Five Years - Hydro battle continues

The long-running battle over Ontario Hydro's proposed transmission corridors will continue on into 1978 as Hydro which prejudged the location seeks approval for the central and southern sections of the study of alternatives, while north-south corridor and opponents of the proposal take their that the alternatives much be fight to the courts.

1977 began with the expropriation hearings for the Hallon ounced that it intended to Hills section of the Bradley-Georgetown corridor. The hearings began in November, Court of Ontario. The Divis-1976, and in late January they were adjourned "to protect the rights of the individual landowners". The adjournment was requested to allow the divisional court to rule on an application regarding the admissibility of evidence on alt- Meyrick did not have the right ernate routes.

The hearings began in November and adjourned until April 4, or notice of 15 days, on the condition that the opponents expedite the filing of the application.

spokesman said that a oneyear delay from the completion date of October 16, 1978 would cost between \$48 and \$78 million, a two-year delay between \$140 and \$220 million and \$360 million.

In March, landowners opposing Hydro's expropriation of ley-Limehouse line decided to be about \$70,000 per day. abandon their original strategy of presenting specific evidence. Instead, they decided to present general criticisms of Ontario Hydro for its failure to justify the need for the corridor. Residents called the hearings a "farce" and a "travesty" designed for chairman Donald Meyrick to "rubberstamp" Hydro's preordained proposals.

The landowners said they had expected to hear Hydro justify the need for the line. Instead, Hydro called only one witness, who testified regarding the specific defineation of the corridor from property to property. The only other piece of evidence presented from Hydro was the recommendations of the Environmental Hearing Board, a body designed to hold public meetings regarding waste management. In the summationfor Ontario Hydro at the close of the hearings, a lawyer Thomas Marshall said the need for, and the location of the route were not the subject of the hearing.

In late June, Interested Citizens Group vice-chairman John Schneider wrote to the Ontario deputy manister of energy, Malcolm Rowan, to ask him to explain why he believed the Solandt Commission conducted an independent inquiry into the routing of the Bradley-Georgetown line, Mr. Schneider said in his letter that the Ontario Court of Appeal indicated in May, 1976, that Solandt was mainly concerned with the east-west route and not the Bradley-Georgetown route.

Schneider also asked Rowan to explain the "confusion" which led to remarks attributed to Rowan to construed as indicating that the Halton Hills ICG was not welcome at negot- Essa alternative is, and to iations between Grey County what extent it was examined residents and Ontario Hydro. by Ontario Hydro, Hydro law-Mr. Schneider said it was the yer Thomas Marshall said the understanding of the ICG that they were invited to participate, "however, you indicated that negotiations could not continue if we were present."

asked Ontario Ombudsman Ontario government and Ont-Arthur Maloney to intercede on their behalf

The expanding of the Halton

Hills municipal building has

been an on-again-off-again

In January, after eight

months of debate, the

municipal complex issue was

resolved when council voted to

rescind a bylaw authorizing

the town to spend \$900,000 on

an expansion of the Trafalgar

At the same time, council

called for a survey of existing

departments to determine the

available 'space and spcae

The bylaw authorizing the

expansion was turned over to

the new council by a council

decision on Sept. 7, 1976.

Council received strong op-

position to any expansion of

the municipal complex in

August in the form of a 1,700-

signature petition. The issue

was considered one of the

pivotal ones in the December

A public inspection panel

found the municipal offices

"totally inadequate" for their

purpose on a visit in November

but the report was not made

public until early February.

The sheriff's office reported

that the report was incorrectly

addressed and did not reach

the town until some time after

The report criticized the

location of the engineering and

building departments and

recommended that a future

Inspection panel should inspect

to ensure that the proposed

watermain system is com-

pleted, since the present water

system is contaminated, and

employees have to bring their

own drinking water.

election.

it was mailed.

needs of each department.

Town

issue this past year.

Road building.

"We find ourselves in the residents rather than getting curious position of having had an order-in-council take place, of the corridor prior to the now we have the courts saying studied," Schneider said.

