



**REED EXPLAINS**

Julian Reed, Halton-Burlington MPP and Liberal energy critic, talked with Dave Moffat at the Ontario Municipal Board

hearings into the proposed hydro corridor through Halton Hills. Mr. Moffat owns land along the proposed corridor route. (Herald photo)

## 'Hydro's own forecasts show energy excess'

Continued From Page 1  
comes from water generated sources.

Factors which lessen the immediate need of the Halton Hills lines, which is the final link in the 500 KV line from Bradley near Bruce, to Milton, are the linkage of the new 500 KV line to an existing 230 KV line which runs from Belwood to Kitchener, the fact that, at present, existing transmission lines can handle more power than Bruce can put out, and the significant decrease in predicted growth of demand for hydro by the consumer.

Mr. Minns said forecasts by Ontario Hydro 10 years ago predicted an annual growth of 10 per cent for the demand of hydro power in Ontario. He said actual growth in 1977 was 2.2 per cent and actual growth in 1978 was 2.8 per cent. Future growth "is not expected to increase (significantly)."

Mr. Minns said the decline cannot be attributed to weather or economic conditions.

He said an Ontario Hydro load forecast report stated "it is considered significant that the 1977 increase in price of approximately 30 per cent (coming on top of a 22 per cent increase in 1976)," affected a decrease in demand.

### WANT STUDY

Mr. Minns, called as a witness by Patrick Devine, counsel for the ICG, said ICG has continuously asked for an independent study for a possible location of this line through (Halton Hills or otherwise).

"There is not enough documentation supporting line through Halton Hills," he said.

"I consider you have a five year margin which you have time to do a lot of things," said Mr. Minns.

After the hearing adjourned Monday Mr. Minns said the second part of the Bruce nuclear power complex is scheduled to come into operation and double the present power capacity which Bruce puts out. But he said, based on information received from the ministry of energy and Ontario Hydro, "Bruce B" could either be delayed or "cancelled entirely."

Other witnesses called by Mr. Devine Monday were William Hodges, L.J. Manion, Reford Gardhouse, Elmer Echlun, Clarence Coles and Ernest Wilson.

Mr. Hodges, a Grey County farmer and an Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) representative and a member of the OFA's hydro corridor committee said the proposed corridor contravenes the OFA's land use policy, makes it difficult for farmers to manoeuvre equipment around the towers and the corridor through good farmland "just adds time and expense to the whole operation."

Mr. Manion, a Durham farmer, said his wife, who helps him farm, suffered grave effects from the 230 KV line which passed through his farm.

In 1976, Mrs. Manion had been driving a tractor in the area of the 230 KV transmission line which passed through the Manion property. She became ill while cultivating the cornfield, said Mr. Manion.

When Mr. Manion arrived home that day, she was coming from the field towards the house "virtually stumbling" and "almost bringing up," he said.

After the family doctor recommended Mrs. Manion move away from the hydro line Mr. Manion sold the farm to Ontario Hydro and bought another farm, without a hydro transmission line on it, near Durham.

Reford Gardhouse, farmer and cattle breeder in Halton Hills said the uncertain effects of the 500 KV line which will intersect his farm, could endanger a long-time and successful operation.

"We're not saying it's the wrong line, but we don't have proof that it's the right line," he said.

"We feel strongly that our democratic rights have been lacking in this case."

Mr. Echlun an R.R.1 Holstein farmer, demonstrated the possible dangers of hydro lines. He recounted the night he left a wagon parked under the 230 KV line on his property. When he came back to it the next morning, he decided he would throw a piece of steel against the hitch to determine if the wagon had picked up a charge overnight from the line.

When he threw a jack against the hitch, it produced a blue arc the same as an arc welder, he said.

"I would have got a heavy shock if I had touched it," he said.

However, Mr. Parkinson argues that once farmers were educated about the avoidable dangers of the line the problem would be solved.

Clarence Coles and Ernest Wilson, both farmers of the land on the proposed hydro line route in Halton Hills, said the line would be an inconvenience to their farming operations.

**Slippery sidewalks problem**

Responding to written inquiries from at least three Georgetown residents, town council has requested a report from its public works director regarding the feasibility of enforcing a bylaw that would make it compulsory for Halton Hills homeowners to clear snow off sidewalks in front of their properties.

