

Premier questions Esquering Official Plan

Premier William Davis has questioned the legality of certain points in the Esquering Official Plan, placing the town's rights to control construction of the 500kV Hydro transmission line through Halton Hills very much in doubt. (See story below)

Replying in the legislature Monday morning to a question by Halton-Burlington MPP Juliana Reed to the legality of Hydro's submission to the provincial Cabinet, Premier Davis suggested that there might be certain discrepancies in the plan which could allow Hydro an opening to at least make presentations to the Cabinet.

According to Reed the Premier's

response was an indication the government is "trying to cast some doubt" on the Esquering plan and thus give Hydro some leeway in dealing with the province and the municipality.

Before he would elaborate further on the Esquering Official Plan the Premier turned Reed's supplementary question over to the minister of energy, Dennis Timbrell.

Reed questioned if "the rights of the citizens of the province (are) being protected" if Cabinet gives consideration to Hydro's submission when already the municipality involved and the Ontario Municipal Board have objected to granting any special per-

mission for development of new properties by the utility corporation.

Timbrell replied that the government does have the power to consider Hydro's submission.

Motorcyclist first fatality of the year

A Georgetown motorcyclist died as the result of a collision on Delrex Blvd. near Windsor Road, Friday at 10:48 p.m., police report.

Charles Bruce Holder, 25, of 8 McNabb St. was pronounced dead at the scene by Coroner Dr. Ivan A. Hunter who ordered a post mortem.

Police say that Holder was speeding, went around the corner too wide and struck an oncoming vehicle.

Police would not reveal the name of the driver of the vehicle Holder struck nor the extent of damage.

The fatality is the first of the year in Georgetown.



THE LATEST STYLES! Well not quite, but nevertheless a good bargain. Andrea and Michael Bosman, daughter and son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bosman, were among the many bargain hunters at St. Andrew's Church on Saturday, the site of a popular rummage sale.

Hydro asks Cabinet for special permission to build

Ontario Hydro has filed a petition with the provincial Cabinet asking for permission to construct major new facilities in Halton Hills without having to meet the requirements of the Official Plan of the former township of Esquering.

The permission is being sought primarily to speed up construction of the 500kV line through Halton Hills but it could mean that in the future Hydro could construct any facility, regardless of size or location, without having to contend with the Esquering Official Plan.

When it presented a similar request to the

Ontario Municipal Board during the board's recent hearings on amendments to the Esquering Official Plan the OMB rejected it.

"Hydro just can't be satisfied being treated like anyone else," commented Councillor Dick Howitt at last week's subsidiary planning board meeting.

"I would be very surprised and very disappointed if the Cabinet interfered," he added.

A resolution from Halton Hills, objecting to Hydro's request, was passed by town council Monday night and will now be forwarded to the Cabinet.

Will there be a second arena?

Will there be two ice surfaces in Georgetown this fall? That's the leading question on the minds of many these days as preparations begin anew in anticipation of next year's skating activities.

When the special committee investigating the restoration of the Georgetown

Memorial Arena was asked that question their reply was:

"At the present time it is not definite as to whether or not two ice surfaces will be available for this fall."

And they're the ones who know best.

Efco talks called off again

The on again, off again negotiations between Economy Forms Corp. and Local 7337 of United Steel Workers are off again after talks last week failed to bring an end to the ten-week old strike.

Tom Brotherton, manager of the strikebound plant, told the Herald in an interview that talks on Monday, May 10, went very well but Tuesday's meeting "was not worth a darn."

"We're still stalemated," Mr. Brotherton said.

Negotiations began last Monday when the union came up with a few new proposals. On Tuesday the company returned to the bargaining table with a counter proposal which was rejected by the union who said of their own proposal, take it or leave it, said Mr. Brotherton.

"Both sides made an effort to change their positions," Mr. Brotherton said. No definite date has been set for a return to the bargaining table.

Although admitting a feeling of discouragement over the lack of meeting of

minds, Mr. Brotherton said he was hopeful future talks will lead to an end to the strike.

Reg Benoit, president of Local 7337, said in an interview the union is waiting to hear from the company on its latest proposals. "We don't want to negotiate through the papers," he added.

Mr. Benoit said that sometime this week the picket line, which has dwindled from 50 men on three shifts to 22 on two shifts, will be beefed up when a couple of bus loads of United Steel Workers from Guelph arrive "to help show strength."

On the picket line last Friday some tempers were short as strikers, disappointed at failure of talks, let their anger show. In one incident reported to the Herald a picketer was struck but not knocked down by a tandem truck trying to cross the picket line. The driver of the truck got out of the truck and "attacked me," the picketer said.

After a brief scuffle in which the truck driver was thrown to the ground and pinched a couple of times, said the picketer, the driver got back into his truck and drove away without entering the plant.