In early April, the ICG annappeal the Divisional Court of Ontario ruling to the Supreme ional Court ruling upheld the ruling by the hearing officer that evidence regarding afternate routes for the line can't be introduced at the expropriation hearings. The ICG argued that hearing chairman Donald to limit the scope of the expropriation hearings under the order-in-council which authorized Ontario Hydro to acquire the lands.

On June 1, the Ontario Court of Appeal decided that the On Jan. 24, an Ontario Hydro hearing officer was required to hear alternate route evidence. The court ruled that the orderm-council didn't relieve the officer of his ordinary duties.

At that time, Ontario Hydro said delays in construction a three-year delay as much as may cost as much as \$1 million per day. Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed said he had spoken to an energy ministry their property along the Brad- official who said the cost would

The ICG had met with Energy Minister James Taylor on May 30 to request an independent study and to ask for a delay w construction of the first phase of the corridor from Bradley to Colbeck pending settlement of the issue, in light of the Supreme Court decision. Taylor supposedly said he doesn't have the juris-

diction to stop construction. The hearings resumed in early July, with Hydro planning consultant Art Mosher testifying. Lawyers representing the landowners challenged Chairman Meyrick's right to chair the hearing, saying that Meyrick's report released a week earlier, approving the corridor and placement through Erm, East Luther, and East Garafraxa, might prejudice him on the northern third of the corridor following the release on March 9 of a report on another public hear-

ing in Durham last year The hearings were recessed again on July 13 to permit the laywers involved to honor previous committments, Art Mosher was still being cross-examined when the hearings were adjourned.

Laywers for the landowners attempted to trace the history of Hydro's studies of various proposed routes, and were able to establish that Hydro had abandoned the original plan to connect Bradley with a Kitchener transformer station on orders from the ministry of energy in July of 1974

It was also established that no substantial studies were ever undertaken of the Bradley (Bruce) - Essa route, which is also shorter than the Bradley-Georgetown route.

Meyrick said it was necessary to determine what the proposal was never considered a valid alternative, and thus was never studied

tCG chairman William Mann said in mid-July that At the same time, the ICG before the last election the ario Hydro offered to buy the eatire farms of Grey County

offices,

A week after the report of

the public inspections panel

was made public, council

formally reseinded the bylaw

authorizing the municipal

complex expansion. Most

council members have

privately voiced the belief that

there is a need for the

ultimate expansion of the

offices, but only Coun. Mike

Armstrong and Coun. Les

Duby voted against the motion

It is felt that the issue

resulted in the defeat of Ward 3

Coun. Ern Hyde, a strong

supporter of the project, at the

At a meeting of the finance-

administration committee a

week after council rescinded

the bylaw, town engineer

Robert Austin described to the

committee some of the

hazards and difficulties in

working in the offices as they

He reported that members of

the public are exposed to

unsafe conditions every time

they enter the works yard. In

addition, some of the buildings

are below provincial standards

and others too cramped for

Austin went onto describe

conditions in the various

departments and offices, one

of the major complaints being

lack of space. Coun. Roy Booth

usked treasurer Hay King to.

provide a budget item which

would allow money to be put

aside for the "ultimate"

purchase of an addition as

much as "five or 10 years down

the road." The committee

last municipal election.

to rescind.

are now.

easement over their property. At the same time, lawyer Peter Fallis, representing the Grey County Corridor Committee, announced that a law suit would be launched in Divisional Court against Ontario Hydro in an effort to

overturn the expropriations. The hearings ended Aug. 16 with the ICG requesting a 30-day adjournment in order to produce evidence. The ICG move came about as a result of Meyrick's expression of displeasure at the confidential meetings between Ontario Hydro and landowners in the north section.

At the end of August, Ontario Hydro released new estimates on the costs of delaying construction on the line. Peter Webster, senior community relations officer, said the delay would cost \$25 million if it continues to March, 1979.

