

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hydro response 'infuriating'

To the editor of The Herald:
The recent lengthy and condescending reply by Ontario Hydro to the fears of two farm wives, Theresa Manion and Patricia Wilson, for their families' safety near high voltage transmission lines is infuriating.

Ontario Hydro has set up a slick and elaborate demonstration at Essa, near Barrie, complete with lunch and smiling public relations men to show the people how the admitted shock hazards of living and working near these lines can be lessened.

I am one of the hundreds of farmers whose farms would be crossed "kitty-corner" by Hydro's proposed 500,000-volt transmission line from the Bruce nuclear station on Lake Huron to Milton near Toronto. About 48 miles of the route would consist of diagonal crossings of farmland.

The demonstration shows, says Hydro, the "worst that could happen." It could be effective because Hydro with disarming candor, invites the public to experience the jarring shocks available under its only other 500,000-volt line.

None of this expensive nonsense would be necessary if Hydro followed its own stated policy of running high-voltage corridors along property lines to "minimize" their impact on people. Very few homes and buildings are situated close to the property lines.

Hydro has consistently refused to guarantee in writing that a child (not properly briefed on the precautions) could not be killed by touching an ungrounded tractor or farm implement parked beneath one of these extra-high-voltage transmission lines.

Why not? Without a guarantee like this Hydro's Essa or any other public persuasion campaign is obviously a sham. Whether the child's daddy should or shouldn't have left the ungrounded machinery under the lines doesn't really matter.

Hydro doesn't deny that a fatal fire or explosion could occur during refuelling under their proposed high-voltage line. It only recommends involved procedures to prevent it.

Why should a farmer, whose other problems these days have been well publicized, have to stop and consider his every move and those of his family when working or living under these lines? He wouldn't need to if Hydro would concede that its route decision, made five years ago with no input from affected people, was a serious mistake.

It was a mistake for two reasons. First because of the intolerable diagonal crossings of farmland and second, because no independent study was ever carried out to determine if this route is indeed the cheapest one with the least agricultural impact. An independent study has been refused as by Hydro.

We say that no one, including the Davis government which controls Hydro, should have the right to trample on the basic human rights of farmers affected by its expropriation privileges.

We will never give in to this sort of muscle-flexing by Hydro, nor will we be impressed by their phony attempts to show their concern for us, including the "safety" demonstration at Essa.

Yours truly,
James C. Dunlop



KINETTE EXECUTIVE

The 1978 executive of the Georgetown Kinette Club is from left: Peg Elliott, treasurer; Susan Cooper, vice-president; Linda Swift, director; Gloria Riddall, registrar; Eleanor Hayward, secretary; Bonnie Earle, president and Marilyn Cook, past president. The winner of the club's fall fair draw of a Cinderella doll is Cheryl Brown of Sherman Court.



THAT'S HOW ITS DONE DADI

Getting a little closer to the action, North Halton Boy Scout District Commissioner Murray Harrison, of Acton, gives some pointers to Mitchell Ghany as he adjusts a knot for his dad following Greg Ghany's investment Wednesday as assistant Cub Leader with the Fifth Georgetown B Cub Pack at Holy Cross Church Hall.

Ontario Hydro replies to criticism

To the editor of The Herald:

In response to Mr. James Dunlop's letter of October 4, Hydro has stated and demonstrated, on many occasions, that any charges that might be induced on farm vehicles parked under 500,000 volt transmission lines are harmless to human and animals. At the Essa Centre, it is shown that a vehicle builds up a charge only in the unlikely event it is insulated from the ground. Even then the resulting, charge which is no greater than one picked up walking across a carpet, can be eliminated easily.

Regarding his remarks about fires under lines, there is no record of a refuelling fire in North America being attributed to transmission lines. Hydro wants to ensure that record is maintained and, at Essa, it is demonstrated how even that one-in-a-million

chance of an accident can be avoided by using a plastic gasoline container. A don't believe farmers would consider that an "involved procedure."

Of course there is no guarantee a fire will not result from careless smoking or other unsafe refuelling techniques. Hydro believes the Essa Demonstration Centre is necessary, no matter what route a line takes or what part of the province it is in. We are trying to communicate with the people who will be affected by new lines, to alleviate any concerns they might have about electrical effects. Basically, the demonstration program is an educational tool and the better informed everyone is about electricity, the better.

A wide segment of press, radio and television have attended the demonstrations.

None of these journalists—trained observers with many years' experience—have described them in such exaggerated terms as Mr. Dunlop.

