2,000 attend anti-NEC rally in Orangeville

By WES KELLER Special to The Herald

An estimated 2,000 persons at Orangeville Wednesday gave standing ovations to 14 speakers who told them their fight against the Niagara Escarpment Commission was just beginning.

Premier William Davis, in--vited to attend the rally, sent a letter by courier in which he expressed the concern of the

government for the rights of affected ratepayers.

report.

According to Mr. Davis' let-

Philosophy, thinking wrong

The preliminary proposals of the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) represent the basic thinking and philosophy of the commission, and that is why the concept is wrong says George Shepherd of Shelburne.

Mr. Shepherd, a lawyer and the president of the Niagara Escarpment Central Ralepayers Association (NECRA), was responding to a recent report that NEC chairman Iver Mc-Mullin had said he would reduce the size of the NEC planning area.

"The commission doesn't have the authority to change the escarpment planning a-

Bus trip to support MPP's bill

Niagara Escarpment Central Ratepayers Association is offering a bus trip to Queen's Park May 11 for members of the public to hear a debate to restrict the powers of the Niagara Escarpment Commis-

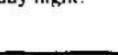
The debate centres around a private member's bill introduced by Robert McKessock, MPP (L. Grev).

The bus trip was announced at a public rally sponsored by NECKA Wednesday at Orangeville Raceway

Tickets for the trip are selling for \$3, and are available from members of NECRA

Mr. McKessock addressed the rally Wednesday and urged residents to attend the debate because he said only 10 of Ontario's MPPs represent constituents who live or have land on the escarpment control

The bus will leave Orangeville Raceway at 10 a.m. May



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Mr. Davis, who was represented at the rally by Jack Johnson, of Wellington-Duffering-Peel, asked the ratepayers to be patient and to await the results of a forthcoming NEC

ter. NEC is to report to the cabinet "within the next few days" and final decisions a-

rea," said Mr. Shepherd. "Only the legislature can effect such a change."

lie meetings before drafting its preliminary proposals. "They (NEC) should have had advance input and feedback from the residents," he

Mr. Shepherd said the com-

mission should have held pub-

said. Mr. McMullin was quoted by a Toronto newspaper as saying he had been "getting pressure from all sides to reduce the area," and Mr. Shepherd questioned whether there would

have been pressure to make

changes if the public had been

consulted before the proposals were put forth. According to Mr. Shepherd, most of the involved land is farming land, and the people on the land make their livings from areas that NEC wants to

designate for recreational use. He described the planning of NEC as being "out of step" with the needs of the people who make their living from the land and said this was a clear demonstration that local development control shouldn't be vested in an appointed

He said appointed bodies couldn't be expected to understand local problems.

"NEC isn't responsive to the people and it isn't accessible to the landowners," he said.

Mr. Shepherd charged that NEC had failed to honor its mandate to take into account the social and economic problems of the area.

Mr. Shepherd's group wants the commission disbanded and development control of the escarpment returned to local elected representatives.

The group has said that there are already enough government departments to administer the escarpment without creating "a new bureaucracy."

About 2,000 ratepayers at tended a rally of NECRA at Orangeville Raceway Wednesday night.

BAHA'I

'In the Baha'i Faith, those whose hearts have been set aglow by the energizing influence of God's lave. cherish people as people and recognize in their differences he signs of God's reflected

If you would like more in formation or would like to attend a Bahai fireside, write Box 91. Georgetown or phone bout the escarpment will be made in the legislature by elected representatives of the

The rally of Niagara Escarpment Central Ratepayers Association at the Orangeville Raceway included contingents of landowners from Tobermory to Simcoe.

Among the speakers were Mel Swart, MPP (NDP Welland-Thorold); Eddie Sargent MPP (L-Grey-Bruce) and Robert McKessock MPP (L.