Council Monday night referred letters from Carole MacLeod of Irwin Crescent and Mr. and Mrs. Robert DeCoster of Arletta Street to town engineer Bob Austin for a report which clerk-administrator Ken

Richardson predicted should be ready for council's Jan. 29 meeting.

Coun. Harry Levy expressed hope that Mr. Austin will keep in mind while preparing his report the fact that the municipality itself owns a number of sidewalks throughout the town. Consideration must be given to methods by which town staff could keep those walkways clear as well, he said.

Although Mrs. MacLeod's letter sought information about the existence of a com-

sory snow clearing bylaw for the former town of Georgetown alone, Mr. Austin was directed to check on the bylaw as it pertains to urban Acton as well, at Coun. Ed Wood's request.

Mrs. MacLeod proposed that, if one does not already exist, a bylaw should be introduced and enforced that would compel homeowners to clear new-fallen snow from their sidewalks "within a reasonable time following a snow-storm". She pointed out that "many larger municipalities",

including Metropolitan Toronto, actively enforce such legislation in an effort to reduce the possibility of danger to pedestrians and motorists.

"For the most part," Mrs. MacLeod wrote to council, "Georgetown residents are youthful and snow shovelling does not threaten life and health. Older residents and those whose health forbids vigorous exercise can easily hire someone to clear their walks. Surely there are service groups in town who would volunteer to aid those in need."

