

YOUR MORNING SMILE

Senator Carter Glass once said of a colleague known for his loquaciousness: "When he gets started, his tongue is like a race horse; it runs fastest the less weight it carries."

the HERALD

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The big paper with the big circulation read first by everyone. Reaching more than 13,350 homes in Halton Hills

ICG still fighting

Cabinet rejects hydro corridor appeal



THREE CHEERS FOR WINTER

Not everyone in Halton Hills was upset with winter's heavy handed return to the weather scene last week. For nine year-old Martin LaBonte (left), brother Eric, 6, and their chum, Jeff Edward, 9, the snow's return couldn't be better. The kids decided to jump for joy off a handy snowdrift beside their Sacre Coeur School

last week to celebrate winter's return. For a look at the not so pleasant aspects of last week's weather, see page 15.

(Herald photo by Michael Hollett)

TORONTO - The Ontario Cabinet has rejected an appeal that would have stopped Ontario Hydro from constructing a 500-kv power transmission line through the town of Halton Hills.

On March 7, the Interested Citizen's Group (ICG) asked cabinet to reverse an OMB decision upholding the line.

Construction of the Bradley to Milton line is 90 per cent complete. Only 12 miles of the 108-mile line, which extends from the Bruce generating station to Milton, still remains to be constructed.

In making the announcement, Energy minister James Auld said it is the eighth time cabinet or one of its committees has considered aspects of the route in the past five years, and the fifth consideration at the urging of the ICG.

INCORRECT COMMENTS Mr. Auld also said the com-

ments by the ICG that approval given to Ontario Hydro to construct the line expires January 1, 1980 are incorrect.

"In fact, there is no time limit on the construction period," Mr. Auld said. "Similarly, there is no time limit on the exemption of the line from the Environmental Assessment Act, as some would have us believe."

The Bruce-Milton line was exempted from the act by an order-in-council October 14, 1976. Auld said the exemption is permanent and not related to any date of construction.

John Minns of the ICG said a number of avenues still remain open for the group and the town in response to the cabinet decision. The lawyers will be meeting today (Wednesday) and there is also a meeting with the Ombudsman's office today.

Mr. Minns said the ICG is

planning to appeal the order-in-council upholding the OMB decision to Premier Bill Davis. The town of Halton Hills may decide to appeal the OMB decision to the OMB, and ask the board to overturn its own decision in light of information on hydro cutbacks and load growth which didn't become known until after the hearing. The ICG, the town and the region of Halton, still have the option of taking the OMB decision before the courts, Mr. Minns said.

BEFORE COURTS

The petition by the ICG to Cabinet contained 28 points on which the group requested clarification, Mr. Minns said, but the order-in-council contains only the confirmation and doesn't answer any of the points.

"There is also the question of whether the OMB had the jurisdiction to hear the case in the first place, and that still remains unresolved," Mr. Minns said. "That will probably come before the courts in the future."

"The opportunity for the people to protect their rights is still there," he said. "The members of the ICG are disappointed but not discouraged. Somewhere there is democracy, and at some point the government has to be held accountable to the public."

Local MPP Julian Reed (Halton-Burlington) said the government used no "common sense" in making the decision, and accused it of "playing politics" with the lives of the citizens of this province."

He said Monday's decision by Ontario Hydro to delay completion of the Bruce generating Station by one year indicated the line was not as urgent as Ontario Hydro claimed. There is still time to conduct an environmental assessment of the effects of the line, he said.

Mr. Auld told members of the legislature delaying completion of the line was costing Ontario Hydro \$1.2 million a month.

Council wants Halton Hills nursing home

By PAUL DORSEY Herald staff writer

The town's general committee has endorsed recommendations submitted by the Halton District Health Council which would see long-term chronic home care introduced in Halton Hills and the eventual construction of a 75 to 100-bed nursing home.

Outlined Monday night by Health Council chairman Terry Baines of Georgetown, the recommendations will be presented to Halton regional council April 24 for a similar show of support and ultimately to the provincial ministry of health for approval and implementation.