Mr. McKessock has introduced a private members bill in the Ontario legislature which would limit the powers of control of NEC to a nurrow strip along the scarp, and force the government to buy land over which it exercises development control

Mr. Sargent told the crowd that 90 per cent of all land in Ontario is already crown land, that 75 per cent of the escarpment is in Grey and Bruce counties, and that residents have no representation because only four MPPs represent the landowners of Grey

and Bruce.

Mr Swart said the NDP favored preservation of the escarpment but not necessar-

Farmers in the Niagara Es-

carpment area are being har-

rassed by the Niagara Escarp-

ment Commission, says Ontar-

io Federation of Agriculture

president Peter Hannam of

ment at the rally sponsored by

the Niagara Escarpment Cen-

tral Ratepayers Association

(NECRA) at the Orangeville

He was one of more than a

dozen speakers who said they

were concerned about loss of

individual property rights be-

cause of NEC controls and

about the "excessive a-

mounts" of land coming under

Mr. Hannam praised the

and said people living in the

escarpment area needed to

have a common voice in what

Not everyone is opposed to

having the Niagara Escarp-

ment Commission (NEC) in

control of land use along the

escarpment, says a member of

the Federation of Ontario Na-

Mike Singleton of Don Mills,

representing FON, was inter-

viewed after a rally of the

Niagara Escarpment Central

Ratepayers Association (NEC-

RA) at Orangeville Raceway

Mr. Singleton said his 12,000

member association would like

to see an "essentially contin-

uous natural belt" retained

turalists (FON)

Wednesday

efforts of NECRA members tion

Raceway Wednesday.

the controls

Jean Rawn of Caledon, a housewife and mother, told the gathering her family had worked hard to improve conditions on their farm but that NEC control of her land would mean she couldn't leave the farm to her children in any

better condition than it is now. "Hard work should be rewarded and not discouraged," said Mrs. Rawn of controls which she said were being placed on her land by NEC. George Shepherd, Shelburne lawyer and the president of

NEC and Bill 129 In a prepared release, Mr. Shepherd described his group's concerns about the basic issues of Bill 129, the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, as

The municipalities had official plans and land use control bylaws regulating and controling land use. Bill 129 abolished those bylaws on the area of development control in the Siagara Escarpment planning area. Bill 129 gave the power over land use control taken from the municipality to an appointed body called the Niagara Escarpment Commis-SION (NEC).

Farmers 'harassed'

beginning" of the fight against agree

Other speakers at the rally

were overwhelmingly in favor

of baying NEC disbanded and

the Niagara Escarpment Plan-

One speaker Robert McKes

sock MPP (L-Grey), urged

the audience to go to Queen's

Park May It to hear debates

on a private member's bill

designed to limit the powers of

been trying to have the Act

abolished for about the past

two or three years but pointed

out that only 10 MPPs are

affected by NEC and there

isn't much support for aboli-

should effectively protect the

rights of landowners, but at

Naturalists support need

along the escarpment

He said, however, the natur

al belt should be created with-

out depriving landowners the

right to control access to their

Controls of development, he

said, would ensure the preser-

vation of natural values of the

land and he suggested that

would be to the benefit of the

He said most people bought

land on the escarpment be-

cause of the natural beauty,

and the proposed controls

which they had bought."

would "preserve the values for

to control escarpment

landowners

Petition to

disband NEC

Mr. McKessock said his bill

Mr. McKessock said he had

Mr. Hannam made the state or ming Act (Bill 129) resemded .

was described as "just the least one farmer said he didn't

by NEC: OFA

understand local conditions better than Niagara Escarpment Commission. They are trusted by their electors. If the Province of Ontario wanted land use controls to preserve the Niagara Escarpment, it could have told the municipalilies to propose or to amend land use control bylaws in accordance with provincial guidelines to ensure the pre-

servation of the escarpment, The people will not accept land controls proposed and administered by a non-elected NECRA, said his group has body like the Niagara Escarpment Commission, says Shepthree main concerns about

> Prior to Bill 129, an owner had the right to use his land for any lawful purpose. He was entitled to a building permit as a matter of right if his intended use complied with the minici pal land use control bylaws. Under Bill 129, NEC has absolute control over the right to issue building permits or to permit a change in use of property. There is no guarantee that an owner will be given permission to build. If he is refused, of what value is his nesday's Orangeville rally of land? be asks

cess to the escarpment. In was the only government Mono Township, the province member to address the gather-Local councillors know and of Ontario owns the areas ing of an estimated 2,000.

