland, Mich., as if the area were a primary resource hinterland of the industrial mid-west?"

"Or will we through local and provincial policies establish priorities that relate to the needs of southern Ontario."

SLEEP BETTER

Despite the shortcomings of

the protection act, it can be made to work, Gertler said.

"But not, it is quite clear, without extraordinary strain on the responsible minister."

All concerned, including the minister responsible for the escarpment program — the present minister is Leo Berder — "Will sleep better when permanent and more adequate legislation is brought in."

May Block Norval Operation —

Proposed Brick Plant Would Employ Sixty

The provincial government may block rezoning to set up a \$5,000,000 plant and quarry operation on a 150 acre site on Highway 7 a mile east of Norval, a Canada Brick Ltd. official said this week.

Bob Blake, vice president of manufacturing, said the Toronto Central Region plan designates the area as greenbelt which would prohibit a brick plant.

last week approved rezoning the site from agricultural to industrial. The township's official plan of amendment now before the provincial department of municipal affairs designates the vicinity of Highway 7 west of Brampton for industrial use.

SALE PREVENTED

The company now operates a plant near Streetsville which supplies about 30 per cent of the Ontario markets in Quebec, New York and Chicago.

The company had previously attempted to buy an abandoned brickyard in Cheltenham, but strong public opposition to possible pollution of the nearby Credit River prevented the sale. Chinguacousy subsequently bought the land for a park.

30 YEARS

Digging a quarry 50 feet deep to produce 16 million bricks a year would mean the Norval site would be in production for 30 years and then turned into an industrial park, Blake said.

The Streetsville plant can produce 120 million bricks a year with a gross capacity which will now last for 23 years be added.

If the Norval plan is approved, the new operation would employ a minimum of 60 people.

THIS YEAR

Planning board chairman Jim Down said the township could wait for provincial approval for the entire amendment, which covers most of the southern portion of the township, or seek a special amendment to existing zoning specifically for the brick plant site.

Neither Down nor Blake said there has yet been public opposition to the proposal. The operation would have to comply with the township pits and quarry by law and with provincial anti-pollution regulations.

Down said approval would take at least six months and the company is ready to start construction this year.



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