Town garage costs up by \$8,000

As the addition to the works garage on the Seventh Line continues to grow, so also are the costs. Chairman of the committee spearheading the construction of the building, Ern Hyde, told council Monday night that the cost of the building will likely exceed the \$107,000 provided by council for the work.

Councillor Hyde reported that costs of the building could mount to \$115,000.

By accepting four tenders for work on the building council, he said, had pushed the project towards exceeding the previous \$107,000 limit.

The four tenders were to: Atlas-Apex Roofing, \$11,583 for roofing and sheet metal work; A.V. Tennant General Contractors, \$19,500 for masonry work; Holly Electric \$6,880 for electrical work; and Bill Garbutt Plumbing and Heating, \$17,968 for plumbing and heating.

Another cost related to the renovations to the municipal offices property on the Seventh Line is a \$14,000 expenditure for moving the Esquering Fire Hall plus a \$22,000 expenditure for installing gas tanks.

Supply teachers win fight against pay cut

Halton's supply teachers have proven their case. Suggested cuts in their pay rates varying from \$8.50 to \$15 per hour passed last month by the Halton Board of Education were rescinded by the board at its meeting Thursday night.

A number of supply teachers who live in Georgetown were present to hear board members explain why they had originally supported the pay cuts but now, after setting the board's 1976 budget, have decided that their move was a wrong one.

"No other group of this board's employees have been asked to take a reduction," commented Burlington trustee Frank Armitage. He claimed that because the supply teachers' association was not strong enough to stand up to the board as other teacher's groups do, "I believe we saw this group to be a soft touch...We're being grossly unfair to these people."

He stated that the supply teachers have a difficult task having to do the job of full-time teachers with little time to prepare.

He noted that there had been criticism of the present supply teacher system in Halton but added that the way to correct any problems was to improve their supervision and training, not cut their salaries.

Rev. Garry Morton, of Burlington, commented "We changed the rules in the middle of the game," by cutting the pay schedule in mid-term rather than at the first of the school year.

When asked by Halton Hills trustee Ernie Bodnar where the \$102,000 previously cut from the budget as a result of the pay decreases to the supply teachers was going to come from, Armitage replied, "I guess we'll just have an over-run."

Turn right at Maple Ave. (Georgetown)

Regional government or no regional government, travelers in Halton Hills are going to know where they're going.

Following a prolonged debate on whether or not the names of former urban municipalities should still be used on the town's directional signs, town council Monday night decided that a compromise would be the best way to handle the problem.

Their test case, so to speak, will be at the intersection of Maple Avenue and the Seventh Line (Trafalgar Road). The works committee had recommended that a sign simply pointing towards Georgetown and stating "Maple Avenue" would be adequate directions for anyone travelling north to Georgetown, Georgetown.

But their fellow councillors did not agree with the result that "(Georgetown)" will be added.

Countering the works committee's feelings that "we have in fact become Halton Hills" Councillor Ernie Sykes said, "We're one town but we still have two distinctive, separate urban areas, and I think we should continue to identify them as Georgetown or Acton."

That did not rest well with Councillor Ern Hyde who replied that "we should be trying to get to the point where we forget that we're separate municipalities." He added that the emphasis on Halton Hills rather than Acton, Georgetown or Esquering should start in the town's schools.

"We have to live with it; we have to encourage it and we have to do everything to make it work."

Extensive fire damage to electrical company

Two fires were fought this week by volunteer firemen in Georgetown this past week.

At press time Tuesday morning, firemen were still at the scene of a fire at 14 Todd Road in Georgetown's industrial area. The firemen were routed out of bed at 7:13 a.m. to fight the blaze which caused extensive smoke damage at least.

The cause of the fire or full extent of the damage had not yet been determined but all the windows of the small electrical plant, which shares the building with Jean's Furniture were broken and smoke had blackened some of the outside walls.

A cat lost its life in the in the blaze.

The second fire of the week was a minor one at the smokehouse on the Schendal farm on 10 Sideroad near the Tenth Line on Monday afternoon.

Too many "trained seals"

Toronto—The April 6 budget speech of Ontario Treasurer Darcy McKeough was described last week as a "great theatrical performance forceably captivating an audience of 7.5 million people" by MPP Julian Reed.

The price of admission to this years performance jumped to \$708 a seat and what a performance the audience received," Mr. Reed said during debate of the budget in legislature.

"Can you imagine a theatrical setting more appropriate? The performance we witnessed was as excellent a job as it could be, but for the price of admission.

"The only thing I found regrettable about the whole thing was the cast of, as the late George Drew would put it, trained seals. I found them to be far too numerous and would hope that after another election, their numbers would be much reduced," Mr. Reed said.

