

NEC chairman explains plan

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 proportion of this optimum route. Thus what is on the maps now merely represents that route that would be most desirable from the point of view of trail users. Where the

actual route of the trail will be in the end will depend on what arrangements can be made. The policies propose a variety of options for these arrangements. The policies also propose management

techniques for this very popular trail. The Commission has not confined itself to the Bruce Trail. It is proposing recreation policies involving other types of trails, as well as

the full range of recreational activities. It has also mapped a proposed scenic drive system on low speed roads. This is 468 miles long and uses existing roads except for 22 miles in

Bruce County. It goes through some of the highest rated scenic areas. Among the features identified within the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area are 72 important wildlife habitats, more than 100 sites containing flowers and plants of special interest, more than 100 sites of geological significance and numerous streams and rivers of importance to fisheries. These have been combined in the Preliminary Proposals as the Natural Areas overlay designation. In addition to these features are many hundreds of archaeological and historic sites which collectively have been designated as Cultural Areas. Developments in these areas are not necessarily prohibited, but will be carefully regulated so as to ensure preservation of the special features in the area. The overlay designations cover 28 per cent of the Planning Area for the Natural Areas, and 4 per cent for the Cultural Areas.

A landscape evaluation study has been carried out for the whole Escarpment area. This has attempted to rate areas by scenic quality as appreciated by the average viewer. The areas rated as above average are shown on an overlay designation. It is proposed that developments in these high quality scenic areas be regulated so as not to unduly impair this scenic value. About 29 per cent of the Planning Area achieves this high quality rating.

For some time there has been an extensive land acquisition program for parks and recreational areas in the Escarpment area. This has been a combined effort of the Ministry of Natural Resources

and the Conservation Authorities. The Commission is recommending continuation of this program, with modifications and extensions of it. It is recognized that the program must be a very long term one, and that interim development can be permitted on property that will not be acquired for some time to come. 80,000 acres are now under public ownership. The program calls for eventual acquisition of another 98,000 acres, but no time limits are proposed for this.

The Niagara Escarpment area is a prime recreational area and the development of the recreational potential is encouraged throughout the Proposals.

The Planning Area includes extensive shorelines along Georgian Bay, Lake Huron, and the Niagara shore of Lake Ontario. Those portions that have not been substantially developed, or are included in the Natural or Cultural Areas designation, plus the Lake Ontario shoreline, are included in a Lakeshore designation. This designation aims to protect these shorelines by limiting future development. Other portions of the shoreline are designated as Lakeshore Residential to provide limited and carefully controlled opportunity for low density development. The ratio of Lakeshore Residential to Lakeshore that has been

designated is approximately 3 to 4. The Commission is interested in having urban boundaries established for all major and minor urban areas in the Escarpment area. However, it has not attempted to propose specific boundaries. Instead, it is proposing certain criteria to be used by municipalities and the Province in establishing these boundaries. Insofar as the Niagara Region is concerned, the Proposals reflect the urban boundaries that have already been established for some of the urban centres. While these Preliminary

Proposals of the Commission will permit further development in the rural area, especially where lots have already been created, there is a strong emphasis on protection of the environment. This is to be expected, considering the Commission's mandate. There also, throughout the Proposals, an emphasis on realization of the recreational value of the Escarpment area. However, a note of caution is sounded. Excessive recreational development can be damaging to the environment, destroying the very basis of the recreation itself.

