

Battle lines over corridor between council, hydro

Battle lines for the dispute between Ontario Hydro and Halton Hills council began to take shape at planning board last week as the board agreed to treat the Ontario Hydro request for corridors through the municipality as two issues, then reversed its decision and wiped out any records of previous comments.

A brief presentation by John Schneider, vice-chairman of the Interested Citizens Group (ICG) convinced board members that they had new information of sufficient magnitude to merit not only a hearing but also compliance with their request that all records of the board's original decision be wiped clean so that they could not be used at an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing at some future date.

Mr. Schneider said an engineer loaned to the group by the ministry of environment to go over Hydro plans early in September discovered that their plans called for not just two corridors as Hydro is currently requesting, but a total of seven corridors. One of the seven could be 11,000 feet wide, he said.

The engineer also found that although the Bruce to Essa route is the most viable one up until 1982, by 1992 there is a possibility that a better route will exist, he said.

Ward 2 Coun. George Maltby recommended that the board's original decision to split the issue of Hydro corridors into two parts and oppose them both be rescinded and all records erased.

He pointed out that comments concerning the inevitability of the east-west corridor going through might be interpreted by Hydro as proof that the board did not oppose the east-west corridor.

In the original recommendation the board split Hydro's request for right-of-ways for high voltage transmission corridors through the municipality into two parts. They opposed the east-west corridor and recommended that the minister of housing be informed of their opposition. They also asked that their objections be sent to the OMB along with a request for a public hearing.

They asked that any hearings held be held in Halton Hills.

The second recommendation opposing the north-south corridor pending the carrying out of an independent study was to be sent to Housing Minister John Rhodes and requested that the OMB carry out public hearings on the matter in Halton Hills.

In urging the board to split the opposition into two parts chairman Roy Booth pointed out that trying to force the OMB to deal with the application as one might result in Mr. Rhodes issuing an order-in-council that would override all objections from council and allow the corridor.

If the issue were split, he said, Rhodes could allow the east-west corridor but leave council time to fight the north-south corridor.

Mayor Tom Hill told the board that he saw no point in splitting the issue.

"We're fighting a losing battle," he said. "We allowed Hydro a right-of-way down by Steeles Avenue years ago because we weren't particularly opposed to it. Then some time later they wanted another one up on the Eighth Line that we really didn't want but we hadn't a leg to stand on to fight them because we had allowed the first one. If they get one they'll get them both."

Coun. Maltby called the type of democracy shown by the government in connection with Hydro a "bloody farce."

"They've spent more time and money opposing the study than it would take to fund 10 studies," he said. "We've been a bulwark for those fighting Hydro and we must continue to support them."

The issue of hydro corridors appeared at Halton regional planning committee earlier in the afternoon as a result of a request by Hydro that the committee hear a presentation on their behalf from Dan Frazer and Alec Collins.

The request was turned down because the issue was scheduled to come up at Halton Hills planning board that night and the region did not want to deal with it until the affected municipality had a chance to make a decision on the matter.

Ontario Hydro has proposed two 500 kV transmission corridors which they want to run through the town. The east-west route would cross the former township of Esquew from Nanticoke to the Milton transmission station. The north-south route would run from the Milton Esquew station through Esquew and connect with a line coming south from the Bruce generating station.

Land use categories of the operative Esquew official plan and Halton Hills zoning bylaws do not permit high voltage transmission corridors. As a result Ontario Hydro has filed an application to amend both the bylaw and the official plan.

The OMB will hold a hearing in the Halton Hills municipal office on Oct. 24.



BOOK SHOP OPENS

Leslie Hale examines cards on the rack in a Christian book store which she co-owns with Doreen Nowell. This is their first business venture, which they conceived two months ago. They plan to alternate at working in the store. The store, which is located in The Old Bank building, has a wide selection of non-denominational and inspirational material.