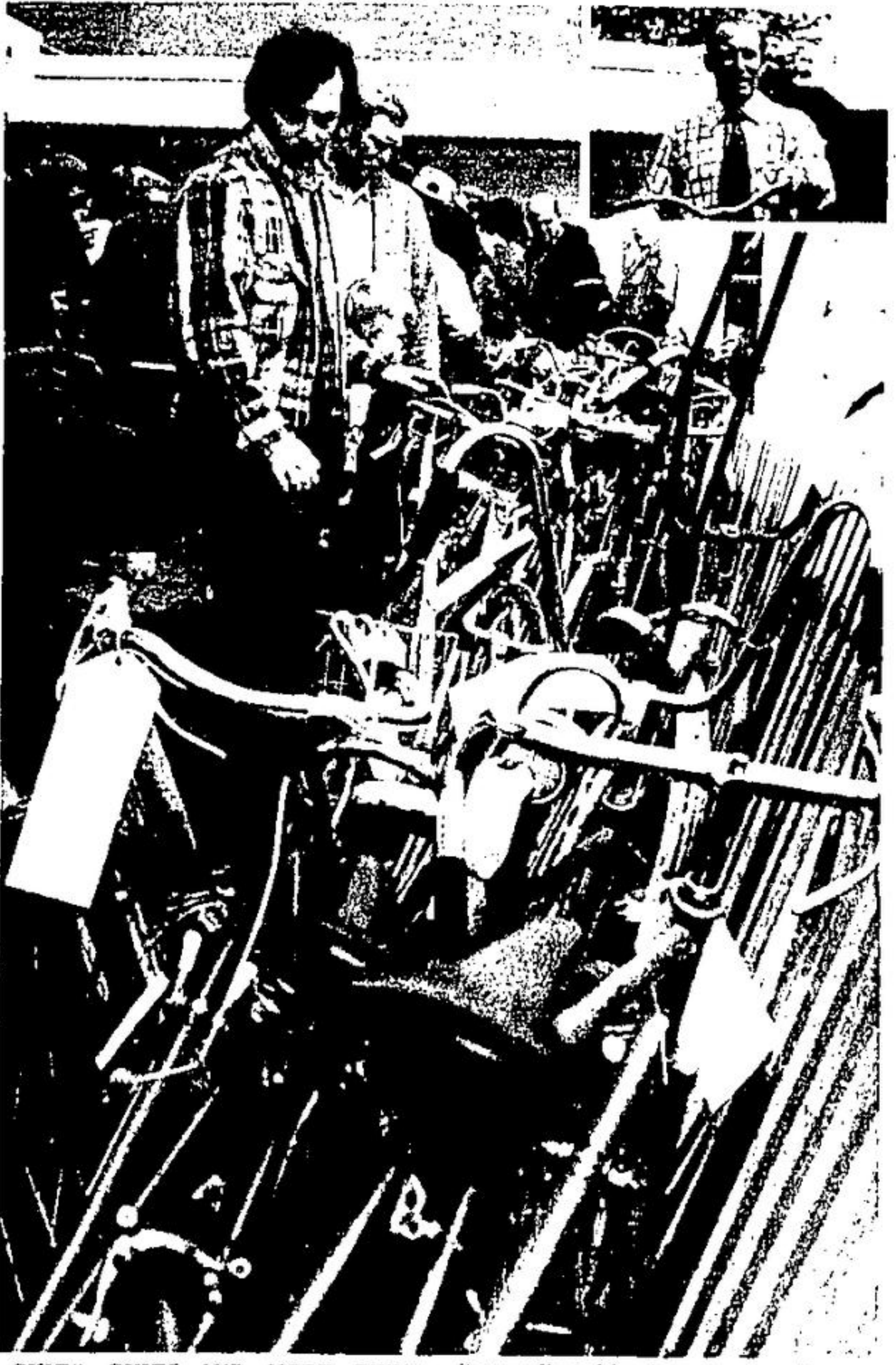
Sludge site will be odorless

The ministry of the environment has acted quickly in closing down the sludge storage site near Hornby, operated by Blue Spruce Enterprises.

In a letter to Blue Spruce sent last week the ministry told the company's operators

that the site is "not considered acceptable for future land use."

The ministry ordered the site to be cleaned up including covering the bottom of the storage pit with clean fill once the sludge is removed. That should eliminate all odour problems, the ministry concludes.



BIKES, BIKES AND MORE BIKES. Saturday was the date of the annual Police auction and if you're ever had a desire to buy a bike the police headquarters on Mill Street was the place to be. Under the auctioneering eye of Sgt. Jason Field (inset) a number of items collected by the police over the past year were sold to true bargain hunters. The goods ranged from bikes to panty hose.