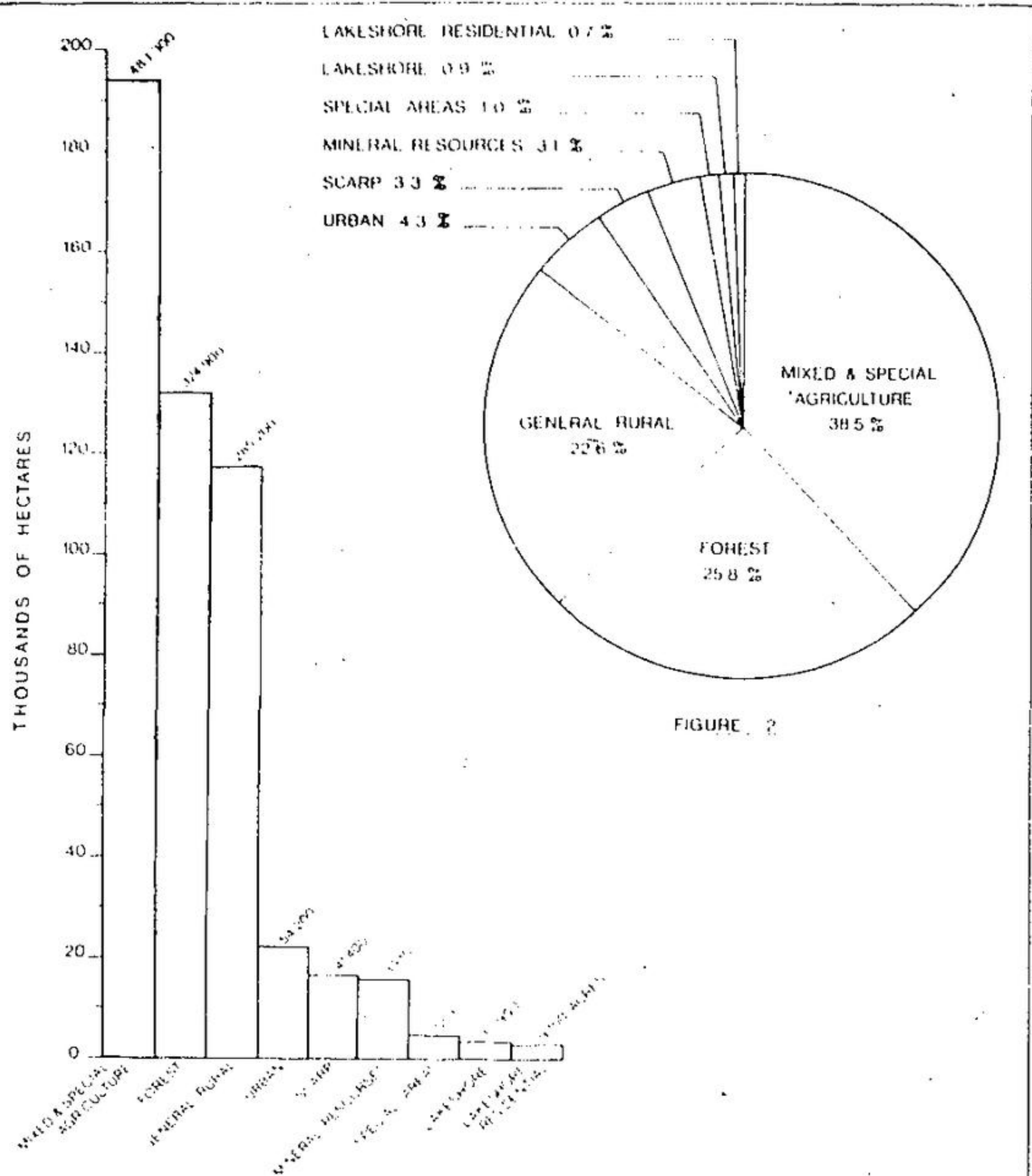


FIGURE 1: The Approximate Extent of Basic Policies over the Planning Area
 FIGURE 2: Percentages of the Total Planning Area Occupied by Basic Policies



FOR THE CAMPAIGN

Janel Doyle, Connie Domingos, Bill Pires and Diane Paulin were among the members of the Red Cross Youth who helped put together kits for the Red Cross canvassers. The members who participated put together 600 kits in about two hours. Tina Yaremcy, first vice-president of the Georgetown Red Cross, said.



IVOR McMULLIN

Maple syrup club forms

By Peter Barnes
 On Thursday, February 2nd, the first meeting of the Halton 4-H Maple Syrup Club was held at the Agricultural Office. Mar Leachy opened the meeting with the 4-H pledge and then went on to explain parliamentary procedure. After this the meeting was turned over to club leader, Lyle Stokes, for the election of officers. Richard Standley was elected as president, Andy Itschkowski was elected vice-president.

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No painting needed on this 3 bedroom brick bungalow situated on a quiet dead-end street on edge of Georgetown. Lots of mature trees on the lot and landscaping all done. Get ready to relax this summer for only \$52,900. Call 877-0173.

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