CONTINUES JULY 13th, 14th, 15th & 16th Georgetown Market

Expropriation hearings

Conlinued from Page 1

search for it launched. Arguing that Hydro has failed to provide the rationale which led it to ignore the Bruce-to-Essa route, Mr. Parolan suggested that a study of the route could be made during the hearing's five week recess. Hydro he said is now ignoring the recent Ontario Court of Appeal decision that evidence of alternative route studies must be provided at the

expropriation hearings. "It is quite apparent to me that the very thing the Court of Appeal and others wanted us to see here won't be provided," hearing officer Donald

Meyrick agreed. "This issue is far from resolved. This important intervening event (the court's ruling) requires a new look at the situation. We must determine what The Essa alternative is, and to what extent it was examined by

"A route to Essa was never studied," Mr. Marshall responded, pointing out that the proposal was never considered a valid alternative. "Isn't that all you need to

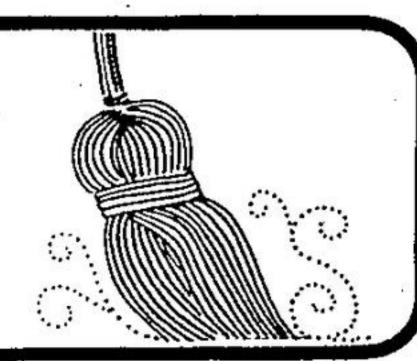
"Evidence of a reasonable probe into the Essa routing is found in the (1973) Solandt report (on an east-west

corridor)," Mr. Meyrick answered. "We invite Hydro to provide us with at least a review of the information given at the environmental hearing board and Solandt inquiries.

The debate reminded Walter Scott, one of the corridor opponents, of a comment made by Justice Robert Reid of the supreme court, who learned of the problems related to evidence involved in the corridor issue.

"Nowhere else in the western world can evidence be introduced without crossexamination being permitted as well," the justice said.

CLEARA AYS 14th to 16th



Obstacles face opponents in bid for Hydro information

Opponents of Ontario Hydro's plans to expropriate land in this municipality for the Bradley-to-Georgetown transmission corridor continue to meet obstacles in their attempts to have alternative routes considered during ongoing public hearings in Acton.

Despite a recent ruling by the Ontario Court of appeal that evidence concerning alternate routes can be examined, solicitors for the affected landowners have been unable to pin down Hydro's sole witproposed alternatives.

Representatives of the cor-

ridor opponents, John Schneider and Leon Paroain, however, were repeatedly confronted by Mr. Mosher's lack conducted a 1973 inquiry into of knowledge and expertise in the Nanticoke-to-Pickering the specific areas they have atempted to explore during important information concross-examination.

Work continues on hydro line

While the parties involved awalt the resumption of expropriation hearings for the southern section of the Bradley-to-Georgetown, transmission lines, construction will continue on the northern-most section and could begin on the central section.

The apparent inevitability of the completion of the entire line, regardless of the outcome of the ongoing hearings, leaves the corridor opponents with little left of their original opti-

"They're going to push the thing through anyway," Bill Mann, chairman of the Interested Citizens Group (ICG) admitted Wednesday. "This whole hearing is a farce."

The battle against the 500 kilovolt corridor is virtually over for the landowners along the northern section, most of whom were represented at last summer's expropriation hearings in Durham by the Grey County corridor committee, a wing of the ICG.

Leonard Manion, for one, predicted that the line will be completed no matter how intense the remainder of the battle becomes. The Arthur Township beef farmer nevertheless urged landowners in the southern section to preservere and indicated that he and his neighbours to the north will be paying careful attention to their activities.

Mr. Manion and the other Grey County landowners last week received Ontario Hydro's offers of purchase for their properties. The offers, he said

Property owners owing back taxes to the municipality and

are making no effort to meet

delinquent payments will find

their properties being regis-

tered for back taxes, accord-

ing to a recommendation ac-

cepted by the finance and

administration committee

Efforts to collect

taxes in arrears

yesterday, have still to be finalized, but promise much more than if the owners had put the land up for sale on the open market, where the presence of the corridor would have a detrimental effect on

the value. Installation of the Hydro tower footings is well underway on the properties to either side of Mr. Manion's farm, which is itself already traversed by two 230 kilovolt lines.

Mr. Manion contended that the government cares little about the fate of such farmland because of a surplus of farm produce in Ontarlo.

"You can't get out of the driveway because of the cement trucks, so why not sell out and move away?" he asked bitterly. "Let the next generation worry about the land,"

Mr. Manion added that another factor in his decision to relinquish his hold on the property was his concern for his family's health. Mrs. Manin in particular, he said, has suffered the ill effects of exposure to the high voltage energy as a result of the many hours she spends working beneath the lines that already cross the

Mr. Manion will be moving his farming operation to Rainy River in Northern Ontario - a long way from Hydro's massive transmission grid system and hopefully, a long way from the memories of a costly, four-year struggle against the Crown corporation's determined efforts to usurp his land.