Representing the results of a five-month, \$4,000 study undertaken for the Health Council by research co-ordinator Patricia McLean, the recommendations include:

— the expansion of Halton region's existing home care programme to offer long-term chronic health care in the home, "with special attention to the Halton Hills area";

IMMEDIATE START — the allocation to Halton Hills of the next ministry-approved expansion of Halton's chronic care and extended care beds;

— an immediate start on planning for the provision of 75 to 100 nursing home beds in Halton Hills, for completion in 1984;

He said the company had been told about some employees who have joined the union but all of these employees are still at work. All of those laid off were junior people, he said.

He acknowledged that the company would prefer not to be unionized and that management had made inquiries into the union membership of individuals at the plant. But he argued that the company was not aware that this was illegal in any way.

Mr. Phelps told the board that management would make no further inquiries about who has joined the union. "This is for the record," he said, "so the board will realize that the company has no intention of delaying the vote for union certification."

The bulk of general manager, Frank Geng's testimony revolved around the business reasons for the lay-off and the details of his discussions with his employees about the union and union membership.

Because publication of private business transactions could harm the company's competitive situation, the press was excluded from the hearing during Mr. Geng's business related testimony by agreement of all the concerned parties. General reasons, such as changes in prices of materials and market conditions were cited by Mr. Phelps as partial business explanations for the lay-offs. The press was also excluded during part of the cross-examination of Mr. Geng by Mr. J. McNamee representing the Brewery Workers for the same reason.

CONTINUED HIRING While the press was present,

— the hiring of a discharge planner to work at the Milton and Georgetown hospitals, making "the most efficient use of institutional and community resources";

— the development, expansion and co-ordination of local support services to enable the elderly to remain in their home communities.

Mr. Baines informed the committee that the study on long-term requirements for the elderly in Halton Hills represented half a year of interviews with local physicians, service co-ordinators and

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RESIDENTS REPORT STOLEN GUNS

Residents near Acton and Georgetown have reported having guns stolen in two separate incidents last week.

A homeowner in the Georgetown area reported that two guns had been stolen from his home. The guns were a Remington 35-calibre Marlyn rifle, lever action, and a 9mm - Germanluger, with a leather holster.

A second Halton Hills resident living outside Acton reported the theft of a gun following a break-in at his home in which the burglars gained access by removing an entire front window from its frame. The burglars ransacked the home, and a shotgun was taken.

The shotgun was described as being manufactured by the Browning Arms Company of St. Louis, Mo., and Montreal, P.Q. The gun was made in Belgium, and bears the serial number J83627. The stock on the gun is broken, and wrapped with black tape.



WEDNESDAY ACCIDENT

The storm Wednesday caught many motorists unprepared as it whipped in from nowhere in the middle of the afternoon. By the time rush hour traffic reached the roads, scenes like the one above were all too numerous. There were no injuries reported in this accident, which took place about 4:30

Wednesday afternoon on the 5th Line south of Georgetown. Friday's storm brought such poor visibility with the high winds causing drifting snow, that schools and many businesses were closed.

(Herald photo by Rob Irvine)

This Week

Latest play



Herald staff previewed Veronica's Room this week, a play by Ira Levine which is being presented by the Georgetown Little Theatre at the end of this month. Directed by Neville Worsnop, the play marks a return to the Little Theatre stage for 16-year-old Melissa Bell, who was featured in last fall's The Rape of the Belt.

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New candidate

The federal election campaign in Brampton-Georgetown has a new face. Herald editor Michael Hollett talks with Communist Party candidate Jim Bridgewood, who has replaced Gord Massie as banner-carrier now that Mr. Massie has moved to Saskatchewan.

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Aging seminar

Halton Hills' senior citizens need challenges that will keep them directly involved in life's activities, both social and otherwise, according to a Niagara Region officials who addressed the University's Women's Club last week.

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Superior Glove manager says lay-offs are not union related

By ALICE KLEIN

The livelihood of 14 former employees of Superior Glove Works Ltd. of Acton and the future of the union organizing campaign currently taking place at that plant are the stakes in what is shaping up to be a prolonged battle before the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

OLRB hearings began in Toronto last Monday to hear a complaint filed by the Canadian Union of United Brewery, Flour, Cereal, Soft Drink and Distillery Workers against Superior Glove Works under Section 79 of the Labour Relations Act on behalf of the 14 laid-off employees.