Study of French studies

The Halton separate school board is examining its French program for students studying French as a second language. A subcommittee of the board of education, made up of teachers, principals, trustees and ratepayers, is to study the present program. They will be considering, among other things, expanding the instruction time from 30 minutes daily to 40 minutes daily and expanding the immersion program. Students in immersion programs receive 75 per cent of their instruction in French.

Also a topic for discussion will be the introducing of French instruction in Grades 3 and 4.

HUNTERS, GATHERERS Jugs, teapots

By ANDRE

Pratt jugs are fat jugs
But Y Hsing is pleasing.
Jugs and teapots are like people, they come in all shapes sizes and colors. Some are beautiful some plain some wonderful some weird. Consider Royal Worcester's "Aesthetic" circa 1890.

A male form on one side, and female on the other it is a skit on the unpopular Oscar Wilde's Aesthetic Movement. The head removes for tea to pour through a hole in the right hand. Now you have to admit this isn't everyone's cup of tea (pardon the pun), but it is a real collector's delight.

The early teapots, in the seventeenth century when tea was something like twenty dollars a pound, came in packing cases from China with the raw material. Made in Y Hsing, they were small, red and now extremely rare.

By mid 18th century Meissen had discovered the formula for hard paste porcelain, the price of tea had dropped somewhat and the middle classes began having their own tea ceremonies using the new Leeds creamware. The tax on tea however was still far too high for the working man to indulge himself and indeed the colonists in America objected so much to it that in 1773 the Boston Tea party sparked off the revolution.

Fine Staffordshire stoneware saltglaze pots had two main types of handles by which they can be identified, crabstock and round. Sometimes white with moulded decoration they were more often brilliantly enamelled and the shell was a favourite motif.

The first quarter of the nineteenth century saw a big drop in tea prices coinciding with the spread of tea planting from China to India and Darjeeling and Pakistan which nowadays produce over 800 million pounds of tea a year.

Pots became bigger and more oval in shape. Nantgarw, Swansea, Davenport and Spode all produced pots of superb quality some with printed patterns some still using enamels to decorate and the honey gold which had been used in the eighteenth century was replaced by mercuric oxide gilding. This produces a bright burnished gold, and one way of tracing fake pieces, for the earlier gold became brownish with wear and did not sustain the "brightness."

Here in Canada, the St. John's Stone Chinaware Company of Quebec was making its own tea ware. Pots in the typical St. John's blue with white applied sprigs can still be found especially around Montreal.

But for the average collector a teapot is a teapot and if it is pretty or whimsical or fun to look at put up a shelf and start collecting. Sooner or later it will probably be worth your while.

To be continued next week

.....For collectors, recommended reading is Henry Sandon's book of 162 Illustrations Coffee Pots And Tea Pots For The Collector: ARCO Publishing Co. New York 1974.