er Grant Usher told the com-

mittee that vacant properties

can be registered after one

year of deliquent payments,

while occupied properties

must fall behind by three years

before the municipality can

Usher says that property

owners still have a year to

redeem their properties after a tax certificate is registered

against them. Once the certifi-

cate is registered the proper-

ties must be appraised, and

any buildings on them must be insured. In redeeming their

property, the taxpayers would

also have to accept the legal

costs involved by the registra-

If the properties are not

redeemed they become vested

in the town's name and may be

kept or sold at the discretion of

Mr. Usher says the town will

not be registering properties

where the owners are making

move to collect its money.

ness as to the viability of Despite an "invitation" by hearing officer Donald Mey-Art Mosher, a land use ex- rick to call more suitable pert for Hydro, spent his sec- witnesses, Hydro solicitor Tom ond day Tuesday giving evid- Marshall maintained that Mr. ence on the utility's appraisal Mosher could provide all the and development of certain relevant testimony needed du-

ring the hearing. Mr. Meyrick called Mr. Parolan's suggestion that he invite Dr. Omond Solandt to testify "inappropriate". Dr. Solandt Hydro corridor, during which cerning the Bradley-to-Georgetown line was heard.

"A lot of these matters can be produced in evidence by Mr. Schneider and I'm assuming he will do so," Mr. Marshall commented at one,

"That's very flattering," Mr. Schneider replied, "but you're under the misapprehension that we have documents we don't."

Much of the cross-examination was aimed at uncovering Hydro's reasons for rejecting a suggested route from Bradley on the Bruce Peninsula to Essa, near Barrie. The ICG which has represented the concerns of affected landowners for the past four years, has consistenly pointed to this route as a shorter, cheaper and less socially damaging after-

native. Mr. Mosher testified that the Solandt inquriy was told the Bruce to Essa route has been "carefully studied", but only from the point of view of the overall system design. No study was made of the possible environmental impact on such a route, he admitted.

Mr. Meyrick acknowledged Mr. Paroian's statement that Mr. Mosher "has no personal knowledge of the Bruce to Essa study". He pointed out Hydro's stance, however, that the route was never actually considered to be an alternative and need not be examined during the current hearing.

As a result, despite the court of appeal decision in the landowners favor that alternatives must be examined, the citizen's lawyers are still unable to confront Hydro's alleged failure to adequately study the Bruce-to-Essa Route.

Dick Howitt, another lawyer for the landowners, reiterated the concern he first expressed when the hearing opened seven months ago. The Solandi Commission report, which based its own findings on Hydro's hearsay evidence, has come to be accepted as "gospel", he said, and despite the lawyers awareness of its "shortcoming", no Hydro witnesses are to be brought forward so that those findings can be tested.

Mr. Schneider and Mr. Paroian spent most of five hour session attempting to trace, through Mr. Mosher, the sources and destinations of Hydroelectric power throughout the Ontario "Grid" system,

Both existing and proposed corridors connecting generating and transformer stations in Bruce, Milton, Essa, Kitchener, Delphi Point, Meaford, Woodbridge, Scaforth, Owen Sound and Orangeville were described and their relative capacities calculated.

Mr. Parolan established that a suggested route from Bruceto-Kitchener would be some 44 miles shorter than the 109-mile distance between Bruce and Milton. At a cost per mile of \$700,000 plus land purchases, the shorter route would save Hydro approximately \$30.8 million, as well as some 90 megawatts that would be lost

over the additional distance. Simillar inquiries were launched into the amount of energy the Bruce generating station is capable of producing, the allocation of its 1,700 generated megawatts, and the effects of running corridors side by side, as opposed to separately.



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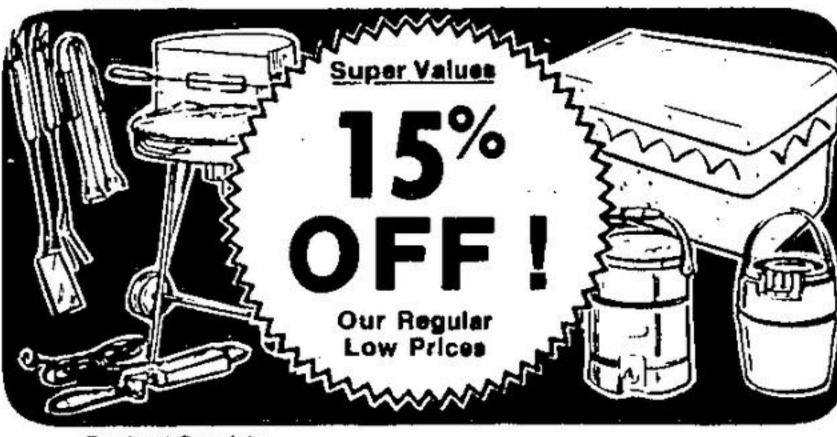
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an attempt to meet their pay-Although there are probably about 100 properties owing back taxes, only about 10 face registration, he says. He could not estimate the amount of taxes involved by these prop-

Monday. Halton Hills deputy treasur-Enforcing dog bylaw

Dog owners who refuse to purchase tags for their pets could find themselves in court defying the Halton Hills canine control bylaw. Finance and administration

committee decided Monday evening to recommend that council utilize the provisions in their bylaw before it loses public respect.

Dog owners who are prosecuted face \$50 fines plus court costs under the provisions of the bylaw.

Town deputy treasurer Grant Usher estimated that 30 dogs are involved at this point. In 1976, 17,000 tags were sold and so far this year about 19,000 tags have been purchased, he says.