Len Taylor
Public Relations Officer
Central Region

CO-OP SIGN

Works committee Monday approved a permit for a sign to be erected on the almost-completed site of the United Co-operative Store at Guelph Street and Armstrong Avenue. A single pole set back the prescribed 15 feet from the roadway will hold two sign boards. The site will also have enter and exit signs.

GASTHEFT
Police said 10 gallons of gasoline was stolen from a vehicle parked behind an Armstrong Avenue building, Oct. 18.

Minister seeks public comment

To the editor of The Herald:

This year, the people of Ontario will spend an estimated \$7.5 billion on all forms of energy. In short, we've been spending about \$900 annually for every man, woman and child in the Province on energy. Up to 20 per cent of that could be saved through properly maintained vehicles, better driving habits, more careful consumption practices and properly insulated homes. Through conservation we could reduce the rate of growth of overall energy costs dramatically.

The Ontario Government has proclaimed the first week

of November Energy Conservation Week in order to increase public awareness of the need to conserve energy. An increased public awareness should stimulate people to take steps to reduce their energy bills this winter.

We hope that the savings that can be made will ultimately add up to a billion dollar reduction in the Province's overall energy bill by 1980. I would like to invite your readers to write to you and share their own reasons on how energy conservation can be achieved in everyday situations.

I hope that during Energy Conservation Week you will

publish some of the best ideas your readers have on energy conservation for personal and community benefit.

Dennis R. Timbreall
Ontario Minister of Energy

Hoof and mouth disease

To the editor of The Herald:

No one should be surprised that Premier William Davis has gained a little popularity in the last month or so.

The legislature has not been sitting, and he hasn't had the opportunity to keep sticking his foot in his mouth.

No doubt when the legislature re-convenes his popularity will dwindle.

Remember the old adage, you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time—especially when you have a responsible, articulate, and factually informed opposition challenging you.

William A. Johnson

Reader advocates bicycle signs

To the editor of The Herald:

Being born in Holland, the bicycle-country, I am very concerned about the ways the traffic laws are disobeyed by youngsters and adults on bicycles. All the time you run into cyclists, who are on the wrong side of the road (facing the traffic), on the sidewalks or somewhere where they don't know where to go or what to do in difficult situations.

To educate the public, I think this could be done through "signs" as already being used in the city.

A dangerous spot for biking on the wrong side of the road is coming from Maple Avenue, over Delrex Blvd. towards Edwards Street. Traffic from Edward has no stop and it's a wonder that we have not had a serious cyclist accident there a

as yet. Danger of no sight-high hedge house at corner.

There is a lot of students taking that road. Let's do something about it before it is too late and get a four-way stop at the corner of Edwards and Delrex.

And how about stoplights for the Campbell Gate-Delrex Plaza-Mountainview Road crossing? And the worried mothers who have to send their little ones by way of crossing Hwy. 7 (Cross Street) Main Street 1/2 mile to Park Public School since the closing of Chapel Street School? They have complained to the authorities, but nothing drastic was done as yet, according to some very concerned parents.

Yours sincerely,
Connie Nicuwhof,
Local Council of Women,
Georgetown District.

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Exception taken over homes story

To the editor of The Herald: I must take exception to the article which appeared on the front page of your newspaper this week concerning the Marywood Meadows subdivision.

The overall quality and attractiveness of this subdivision in my view were never really in doubt. Most of the problems are normal to a new development.

What set Marywood Meadows apart and made it such a seething cauldron of frustration for the purchasers was the arrogance, indifference and lack of empathy shown them by the builder.

After a myriad of problems like everyone else, after a year I still have a serious problem for which I can get no action. My driveway has an improper slope which causes the trunk of my car to scrape the street when entering or leaving.

I respectfully suggest that Town Council could be doing a fine service to the present and future residents of Georgetown

by not allowing this builder to construct any more homes here. Despite the optimism of your story for some of the battle continues.

Yours truly
M. Humphreys

SCHOOL ZONE

A School-Ahead sign warning motorists approaching St. Francis of Assisi School on Duncan Drive will be erected. But making portions of the street a 25 mile-per-hour zone needs town council approval, works committee chairman Mike Armstrong said, following the tabling of a letter from the police regarding the situation.

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Thieves steal shotgun, shells

Thieves stole a semi-automatic 12 gauge shotgun, a box of 20 shells and a 22 calibre rifle from the vacant rural residence of a Georgetown man, Oct. 19, said police, who believe entry was made through a crawlspace on the house's west side.

TV stolen

Thieves who entered a Maple Avenue apartment Oct. 19 stole a 19 inch portable color television set, police said.

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