The estimate is based on the cost of supplying power from fossil fuel generatore combined with interest charges and lost revenue from power awaiting transmission at the Bruce nuclear plant. After March, 1979, the cost of supplying power from alternative sources would be between \$5 and \$15 million per month

As of the end of August, then, the Bradley-Milton line was awaiting approval, construction had begun on the northern and central sections, and the Halton Hills section was held up because the zoning restriction hadn't been lifted. The southern section had not been approved at the time. In early October, word was

released that the OMB would be holding separate hearings for the east-west and northsouth corridors through Halton Hills, at the regest of Ontario Hydro lawyers The hearing for the east-west line was scheduled for Oct 24 The application called for a corridor 730 to 1,750 feet wide. The application said that no further development is contemplated after construction is completed, but that the situation may change

Webster said the Milton swij tching station will be a junet ion point for at least seven and possibly eleven power corrid ors. These will include the present east-west corridor, a second scheduled for the 1900's the Bradley-Milton line from the north and as many as eight others.

At the hearings into the east-west corridor in Novemb er, town planner Mario Venditti and regional planner John Ghent said Halton opposes the hydro corridors as "premature" and "non-conforming" use of land designated agricul tural", Ontario Hydro laywer John Parkinson said Ontario Hydro's land needs weren't considered in Halton's interim planning policy, even though the document predated the

corridor plan appouncement. On Nov 24 Taylor announce ed that expropriation would take place along Halton Hills Concession 5 for the Bradley-Georgetown line Taylor said an order-in-council setting Limehouse as the crossing for the connection of a hydro corridor from Bruce generaling station to the Nanticoke-Pickering corridor "grid" is binding on Hydro, and determines the scope of its object-

Taylor said that because of the actions of Darcy McKeough in 1974, the Ontario Hydro objective of Milton could not be called into quest-

directed the department heads

to bring back more detailed

recommendations for ac-

commodating staff and town

The town department heads

proposed January 1, 1979, as

the date for construction to

begin on the expansion of the

municipal complex at the

finance and administration

committee meeting on March

had been included in the

capital budget as the com-

mittee , had requested. The

short-term recommendations

of the department heads in-

cluded \$17,500 to renovate the

treasurer's department on

Main St. South, the moving of

Area 2 Fire Department

personnel to the Maple Ave.

fire hall, the recreation and

parks department to stay at

Gordon Alcott Memorial

Arena until a central building

is available, clerks, planning

and engineering departments

to remain as they are, and

\$5,000 to be spent to winterize

the engineering department

located at the rear of the works

'In July, as the result of a

confidential report by the

various department heads,

council formed a special

building committee to meet

with the employees and the

mayor to analyze the question

of accommodating the town's

increasing staff. The meetings

were scheduled to begin July

In late November, the

building committee attempted

to meet, but only six coun-

cillors showed up. Council chal-

rman Pete Pomeroy cancelled

the meeting, the first one to be

held. The meetings were to

garage.

14. Ray King said the money

ion by the inquiry. He conclud- Erin Township which is now ed that he was satisfied that the Milton objective was thoroughly studied by the Solandt Commission, and subjected to full public scrutiny at that time. Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed called the process

chairman Donald Meyrick commented on the fact that the landowners involved had waived the opportunity to present evidence "tas to detailed line and location and possibility of local modifications)" on the basis that it was too time-consuming, and minor adjust: ments in the location of the line were not their concern.

Once the report on the Halton Hills expropriations was made public, the ICG announced that it was attempting to arrange a meeting with Taylor and Premier Davis, in order to accepted, would bring the controversy to an end

posal for a four month independent study in early Decem-Taylor The proposal called for a study by an independent agent of the Bradley-George- nal Georgetown route. town route in comparison with Bradley Georgetown study conducted by Hydro, which includes access to Kitchener.

Taylor agreed to present to cabinet the answers to the questions raised by the ICG following a 3-hour meeting with the ICG and members of his ministry. Taylor said prior to the meeting that he does not support "an independent report which would take four months to make,

John Minus, spokesman for the ICG, said a lawyer for the Concerned Citizens Committee representing landowners in the northern section of the corridor has withdrawn a request riation possession dates in the four years

before the Wellington County Court. The action has been placed in the Ontario Divisional Court, the Ontario Court of Appeal, and the Supreme Court of Ontario. He also said some citizens in the northern section of the line are seriously Both Taylor and hearing considering launching an appeal of a divisional court ruling against overlurning an expropriation report dealing with that section.