Len Watt, of Nottawasaga

McKessock bill was "a lot of

nothing" because it left NEC

Mr Walts told the meeting

Canadians "can't afford such

flagrant violation of rights" as

example of why people are

taking their money out of

Canada and said the Ontario

government would "no longer

be worthy of our support" if it

permitted the NEC proposals

he felt that "city people" were

asking farmers to "supply free

recreation" by seeking to

place farmlands under the

Mr. Singleton said he

thought the controls now being

imposed by NEC would "uf-

innately" be returned to the

municipalities' "within a

Only one of the estimated

2,000 persons at the rally voic-

ed criticism of the format of

followed the speeches, an un-

heard a succession of argu-

ments against NEC voiced by

landowners, lawyers and poli

ticians and he asked why

no one had spoken in favor of

NECRA president George

Shepherd responded that NEC charman Ivor McMullin had

been invited to the rally but

hadn't consented to attend.

planning frame work."

the meeting.

As a farmer, Mr Watt said,

of the province."

NEC controls.

to become law.

Provincial parks on the Boyne Mountains, he says.

of acres through the Niagara way, says Shepherd.

where the escarpment is ex- Escarpment Planning Area posed; about 3,000 acres. In where people can bike, fish, Mulmur Township, there are enjoy the scenery and nature.

Bill 129 gives the governiver and on the Pine River, ment power to expropriate an People have access to the owners land or part of it to escarpment for skiing at Blue establish a Bruce Trail route. This power is unnecessary. The Bruce Trail Association There are many other parks has great success in making or provincially owned lands arrangements with private containing many thousands properly owners for a trail-

Proposals only preliminary: MPP

Preliminary proposals of the Niagara Escarpment Commission are just that, says Jack Johnson, MPP (PC, Wellington-Dufferin-Peel), and affected landowners shouldn't be upset until the government has

dealt with the final legislation. Mr. Johnson, one of mure than a dozen speakers at Wedthe Niagara Escarpment Cen-The public already has ac- iral Ratepayers Association,

> "Some people said I wouldo't have the guts to show up at this meeting," Mr. Johnson told the crowd which during the night had been giving standing ovations to every speaker who criticized the government and the general aims of NEC.

Mr Johnson said he cume to the meeting to convey the concern of the government for the problems of escarpment land-

Township said he thought the He said the preliminary proposals were published only so NEC could get the reaction of "still feeding on the taxpayers the people to the proposals and assured the gathering the concerns of the people would be taken into account before the final proposals were drafted He cited the controls as an into law.

> Mr. Johnson denied that the preliminary proposals were

entirely bad, and said they were "often compatible" with local town planning.

However, Eddie Sargent, MPP (L.Grey-Bruce) didn't agree with Mr. Johnson. "I have never seen so much

injustice and dictatorship as the NEC," Mr. Sargent said. Mr. Sargent told the crowd that the province has taken control of about \$1,3 billion of land without compensating the owners for their loss of rights. He said it seemed approp-