The union charges that the

workers were discharged because they were members of a trade union and that the lay-offs took place "in an attempt to chill" the union's organizing campaign. The complaint also states that the "company has displayed a solidly anti-union bias" and the union is seeking reinstatement of those laid-off with full compensation.

UNION CHARGES "The company claims that the lay-offs were based purely on business reasons and had nothing to do with union activity.

According to co-owner and general manager of Superior Glove, Frank Geng this series of lay-offs was the most serious lay-off of in-plant employees since 1974-75.

Thirteen of those laid-off are women. According to Superior Glove employee Inge Niestroy who is representing the discharged employees at the hearing, "the majority of these women are working mothers who need the income to keep their homes going, as most people do these days. Their chances of finding other jobs in Acton are small," she said.

"This plant is the largest employer of women in town." There are approximately 80 workers presently employed in the plant as well as others who do piece work for Superior Glove in their homes.

The hearing before the Labour Relations Board chaired by Mr. A. Haladner, began last

week but primarily because of weather conditions the hearing went only one and a half days instead of the planned three days. It will reconvene when a new date is agreed on by both parties in the dispute.

So far, Superior Glove's lawyer William Phelps has introduced the company's case and called one witness, Frank Geng.

In his introduction, Mr. Phelps said the lay-offs were planned before company management was aware of the union organizing drive and none of those laid off were known by management to be members of the union.

He said the company had been told about some employees who have joined the union but all of these employees are still at work. All of those laid off were junior people, he said.

He acknowledged that the company would prefer not to be unionized and that management had made inquiries into the union membership of individuals at the plant. But he argued that the company was not aware that this was illegal in any way.

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Glen Taxi considers buses for handicapped

By MAGGIE HANNAH Herald staff writer

Georgetown has been offered curb to curb physically disabled residents if council and the public are willing to support it.

Dennis Devine, co-owner of Glen Taxi Ltd., announced this week that he is willing to operate a vehicle Monday to Friday from 9 am to 2 pm at the need of disabled residents provided he has sufficient backing to enable him to make use of a provincial grant which will be available by July.

The province is offering a subsidy to municipalities of 50 per cent of the capital and operating costs of such a service and leaving it up to the municipality to work out details of who will operate the service and how the other 50 per cent will be funded.

HELPING HANDS Barb Stephens, Helping Hands co-ordinator for Halton Hills and Milton, said that while the municipality must apply for the sub-sidy and police the service, there is no stipulation that the municipality must fund the operation or operate the vehicle itself. It is only responsible for seeing that the service meets provincial standards.

The service could be run by a bus company or a taxi company just as well as the municipality and the additional funds could come from service clubs, businesses or industries or even private citizens as well as from municipal funds.

"Although transportation is not a function of Helping Hands, it is part of the problems prioritized by various concerned committees and this subsidy is available to people who come in our area of concern," Mrs. Stephens said. "That's why I've been talking to people about it. We need a van. We are especially looking for a car dealership, local community groups, service clubs, local industries or concerned citizens to help us out. The van could be donated as a tax write off.

The 1979 policy summary on transportation for the physically disabled states this service should be available to "those individuals who, regardless of age, are unable to board regular transit facilities" and "eligibility must be determined and enforced by the municipality...through professional verification of a person's inability to board regular transit facilities."

Mrs. Stephens has asked

Georgetown Hospital chief of staff, Dr. C.A. Thompson for a list of illnesses which he feels put people in the category of physically disabled.

RETIRED ADULTS

"We felt that many of our retired adults suffer from partially disabling illnesses which makes it very difficult for them to leave their abodes unaided but one doesn't usually label them as physically disabled as quickly as someone who is paraplegic or confined to a wheelchair," she said.

The ministry sets a fare of 50c for a one way trip which would be much less than what Mr. Devine is allowed to charge at this time.

"Under a bylaw I can't give the disabled a discount of more than 10 per cent," Mr. Devine said. "However, Grant Usher (Halton Hills deputy-treasurer) says there shouldn't be any problem amending the existing bylaws to include the service."

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