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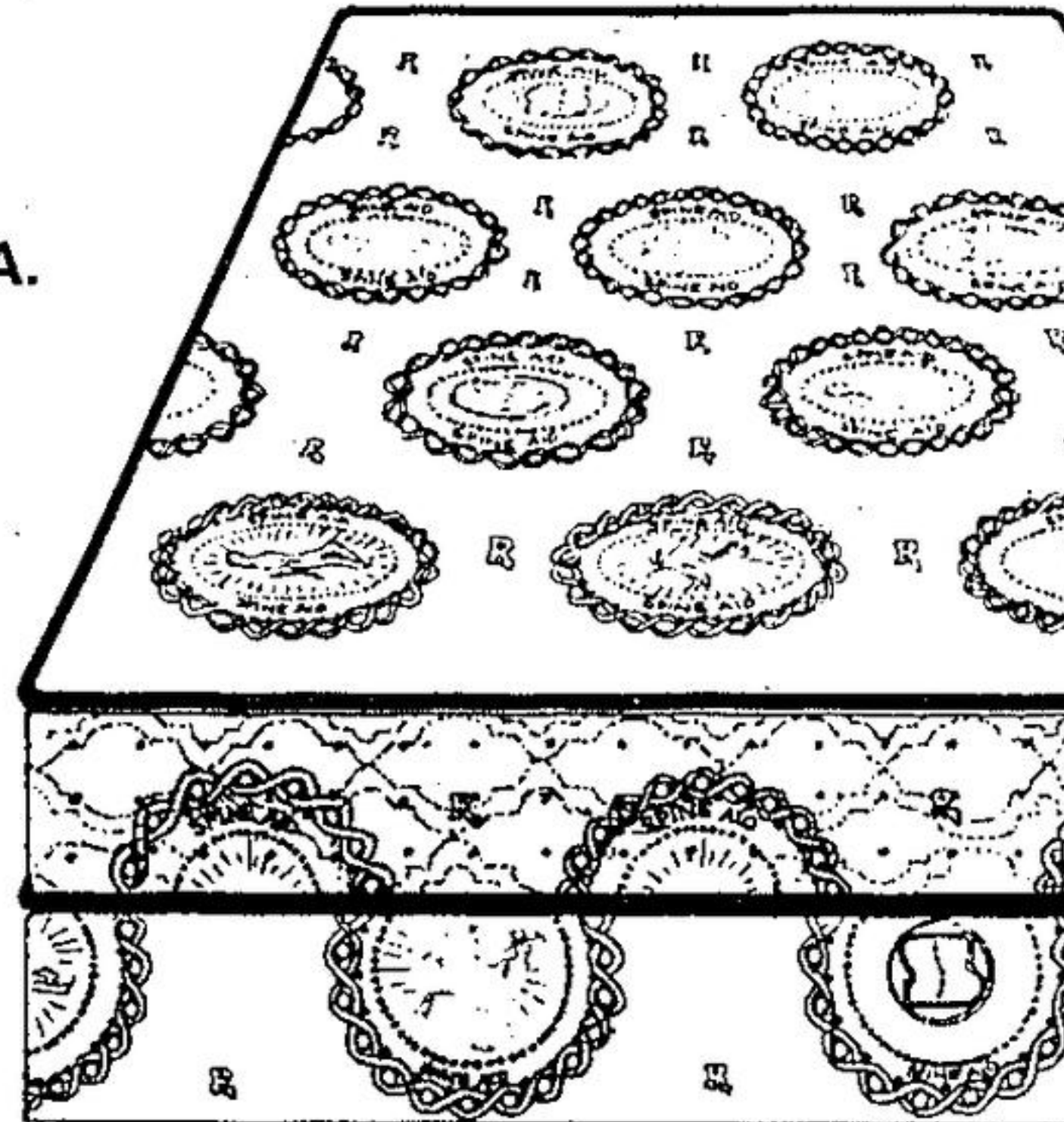
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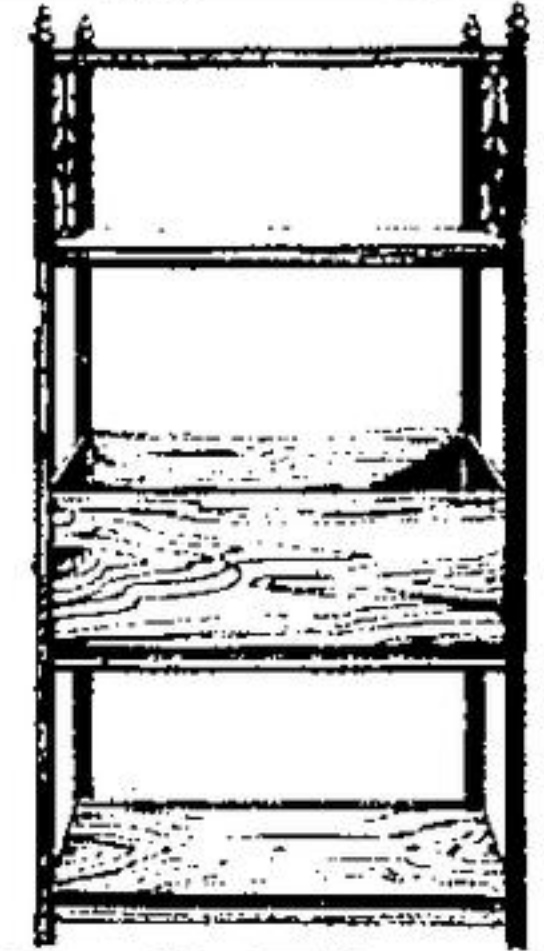
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