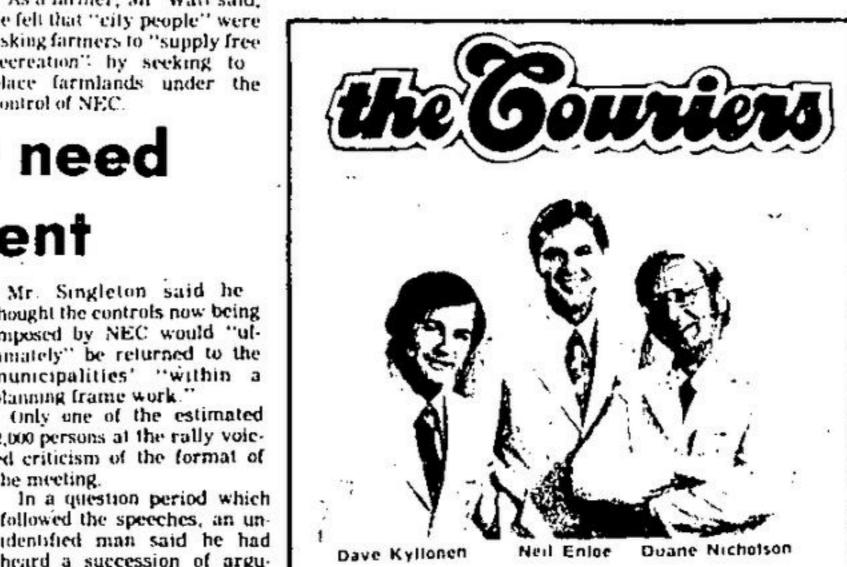
riate that the rally against NEC was being held at a race 'Most people lose money at

the race track." he said. "But if you live in the escarpment area you don't have to go to the races to get cleaned out or lose your shirt."

Mr. Sargent was cheered when he called for abolition of NEC, and booed when he suggested the alternative of appointing a Royal Commission to investigate NEC.

Another Liberal MPP, Robert McKessock of Grey, told the meeting his private member's bill to reduce the powers of NEC would mean a hard fight in the legislature because "only 10" members of the legislature represent areas that are affected by NEC planning.

See additional stories pages 6 and 26



Halton Hills Pentecostal Assembly

Pastor Rev. E.J. Friesen COR OF TRAFALGAR RD. & HIGHWAY 1 HALTON HILLS (GEORGETOWN) ONTARIO

Date: Tuesday, May 16th. Time: 7:30 p.m.



PRACTICING

Betty Woods, a Grade 11 student at Georgetown district high school, practices with the school band in preparation for an Arts Festival which the school is presenting next Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Music, art, a satirical revue and a fashion show are all included in the event.

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9.30 & 11 Sunday School

9:30 & 11 Nursery Provided

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Rev. E.J. Friesen

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11:30 a.m.

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Pringle

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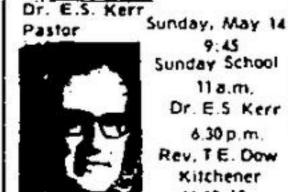
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Church of the Lutheran Hour MAPLE AVENUE



11 a.m. Dr. E.S Kerr 6.30 p.m. Rev. TE. Dow Kitchener 11-12:15 Sunday School

ALLIANCE CHURCH 14 Main St S. Pastor Peter Ralph

Sunday, May 14

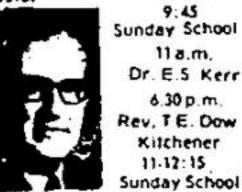
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Something Special for Mother

While one MPP is mustering support for a private mem-

ber's bill to limit the powers of Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) another has tabled a petition in the Ontario legislature calling for the dissolution of NEC

A ratepayers' association, Niagara Escarpment Central Ratepayers Association (NECRA), Wednesday called for the disbanding of NEC and on the same day. Eddie Sargent, (MPP L-Grey-Bruce) was reported as saying he had

tabled the petition According to the report, Mr Sargent said the petition contained thousands of names from residents of Grey and Bruce counties

escarpment was in the two The private member's bill, already circulated by Robert McKessock, MPP (L.Grey), is

Mr Sargent told NECRA

rally at Orangeville Wednes-

day that 75 per cent of the

being debated in the legislature May 11 The bill provides for a reduction from the now-controlled 1.3 million acres and further provides that the government would have to buy any current-

ly-existing lots for which it refused a development permit NECRA has arranged chartered buses to Queen's Park for the debate and a strong contingent of members is expected to attend



