

# Public Opposition to Hydro's Tower Trail "A Good Trend"

FROM TORONTO BUREAU OF THE HERALD  
Ontario Hydro is facing a foe that probably would have been apathetic to its proposed Nanticoke to Pickering power line several years ago, says Dr. Omond Solandt whose commission is investigating Hydro's scheme.

In an interview with The Herald's Toronto bureau, Dr. Solandt said public opposition to the route favored by Hydro indicates "a good trend as long as it keeps sensible."

"If construction of the 500 Kv line had been started three years ago, it probably would have been built without much opposition."

The 63-year-old former medical researcher who spent six years as chairman of the Science Council of Canada was appointed by Premier William Davis last June, a few months after a petition protesting Hydro's plan brought the matter to his attention.

Dr. Solandt said he had made recommendations by mid-September of last year. That restrictive date was abolished shortly after the first public hearing made it obvious more time was required.

"I truthfully didn't expect to finish in that short period of time," said Dr. Solandt. "But I didn't think it would take as long as it's going to."

**CONFLICT ARISES**  
Hydro officials agree with Dr. Solandt that his study is trapped between two principles: the desire for careful study with much public participation and the need for electricity.

At most of the commission's sessions, Hydro has hedged its submissions on the matter of essential power requirements and impending blackouts.

New York environment consultant Bruce Howlett is now conducting a series of public meetings. With the time element in mind, Dr. Solandt instructed him in his interim report "not to choose what is theoretically the best route but to choose a good route along which the line can be built quickly with the minimum of environmental damage and of local opposition."

Dr. Solandt is hopeful Howlett will report his conclusions by early summer. The commission will then stage a few more public meetings to discuss Howlett's findings before making its final submission to the government which will probably be in September.

"Howlett has to stop discussing it somewhere and write down his views," said Dr. Solandt.

**NEED MEDIAN**  
Another struggle the Solandt Commission is encountering is the need for a median between a property owner's right to keep his land and Hydro's right as a government commission to expropriate without consultation.

Dr. Solandt feels a holdout by the involved persons after Hydro receives approval to build the line would be "one extreme society cannot accept." On the other hand, he says, Hydro should not assume it can take over the required property without diligent attempts to reach an amicable settlement.

Dr. Solandt puts part of the blame for the delay on Hydro for its method of weighing public reaction to its plans. Hydro told the commission six of nine municipalities affected by the middle route-Hydro's preference among three

proposals agreed it would not conflict with their development plans. Hydro and the municipalities, as well, should have involved the public in reaching these conclusions, he says.

"In many cases municipal authorities didn't consult the taxpayers. They had not consulted them in the past, and it didn't occur to them this time that the taxpayers were interested," said Dr. Solandt.

The unfavorable interest which has surfaced at the meetings has been due in part, Dr. Solandt says, to the proximity of the area to Metropolitan Toronto. Many of the persons opposing the erection of the power line are "people who go out from the city looking for rural life and who want to keep it primitive to a certain extent," he says.

**UNDERGROUND TOO COSTLY**

Hydro towers, up to 160 feet high, spotted across the landscape would detract from the aesthetic value of country living, Hydro's opponents believe. Many of them would be content with the line being built underground but Hydro ruled this out early in the hearings since the cost would be 25 times greater than overhead construction.

"Power lines don't affect agriculture," Dr. Solandt stated. "Traditionally many farmers have regarded good roads, power lines and telephone lines as things that have improved their way of life."

Thus, another conflict emerges. The transplanted urbanite who in many instances works in the city and lives in the country is on one side, opposed to Hydro's plan. The farmer is on the other and favoring the project, says Dr. Solandt.

The discussion continues with Hydro still hopeful of operating the new line wherever it may

be by 1975. Any further delay, Hydro warns, would lead to power interruptions. But Dr. Solandt would probably chance a future blackout if any doubt remained in his mind.

"There are still a few people

who feel it is a complicated effort to whitewash Hydro's proposal," he says.

Somewhere between a whitewash and a smear job lies the solution to be recommended by Dr. Solandt.



Dr. Omond Solandt is studying Ontario Hydro's proposal to build a 500 KV power line which is planned to run north Georgetown in a north-east direction to Newmarket and eventually to Pickering generating station.

## Hornby

# Hillcrest Women Name Presbyterian Delegates

Hillcrest United Church Women met in the Fellowship Room on January 24 with 24 ladies present.