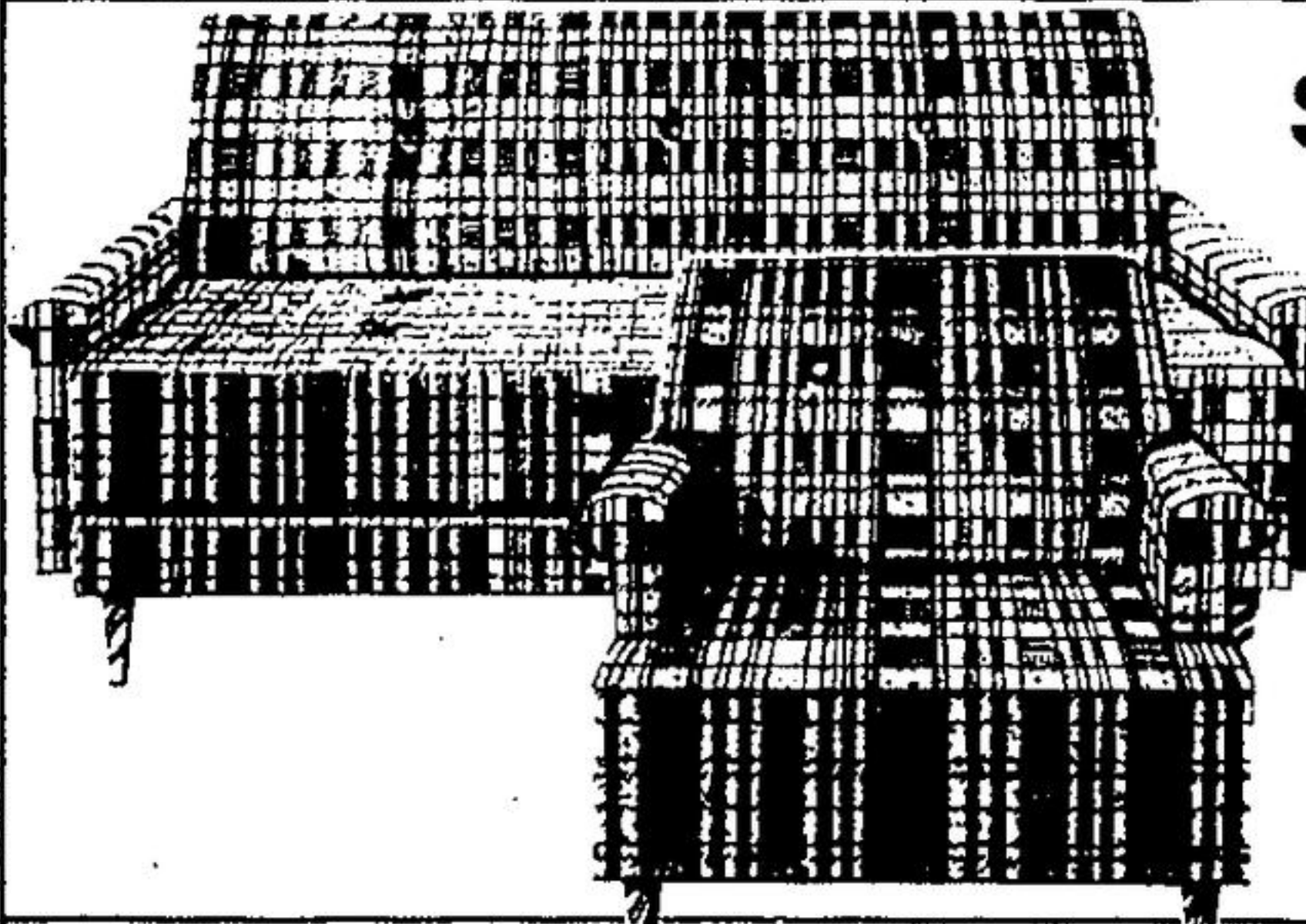
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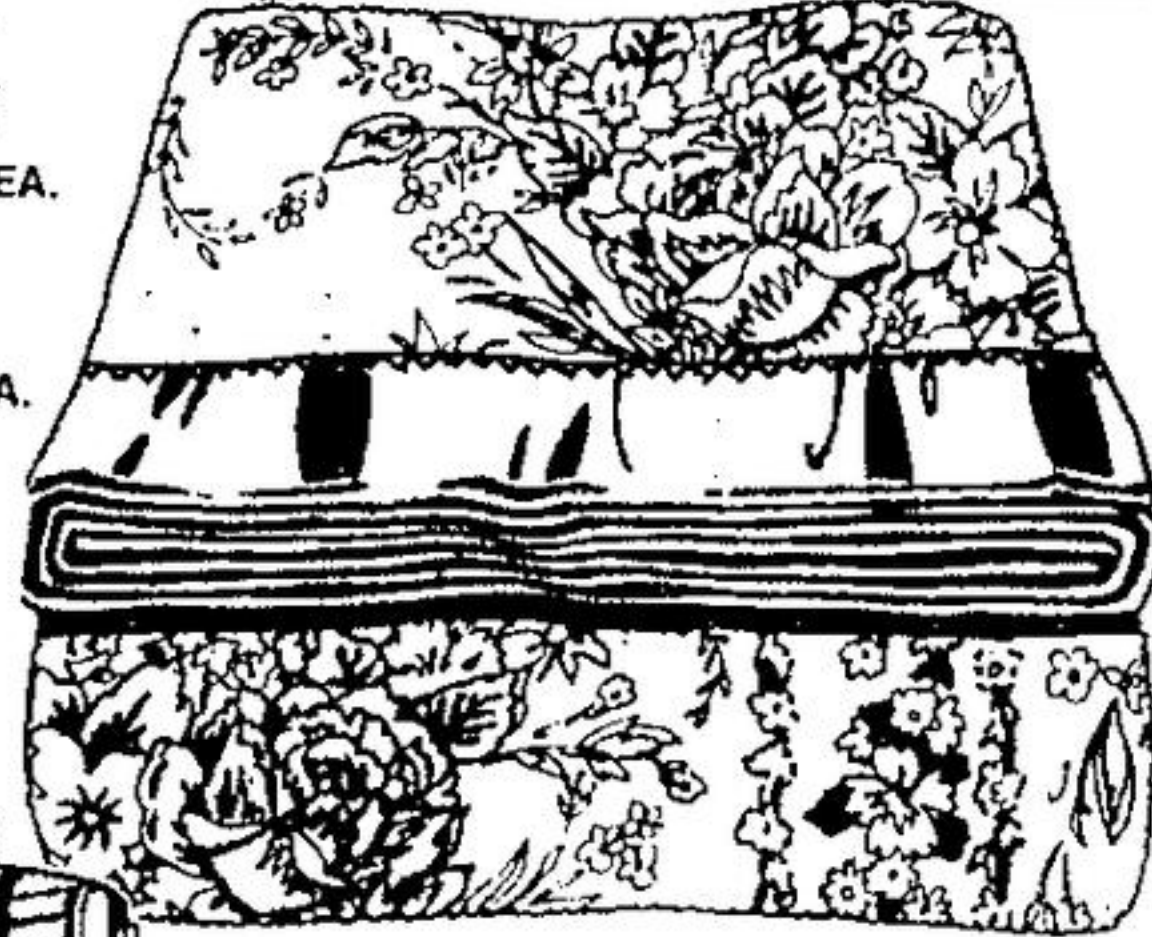
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## So what's the OMB?

