

Conservationists, public join to aid the escarpment

The belief that public involvement in the use and administration of the Niagara Escarpment is as essential as government controls has led to the formation of a coalition of conservation groups and interested citizens, according to Ron Reid, a Georgetown member of the coalition.

Born at an organizational meeting held July 13, the escarpment coalition has brought together private citizens and escarpment landowners as well as representatives of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, for which Mr. Reid is a staff environmentalist, the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations, Pollution Probe and the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada.

Mr. Reid explained that the coalition's chief intention is to emphasize to those who make the decisions about escarpment uses that "there's a lot of people who think it's important that the escarpment should be protected."

"While we recognize that the many legitimate concerns of landowners must be met," coalition acting co-ordinator Lynn MacMillan added, "it is

to be hoped that we will not lose sight of the basic objective of protecting the escarpment as a continuous natural environment.

The many thousands of citizens across the province that are concerned about the quality of our future environment have yet to be heard, but support for a coalition to express this concern appears to be tremendous."

Mr. Reid pointed out that coalition representatives have yet to approach a number of interested localized environmentalist groups which combine the coalition's general concern about the future of the escarpment with an active interest in specific areas of the escarpment.

At the organizational meeting Mr. Reid said, those in attendance shared "a general negative reaction" toward government handling of the Bruce Trail, one of the escarpment's best-known features. Members feel the Trail is being "held up for ransom," he said.

Coalition representatives will be making presentations to area municipal councils and the escarpment commission from time to time, Mr. Reid

noted, and will likely take a keen interest in specific proposals for escarpment uses, including quarrying activities.

Any groups and individuals interested in joining or finding out more about the coalition are invited to contact Mrs. MacMillan at 1252 Don Mills Road, suite 76, Don Mills.

A meeting for the election of an inaugural executive committee is being planned for early August.

Three arrests following break-ins

Two men have been arrested on charges of breaking and entering in connection with three break-ins on Armstrong Avenue Monday.

A Maple Avenue resident reported seeing two people smashing windows at Halton and Peel Provisioners on Armstrong Avenue. When the investigating officer arrived on the scene, he found two men inside the building. Two men were arrested and charged with breaking and entering and theft. Two other charges of breaking and entering were later laid against both suspects after investigation revealed that Union Gas Limited and Star Machine Tool and Die Works had also been broken in to.

Charged with counts of break, enter and theft are Terrance Walsh, 21, of Georgetown and Richard Stewart, 21, of Guelph. Both men are scheduled to appear in court today to set a trial date.



COLORING CONTEST WINNER

Dave Cropper presented a McDonald's contest, while Chris's brother Peter looked on somewhat enviously.

Justice system corrupt, Campbell tells church

Canadian citizens are beginning to fear their system of justice is becoming "corrupt," crusading Baptist-Evangelist minister Ken Campbell charged at a meeting in Milton Sunday.

Rev. Campbell, president of Renaissance International, an organization dedicated to fighting alleged godlessness in the public school system, criticized the government's parole policies, which have resulted in the release of Jacques Rose, an accessory in the kidnapping and murder of Quebec Labor Minister Pierre LaPorte during the October Crisis in Quebec in 1970, after serving about four years of his eight-year sentence.

Speaking at the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Milton, Rev. Campbell said, "Even the bleeding hearts should resent the light-handed treatment, which can only undermine faith in the legal system."

Rev. Campbell noted that Paul Rose, brother of Jacques, is presently serving two concurrent life sentences for the murder and kidnapping of Mr. LaPorte, but will be eligible for parole as early as 1980.

"What kind of legal system is it that converts a life sentence into a potential 10-year term and puts a politically-motivated murderer back on the streets?" he asked.

Rev. Campbell, who was scheduled to speak on problems in, and alternatives to Ontario's public school system, also criticized liberal abortion laws, which he said allow unborn babies to be "systematically butchered in the name of a responsible and civilized society". He said more than one million unborn babies were "butchered" in abortions last year in North America, and charged that because society permits this, it is fast approaching the "Auschwitz" mentality.