Ontario Hydro still faces divisional court hearings and OMB hearings in both the central and southern sections of the line. Unfavorable decisions from any or all of these hearings could be appealed to the Supreme Court of Ontario. After meeting with the cabi-

net, Taylor announced that the cabinet has rejected any further study of alternatives to the Bruce-Georgetown lines. Taypresent a draft plan which, if lor said any change in the choice of the route now would mean an additional delay of The ICG announced a pro- two to five years for environmental assessment hearings The cabinet has authorized ber, prior to their meeting with. Ontario Hydro to continue acourring land and to proceed with construction on the origi-

John Minns said the route. the Bradley-Kitchener-Milton suggested by the ICG would route, and agreed to abide by not require any environmental the findings of the study. The assessment hearings. The study was to use only data route would involve improvealready accumulated in the ment along an existing corridor from Bruce to Kitchener, and from Kitchener to Middle port on the Nanticoke-Pickering bridge, and east along the existing right-of-way to Milton

The ICG is now planning an all-out war as the result of the decision by the cabinet. The group is making plans to bring all progress on the corridor to a virtual stand-still. They warned Taylor at their meeting that rejection of their proposal meant continuation of the group's opposition to the corridor, and warned him again when Taylor called Mann to notify him of the cabinet decis

The ICG plans to use court for an extension of the exprop- battles which could take up to

Do's, don'ts

Technological progress means less time is being spent in the kitchen But all those appliances cost money to operate

For the energy conscious, here are a few household do's and don'ts from Sheridan's resident chef Freddie Scholl who is co-ordinator of the Hotel Restaurant ministration program in lir.unpton

Defrosting is important. Do not put trozen meat in the oven. A frozen roast takes 60 per cent more energy to cook than one that has been thawed. Don't worry about leaving meat out to defrost. Any

chicken, pork, or beef can

stand 4 to 6 hours at room temperature without spoiling. Anything over 8 hours could cause damage About 30 minutes before your meat is scheduled to come out of the oven, shut it off, remove the roast and let it sit and relax. The outside of the roast acts as an insulation

cook. The roast also cuts better and there is more yield You can save energy by simmering food, rather than boiling it. Plus the results are almost the same. Simmer is

explore the amount of space

each department needs, and to

expansion of the need is

All members of council sit on

the committee, so when the

recommendations are made,

all councillors will be aware of

the background on them Coun.

Pomerov said at the time of

the cancellation that he had

planned on holding about six

meetings to settle the issue. At

the end of the series of

meetings, the matter would be

brought to council, at which

point a public meeting will be

held so the ratepayers will

have an opportunity to

In mid-December, the

special building committee

passed a resolution endorsing

plans for expansion. The

recommendation called for

Robert Austin and committee

charman Pete Pomeroy to

negotiate with the architect

who designed the plans for the

expanded facility to settle on a

price for redesigning to split

Coun Roy Booth said lot

levies should be used to help

pay for the expansion Ray

King said a \$60,000 debenture

at 10 per cent interest for 15

years would cost the average

homeowner \$6,50 a year. The

plan for the building is

designed to accommodate all

the various departments,

in each, for 25 years

including expected expansion

Town planner Mario Vendilti

said that although the building

is functionally designed, it is

a fairly good quality building

structure, and not something

the project into phases.

question council's actions.

definitely established.

discuss ways of financing the

on-again-off-again

the same temperature as boiling, so once the food reaches a boil, cut the tempperature down Slow cooking also prevents shrinkage and uses 30 per cent less clee-

Re use all blanching waters

Instead of throwing out your used water, save it and put GLASS & MIRROR your next vegetable in it. You can also reduce your vegetable paces by half and use them in soups. These puces can also be trozen and re-used To prevent top heat

evaporation from your freezer, place a piece of styrofoam, 2 mehes thick, on the inside of your freezer lid. This reduces the amount of running time on your compressor When freezing food, make

sure all items are clear and free of condensation 'Cool your lood first in the refrigerator. Condensation is a form of insulation which increases treezing time. Any food will freeze guicker

if the air has been removed and the meat will continue to from the package. One method is to suck out the air with a straw, then iron the bag shut Although the principle investment is high, microwave ovens are an excellent source for saying time and money

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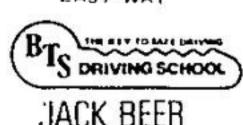
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