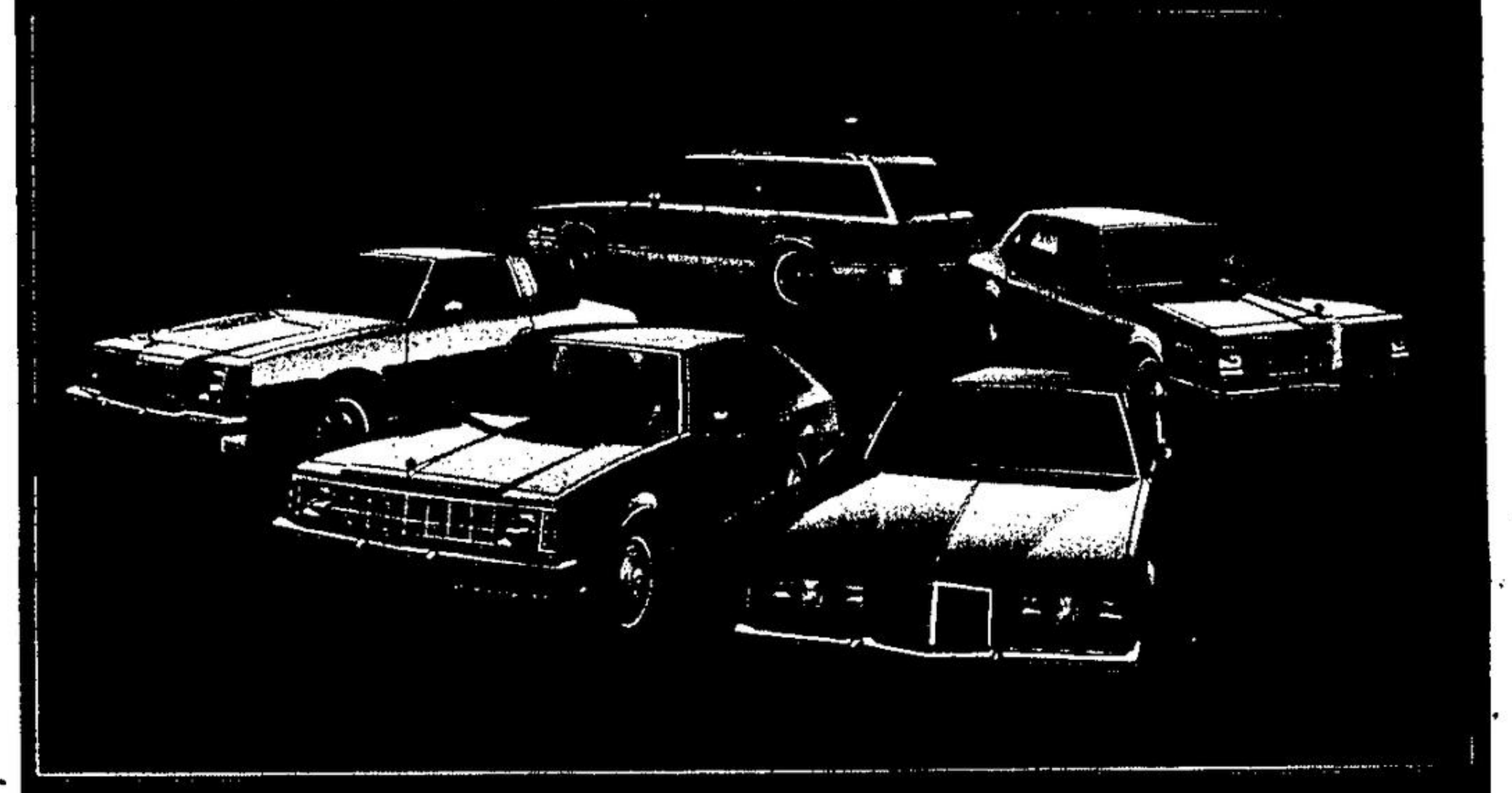
Support for ICG

October 24 has been set as the date for Ontario Municipal Board hearings in an application by Housing Minister John Rhodes on behalf of Ontario Hydro that the official plan of Halton Hills be amended to permit construction, operation and maintenance of high voltage transmission lines running north-south and east-west through the town. At Monday's meeting, council decided to ask that the solicitor and planner attend all OMB hearings on the matter despite Coun. Peter Pomeroy's assertion that the legal bill will be very high if the hearings are extensive. "We can't afford a resolution like that," Coun. Pomeroy said.

Training review

Police Chief Skerrett has suggested that it may be necessary to curtail the in-service training program for Halton Regional Police. A survey of attendance at the programs is being conducted, and the results should be made known shortly. Chief Skerrett feels that budgetary reasons are sufficiently pressing to require priority consideration.

The training programs include such subjects as Use of Force, Canadian Auto Theft Bureau, Search and Seizure and Crime Prevention. Some programs of prime importance such as metric conversion, would be kept going, Chief Skerrett said.



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Foreground Left to Right: Buick Regal Limited Coupe, Buick Century Custom Sedan, Pontiac Grand Prix Coupe, Pontiac Grand LeMans Sedan. Background: Pontiac Grand LeMans Sedan, Buick Century Custom Sedan. (Some of the equipment shown is optional at extra cost)

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