The presbytery annual meeting will be held in Milton March 7, afternoon and evening. Voting delegates for this meeting will be Mrs. H. Cunningham, Mrs. J. Neelands, Mrs. Allison and Mrs. C. Wrigglesworth. Mrs. C. Wrigglesworth gave a report of the official Board Meeting held on December 4. Mrs. Les King and Mrs. G. Wilson will act as Key Ladies for the World Day of Prayer on March 2.

North Trafalgar Euchre Club held their weekly euchre party on Saturday night, January 27, at the North Trafalgar Recreation Centre. There were nine tables of euchre in play with the prizes going to the following winners: Edith Marshment, Audrey Wilson and Winnie Hamilton. The gents prizes were won by Harold Reed, Charlie Brown and Jim Hamilton. The lucky draws were won by Ola Robin and Buck Burton.

Mr. and Mrs. George Treanor and son Scott of Clarkson, visited on Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Garry Hamilton and family of the 9th Line, Hornby.

North Trafalgar Community Club held a very successful euchre party on Friday night, January 26, with 18 tables of euchre in play. The weather was very foggy but this did not stop the eager card players. The winners were: Mildred Mason, Marie Peacock and Margaret Nunan. The gents prizes were won by Wilmer Mason, Earla Staley, and Ellison Ball. The lucky draws were won by Helen Beaty and Wes Durie. The travelling prizes were won by Cathy Saliba and Stan Barnstaple. A delicious lunch was served by the committee.

Glady Smith was the club reporter for the first meeting which was held on Monday, January 15 at 7 p.m. The meeting was opened with the 4-H pledge. Pamphlets and sheets were handed out to the 13 girls who attended the meeting. The girls were required to make one sample of a type of neck line and one type of hem. They discussed choosing sports wear with types of knits and stretch fabrics.

The second meeting was held on Monday January 22, at the same time and same place. The meeting was opened with the 4-H pledge. Samples of material were given out. Mrs. Smith showed them how to do outer binding, self trim mitred corners, button hole in seam, elastic sewn on garment and v necks. Mrs. McKay gave them a pattern for outer in binding mitred corners and button hole.

Karen Flippance was the press reporter for the January meeting which was held at the home of Mrs. Bowler's on January 22, president, Lynn

Stewart, vice-president, Annette Reid, secretary, Pat Drew-Brook, and Karen Flippance, the press reporter. This club topic is on Sportswear from Knits. They discussed different kinds of knits. Members are required to make one or more articles. The leaders are Mrs. Bowler and Mrs. Cordingley.

Birthday greetings are extended to Janet Hill on February 2 and to Mrs. John Wallace on February 7. Belated

greetings are extended to Joe Shea who celebrated his birthday on Sunday, January 28, and to Jim Plant who will celebrate his birthday on January 29.

Anniversary greetings are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Saliba, who will celebrate their wedding anniversary on Monday, February 5. The best of wishes to a grand couple. —Mrs. Jim Hamilton.

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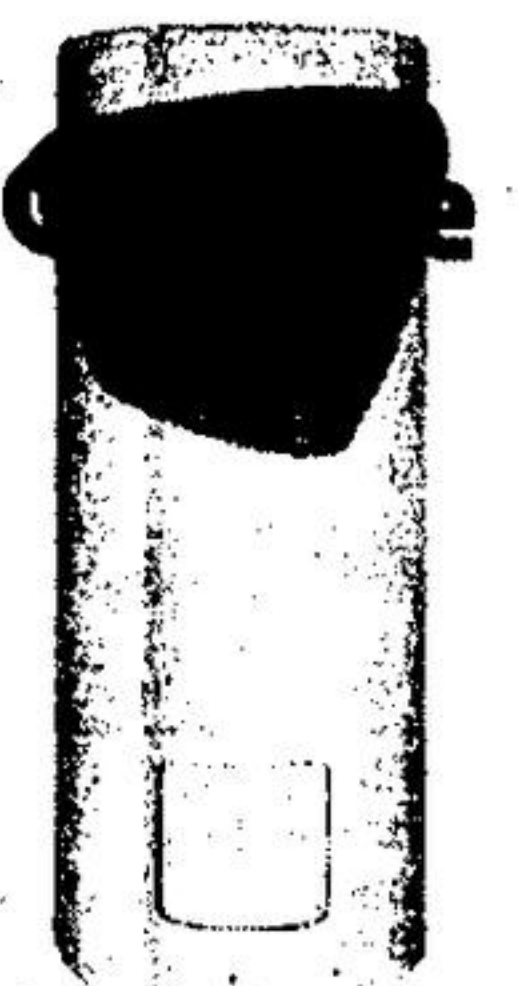
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