"It is just a step from saying to the mothers of the nation: 'You can kill your unborn baby' to telling the daughters of the nation: 'You can kill your unwanted old lady,'" Rev. Campbell said.

Rev. Campbell, who has taken his children out of the Halton public school system to give them a Christian education in alternate schools, said he doesn't want his children educated in a school system dominated by money and politics.

"I think I would prefer my children to be physically molested rather than to have them psychologically molested in the classroom," he continued. Those who question the need for sex education or the validity of the approach to family life courses in the public schools are considered a

"horse-and-buggy hangover from the Victorian Age."

Rev. Campbell also read a letter which he had written to the Halton board of education, criticizing the decision to demote school principal Ron Kearns of Burlington after he was acquitted on charges of possession of drugs for the purposes of trafficking.

The demotion of Mr. Kearns from principal to teacher without a hearing is a move towards "frightening totalitarianism," Rev. Campbell said. He questioned why a principal's courtroom admission of taking one puff of a marijuana cigarette on one occasion in the past should result in his demotion, "while the regular use of, and even dependence by many educators on our number one drug, alcohol, seems helpful, if not essential, in getting along, or promoted, in the Ontario public school system?"

Mr. Kearns was acquitted of two charges of possession of narcotics for the purposes of trafficking in provincial court in January. Police had arrested him after finding 12 marijuana plants growing in his garden, but Mr. Kearns' tenant pleaded guilty to a cultivation charge. Mr. Kearns said in court he was unaware the plants were marijuana.

ABOUT THE HILLS

Tickets on sale

Acton optimists continue to sell Graffiti Car Draw tickets to assist the Milton Optimist Club raise funds for the \$650,000 Milton youth building project. The Graffiti Car Draw prize, a 1956 Chevrolet, will be drawn Aug. 19.

Beating the heat

Acton branch of the Halton Hills library will beat the July heat by showing Christmas films for the summer storyline program Wednesday (today) 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. and Thursday 2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

\$100 damage

A glass door was broken at Acton Community Park last Tuesday. Damage is estimated at \$100.



Chris and Grace Ball.

Couple open shop for pottery in Glen

Pottery enthusiasts will have a new place to browse and to buy with the opening August 5 of Chris and Grace Ball's Pottery on Main Street in Glen Williams.

The shop is part of Chris and Grace Ball's home and their studios are also on the premises. Grace uses the wheel while Chris, a former Georgetown boy returning from several years in Kingston, specializes in hand thrown work.

The Balls make their own glazes which are food safe and will be carrying both a rustic and a more refined line to please customers searching for either type of product.

Their shop will be open Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 12:30 to 5 p.m. While parking looks like a problem now they have permission from Wheeler's Hardware for their customers to use the vacant lot across the street and they will also be widening their own drive very soon.

The Balls moved into the 110 year old home in March and have been renovating it since that time. So far their work has been for sale at the Weaver's House on Mill Street.

In Kingston however, they displayed and sold their work through the Kierstead Gallery.

Grace also taught pottery in their home for St. Lawrence Community College. It is possible that she may begin classes here some time too, but not just yet, she says.

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Project staff receive gas

Students working for a minimum wage on the Halton Regional Police project, Operation Identification, have been paying for gasoline on the job out of their own pockets, the Halton Police Commission learned last week.

Bob Reble, one of three program leaders in Halton, asked the commission to provide one tank of gasoline for each student using his own car on the job.

Halton residents who are interested in having their valuables marked with an identification number and registered

with police call Operation Identification and arrange an appointment. The students then visit the home to carry out the marking.

The program is funded by the federal Solicitor-General's department, but this year's \$45,000 grant has gone mainly for salaries. Independent insurance agencies have contributed to the program to alleviate printing costs, and the police commission had previously allocated \$200 to the project for administration costs. The students have been paying for

gasoline out of their own pockets.

"The program is one of public relations," Mr. Reble said. "In my opinion, the police received the lion's share of the public relations benefit and it is not beyond reasonableness that some sort of arrangement be made."

The commission passed a motion by Burlington Councillor David Coons to allocate \$100 to the project for gasoline, to be administered by the police force's accounting department.

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