By MAGGIE HANNAH Herald staff writer

The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), currently conducting hearings into the hydro corridor through Halton Hills, is just one of the government bodies which manages to have an effect of many plans and eventual decisions made by local municipalities.

The OMB has been involved in at least four Halton Hills decisions in 1978 and hearings are scheduled into half a dozen other matters in the next few months yet to many the workings of the board remains a mystery.

The OMB consists of a chairman and 27 members backed by a support staff of 67. The board has its own offices in Toronto and members are generally from the Toronto area. They serve on a full time basis and are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in council.

### GET ON LIST

Asked how a person would go about getting on a list for appointment OMB secretary Ken Andrews said, "I assume it would be like any other political appointment. Anyone interested lets the government know he would like the job. Or perhaps they apply like you do for a local board."

For administrative purposes the OMB operates as a branch of the attorney general's office and gets its operating budget from that ministry. The chairman reports directly to the attorney general.

The board was created in 1932 when the Ontario Municipal Board Act was passed and it still retains most of the powers it was granted at that time. The OMB Act repeated but incorporated many of the provisions of the Railway and Municipal Board Act, the Municipal School Accounts Audit Act and the Bureau of Municipal Affairs Act.

The board acts as an independent administrative tribunal for the provincial government and is generally limited to dealing with applications and appeals made to the board under the provisions of certain statutes.

The board may have to grant final approval of a bylaw passed by municipal council in order to permit a change in land use. It may handle matters referred to it by the minister under the Planning Act such as an Official Plan amendment, plans of subdivision and appeals from committee of adjustment or Land Division Committee decisions. It is the final level of appeal on municipal assessments and certain applications involving creation, dissolving or alteration of municipal boundaries. In addition the board supervises some of a municipality's financial affairs because appeals for approval of capital expenditures and issuing of debentures must be made through the board.

### BOARD DECISION

If a board decision seems unsatisfactory it may be ap-

pealed by filing an appeal to the Lieutenant Governor with the clerk of the executive council within 28 days of the announcement of the decision.

All the members of the board never sit on any hearing. Usually a panel of two members hears a case, although it is not uncommon to have only one hearing officer. In very complex matters the board may be made up of any uneven number of members with one designated chairman.

As many as 10 or 12 hearings a day may be taking place in Ontario. The board sits during the full 12 months and hears more than 2,500 cases annually. Cases are always heard in the municipality where the matter arises and thus board members are often away from Toronto a week at a time hearing cases in one general area.

### NO POINT

"There's no point in them commuting from Toronto every day," Mr. Andrews said, "so they'll hear several cases in the same general area if one hearing is scheduled to last less than the week."

Cases are set down for hearing dates as the board receives them.

While decisions may be handed down orally immediately after the hearing is ended if it happens to be a fairly simple matter it is not uncommon either for it to take six to eight weeks before a written decision is handed down.

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