



Ivor McMullin: The NEC's new boss loves what he's doing

by George Evaschuk
Herald Staff Reporter

It took Ivor McMullin three months to make up his mind to take a job at the first of this year that has attached to it a deadline 11 months from now.

As the new chairman of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, McMullin, 55, is charged by Premier Davis to produce an Official Plan for the 400 miles of geographical history which snakes its way down through eight countries, 55 hamlets, villages and towns, and eight conservation authorities from Tobermory to Niagara Falls.

It was with reluctance that he took charge of the 16-member commission—note the diversity of viewpoints of its members—because he had to quit another job as Mayor of Caledon.

"I had made a commitment to Caledon," he told the Herald after a month on the new job. "And it wasn't easy to say I'm a quitter."

For McMullin it brought an end to 13 years in municipal politics.

He started as a councillor on Albion Township after 12 years on the school board. He became Reeve of Albion, then Mayor when it became Caledon. Prior to the introduction of Regional Government in 1972, he was Warden of Peel County.

Across the wood-paneled wall in the office the chairman occupies in Georgetown, a dappled winter sunlight plays across a large colored photograph of a rushing waterfall. On the wide, dark desk a single cigarette has been lain and throughout the interview,

McMullin toys with it.

It is a long way from the hills of Albion where he was a farmer at the time the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority was buying 5,000 acres of land.

"I was concerned with the methods they used and said so. First thing you know," he said with a chuckle, "you are on a committee."

After serving the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Construction Authority for eight years, he was made a life member and in 1973 was appointed to the NEC.

An associate of his on the commission says, "It takes some one who can draw these people together. Ivor's got a knack."

Besides developers, planners, conservationists, environmentalists, businessmen, municipal and provincial politicians, other planning boards and members of his own commission, McMullin works with Bill C129, legislation the government passed in 1973 which contains "unique" development control. It means that other government ministries and groups in Ontario are watching how it works.

The legislation bypasses municipal zoning bylaws, ministers zoning orders and Parkway Belt West Regulations in the escarpment development control area and, instead, issues general guidelines for development until a Master Plan is completed. Each application for development is considered separately.

McMullin said the legislation stemmed from a report written by Dr. Leonard Gertler

in 1968 after the government had talked "30 to 40 years" about doing something about the escarpment.

"I believe it's working and has a great deal of merit for use in the future. It gets rid of red tape and bureaucracy."

"It will be difficult to accomplish all that is in C129," he admits, "but with the co-operation of municipal and regional councils, it can be done."

When he speaks of co-operation, McMullin moves the cigarette closer to his mouth and scans the desk for matches.

Recently the board has heard criticism of its appeal process, mostly from disgruntled developers who must then appeal the commission's decisions to the minister of housing who then appoints a hearing officer to review and summarize the representations before the minister makes a final decision.

"I think it is working well," McMullin said, adding that David Jamieson, hearing officer appointed by the government, "has upheld the commission at some times and other times has not."

What the commission frowns upon most is "strip development along the road," McMullin said. "Strip development shouldn't be done."

McMullin has initiated series of meetings with municipal councils. "Eight to nine meetings with each township council in Grey County alone" notes an associate of the commission. It has meant more work and McMullin is not sure that the commission staff will be able to finish the Master Plan by the end of this year. He directed staff

members to work with the plans of other regions, some of which have been working on plans longer than the NEC. It has meant even more work. Why?

"People will understand we're not going to bulldoze through municipalities."

Inside the office the sunlight has moved over to touch the brilliant red leaves of a poinsettia. Outside the office, a meeting that won't start until McMullin arrives, awaits his appearance.

Finally, he lights the cigarette and says, "I haven't done any golfing since..." He can't remember. He's got a set of golf clubs he's used only twice. His hobbies, other than Trout ponds and hiking are "those two grandkids, Lena and I get more enjoyment from them."

Now that the cigarette is lit, he keeps inviting you to stay. So what that there's a meeting outside? So what that, before the interview, someone attending that meeting asked you to keep the interview short. McMullin's got you here now and he wants to keep you, wants to get to know you better, wants to hear your views. He talks to you of regional government, of how much land the government has purchased up in Bruce County, of how drastic budget cuts likely will set back the NEC land buying program.

"I'm not concerned. If we can do proper planning, we can get it later." Some development will be allowed, "until the public can afford to buy the land. Conservation? I hope we're still practicing it 1,000 years from now."

Charlotte Ironside named to Sheridan advisory board



Charlotte Ironside

Charlotte Ironside, a long-time resident of Georgetown, presently living along the 22 Sideroad, has been appointed to the Sheridan College Advisory Committee for the school of design, at Lorne Park.

Mrs. Ironside, a member of the Georgetown Fall Fair Board for over 25 years, has also served on the provincial board of the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies for many years, serving as president and for 15 years as secretary.

Mrs. Ironside's experience in the judging of crafts, needlework and cooking at fall fairs all over Canada were given as part of the reasons behind her appointment.

Mrs. Ironside has been a member of the Arts and Craft Society of Georgetown and has displayed her many crafts at the annual exhibitions held by the society. Mrs. Ironside displays her artistic talents through her well know bubble glass creations. She also knits, crochets and sews, along with producing other various handicrafts.

Charles and Ivy Gibbs Sr., of Glen Williams celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on Saturday, January 10. Their

family presented a surprise dinner and dance for Charles and Ivy, at St. Alban's Parish Hall.

Ashgrove news

Wilson's return

by Mrs. John Belloddy
Well, here we are in February and one can notice the days are getting longer. Of course the ground hog saw his shadow on the morning of the second and popped back down his hole for six more weeks, after which we will gladly welcome that shy little lady, spring.

Best wishes for a happy birthday go to Mr. Arthur Ruddle on February 6 and Mrs. Clayton Wilson on February 10 and any others this month. Have yourself a good day.

And wishes by the score, will follow you throughout the year. Till birthday time once more.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Wilson have returned from a month's trip to Burleson, Texas to visit their daughter and her family, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Williamson. They also spent a few days with friends at Fort Worth and Brownsville, Texas.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Fred and Harvey Nurse on the death of their mother, Mrs. George Nurse.

Domtar profits down

Domtar Limited reports net earnings of \$35.3 million or \$2.34 per common share for the year ended December 31, 1975. The comparable figures for 1974 were \$32.5 million and \$2.53 respectively.

For the last quarter of 1975, net earnings were \$6.1 million or 40 cents per common share compared with \$17.4 million or \$1.17 per common share for the corresponding period in 1974. Sales and other revenues totalled \$327.1 million in 1975, down from \$306.7 million the year before.

Bring the bad news

February 16 is the tentative date that Halton Hills residents will be able to hear the "bad news" from the Halton Board of Education.

On that evening the board will hold its first public meeting to explain the effects educational spending this year is expected to have on Halton Hills' mill rates. Board chairman Judy Alexander, director Em Lavender, and senior administrative staff will be present for the meeting. No place has been set yet for the meeting.



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2. Income Fund. High-yield bonds, deposit instruments and mortgages insured under the National Housing Act make up this portfolio which is actively managed by professionals. The policy is to achieve as high a

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