

About the Hills

Taxi hearings continue

Tomorrow the Ontario Labour Relations Board will hear the remainder of the evidence in the dispute between Glen Taxi owners Denis Devine and Les Markham and members of the Ontario Taxi Association. The association claims the owners threatened union members and blocked a fair vote on the union's certification by their harassment. The case is being heard in the Board's Toronto office and a decision on the charges is not expected immediately at the close of the hearing.

Town hall meeting

Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe MP Ross Milne will be holding a series of town hall meetings in the Brampton and Georgetown area during the third week of January. Mr. Milne, who will be running in the redistributed riding of Brampton-Georgetown in the next election, will be holding the Georgetown meeting at Neptune's Restaurant in the Guelphview Square, January 18. The meeting will begin at 8 p.m. with a short talk by Mr. Milne on local issues and legislation which has been before the House of Commons. This will be followed by a discussion period in which all present will be invited to participate. The meeting is non-partisan, and all constituents are invited to attend.

Fire warning

Fire Prevention Officer Larry Brassard cautioned homeowners against burning their Christmas trees in their fireplaces or wood-burning stoves after the Georgetown fire department was called out to extinguish two chimney fires last week.

Mr. Brassard said the wood in Christmas trees is too green to burn safely. When the wood burns, the creosote builds up in the chimney, dries out, and re-ignites.

ADHS flooded

Water lines gave way early Wednesday morning at Acton and district high school and flooded the main offices of the school Halton Hills fire chief Mick Holmes who was at the school at 7 a.m. Wednesday said it's not known whether the cold weather caused the breakage in the lines. Classes for the first day of school for the new year were not interrupted.

Acton man sentenced

Richard Morely of Acton was sentenced to three months in jail on impaired driving convictions and had his driver's licence suspended for three years when he appeared in Stratford provincial court Tuesday. Under Bill 150 of the Highway Traffic Act, which received royal assent in December, three-year licence suspensions are automatic on a third conviction for impaired driving.

Craft course registration

Approximately 50 people registered Thursday for night school classes at Acton and district high school. Courses include bridge, bookkeeping for a small business, gourmet microwave cooking, interior design, crochet, cake decorating, on and off loom weaving, painting and drawing, sewing, small engine repair, typing, woodwork and yoga. Courses begin Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Wildlife Centre open

Mountsberg Wildlife Centre opens at 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday for the "winter experience" program. Mountsberg offers horse drawn sleigh rides, skating, cross country skiing and wildlife exhibits. Admission cost is \$3 a car.



GLEN EDEN SKIERS

Mike Ellis, an employee at Glen Eden, assists two young skiers on the tow rope Saturday. Skiers from all over the region were out in full force to enjoy the sunshine Saturday at Kelso Conservation Area outside Milton, in spite of a brisk wind. (Herald photo)

One Ontario Hydro witness

Ontario Hydro's proposed hydro tower route through Halton Hills would have a minimum impact on the town according to John Bousfield, a Toronto planning consultant, the first witness at the current OMB hearing in Georgetown and the only witness called by the power corporation.

Mr. Bousfield told the hearing that a study he conducted along the route shows that interference with farming operations and the visual impact of the lattice towers would be minimal.

Mr. Bousfield was hired by Ontario Hydro in 1977 to select the route, under the terms of reference, through Halton Hills.

He said his study involved aerial photographs and on-site inspections of the proposed route and one alternative route.

Under cross-examination, Mr. Bousfield said he looked at land immediately east and west of the proposed route but not at all land within Halton Hills.

Mr. Bousfield said he concentrated his route search using "fixed points". The fixed points were the points where the corridor will enter the town from Erin township in the north and from Milton in the south.

Frederick Helson, the lawyer representing Halton Hills said that because of the fixed points, Mr. Bousfield was limited to an area bordered by an approximate distance of one and a half concessions on either side of the eventual route.

When asked by ICG lawyer Patrick Devine if he enquired about the reasons behind government policy toward the

corridor and if he questioned what was good or bad policy, Mr. Bousfield said "I doubt that was irrelevant."

Environmental planner says route is poor

An independent environmental planning consultant said he would not recommend the present route of the Bruce to Milton hydro corridor through Halton Hills without first studying current data on land use and other environmental factors.

Bruce Howlett, president of BHI Environmental Planning Consultants, told the Ontario Municipal Board hearing into that section of the Bruce to Milton corridor running through Halton Hills that he had been engaged in December, 1972, by Dr. Omond Solandt to study alternate routes in the east-west corridor from Nanticoke to Pickering.

Most of the information he gathered on the corridors, both east-west and north-south, was gathered by early 1973, he

testified, and he said he would not be prepared to recommend the proposed route without having access to information collected within the last two years.

Mr. Howlett said the terms of reference he was given when he was engaged called for him to select a route for the corridor "with as much public participation as practicable". Alternative systems were suggested by Ontario Hydro, but the locations possible for substations because of restrictions such as rail access, were fairly limited.

ORIGINAL CHOICE
The original choice for the route was one which had only one crossing of the Niagara Escarpment, Mr. Howlett said, but Ontario Hydro said that was unacceptable from

the point of view of reliability. The original recommendation made to Dr. Solandt was the Parkway Belt route, with a detour around the Beverly Swamp. Dr. Solandt's proposed route, however, was the Parkway Belt route, proceeding through the Beverly Swamp.

Ken Anderson, regional solicitor, asked Mr. Howlett if he would conduct a study on a section of line as short as the line through Halton Hills, and Mr. Howlett answered that he would.

Mr. Howlett estimated it would take two to three months to conduct a study on the section of the line under discussion.

OAKVILLE MAYOR COMMISSION HEAD

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett was elected chairman of the Halton Regional Police Commission Thursday.

Mayor Barrett has been acting chairman since the termination of Burlington lawyer William Hourigan's appointment at the end of October. Mr. Hourigan was under investigation by the Ontario Police Commission during the fall for alleged abuse of his position as chairman by interfering with an investigation into an impaired driving case by Halton Regional Police.

Mr. Hourigan was cleared in a report from the Ontario Police Commission, the contents of which were never made public.

Glenn Magnuson, a provincial appointee from Georgetown, was elected vice-chairman, of the commission.

In an official ceremony, Judge Joseph Selme, Milton Mayor Don Gordon and provincial appointee Alfred Oliver were sworn in as official members of the commission Thursday. This is the first time the commission has been officially attended by its full complement of members since the resignation of Judge William Warrender last June.

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