

Surrender to Hydro needs re-thinking

It is with mixed feelings we read of town council's apparent readiness to pull out of the hydro corridor battle and to let the crown corporation build its towers on Halton Hills farmland.

Depending on the outcome of a solicitor's report requested last week by Mayor Pete Pomeroy, bylaws could soon come before council that would alter existing land use regulations so that the 500,000-volt transmission line can bisect the town's Fifth Concession.

On one hand, surrender on the town's part, and the general "declaration of peace" which would accompany the signing of treaties with Hydro, appears to be the only option remaining. Legislative bodies far greater in jurisdiction and power than any municipal council have decided that the corridor must go through.

Tens of thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money have been spent shoring up the town's front lines in the four-year long series of battles and skirmishes that have produced no victories for Halton Hills, either moral or legal.

The best laid plans of the town, Halton region and the Interested Citizens Group (ICG) have failed to draw any widespread attention to the many inequities of Ontario Hydro's planning procedures, construction program and expropriation schemes.

Yet, on the other hand, our gut-level response to Hydro's abusive politics and de-personalizing bureaucracy has not changed one iota since the day the Herald first began covering those small, community hall meetings of confused, worried and angry farmers and other landowners who had just heard of Hydro's high-voltage plans for their homes and properties.

The Herald has gone on record several times in the past supporting the cause of the ICG and the many landowners it represents between here and Bruce County. We have echoed its contention that landowners along the corridor's 100-mile path were cheated by big-government deal-makers and we have defended its efforts as being more than just a small-scale attempt to have the line built "on someone else's farm".

We will continue to do so, but to what end?

The other night, after hearing of the town's proposal to concede defeat to Hydro, one ICG member pointed out that, having failed to meet all other objectives, the citizens - "The People", no less - have managed at least to underline certain glaring faults in Hydro's planning process.

While it is perhaps felt only by Hydro itself and certain officials at Queen's Park, pressure has been exerted during six long, costly years that should prevent the utility from ever trying to railroad a major transmission corridor through any part of Ontario again. Hydro tried it here and ran into so much strenuous opposition from sophisticated legal experts and uneducated farmers alike that it has taken half a decade to win some initial co-operation from the town involved.

Indeed, by the time the Ontario Municipal Board backed the corridor proposal this year, Hydro's building program, nuclear safety commitments and plans to export power to the U.S. were under attack on a host of other fronts outside Halton Hills.

Whether the ICG's continuing opposition to the corridor will produce any more appreciable results in the future is a matter that must be clouded with doubt even in the minds of the group's most determined leaders. Yet they should not back down, regardless of town council's decision.

Popular support among Halton Hills' urban residents would do much for the ICG's cause, but few from Acton and Georgetown seem to recognize the scale of the battle and the implications of the corridor's completion.

Ultimately, the corridor would affect us all. There are some major differences between this 500,000-volt megacorridor and those smaller scale hydro lines we see every day criss-crossing the country. And unfortunately, there is much potential for harm both to physical health and economic livelihood, while the spirit of some of our rural neighbors appears to have already been injured.

If the corridor is completed, and if even the most modest of the ICG's dire warnings are proven accurate, we fear there may be personal tragedies which The Herald must report, reluctantly, regrettably and knowingly.

Population boom changing character of rural areas



Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of the Herald
TORONTO - Just a few years ago, rural areas of the province made a dramatic turnaround and began showing population growth rather than decline for the first time in decades.

But what the statistics didn't reveal is that the nature of rural Ontario is changing as a result.

Farmers are becoming strangers on their own lands.

More and more people, taking advantage of lower rural costs and our superb highway network, work in the city and live in the country.

Unfortunately, a number have taken their townhouse mentality with them.

One MPP summed it up this way during debate on a resolution he fathered

"Too many of them have their heads filled with romantic visions of work-worn farmer trading behind his horse-drawn plough."

For that reason MPP Ron McNeil (PC Elgin) had introduced his resolution.

It said bluntly that anyone buying a rural lot shall "be deemed to be aware of the farming practices of that area and no government organization should give effect to a complaint filed by such a person concerning these farming practices."

In other words, manure smells at planting time, or noisy tractors during harvesting, are not legitimate grounds for complaint.

"That's the difference between the real agricultural world and the pastoral dream that some people seem to have," McNeil said.

Ontario Federation of Agriculture President Peter Hannam gave an even more dramatic example during the federation's annual policy presentation to the provincial cabinet.

"We find ourselves fighting in 1979 for the right of one of our members to build a barn in a farming area that is zoned for agriculture," he said.

Indeed this is the result of the population boom in rural areas. Non-farmers by their numbers eventually

dominate rural councils and impose bylaws that hurt farmers.

"There seems to be a growing number of people who expect to live in a park," Hannam said.

Their apparent aim is to sterilize the land for farm use, removing what they consider obnoxious smells, noises, slow tractors blocking roads, and so on.

The question is what can be done to help the farmer resist these kinds of social pressures.

The existing code of practice for rural areas, which some townships use as a planning guideline, tends to be more restrictive of farmers than non-farmers.

It also doesn't help solve existing land use conflicts.

And although McNeil's resolution was endorsed by the legislature, it was basically an expression of concern rather than law.

Perhaps the solution is for the government to change the code of practice, or even bring in legislation.

If they don't should come down hard on the side of the farmer, for what we essentially have now are people complaining about the bottom line industry of Ontario - food production - because it inconveniences them.

That's hardly a good enough reason.

Clark's unity overstatement impressed some Quebecois



Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of the Herald
Since Prime Minister Joe Clark was so roundly lambasted for suggesting Quebecers did not have a right to decide their future, it's surprising that his more recent conciliatory remarks have not attracted more attention.

But then we are no longer in an election campaign.

His pre-election comment that the people of Quebec could not vote themselves out of Confederation prompted cries of outrage from Clark's political opponents, and it became a central theme of the Liberal platform as that party tried to portray itself as the exclusive vehicle for national unity. The argument was that Clark's obvious inflexibility in denying Quebec's right to self-determination would be disastrous for the nation. It would, Liberal Leader Pierre Trudeau argued, merely strengthen the resolve of Quebecers to loosen their constitutional ties with the rest of Canada.

So far, at least, it's not working that way. Clark may have overstated things a bit when he claimed credit for breathing new life into federalism, but he has clearly impressed many Quebec editorial writers with his unexpected flexibility toward the provinces. There hasn't been a decent Ottawa-Quebec spat since the youthful prime minister assumed office.

NO FANFARE
And, with surprisingly little fanfare,

he has adopted a highly conciliatory approach to the delicate subject of Quebec's constitutional future. Considering the apparent headway being forged by Quebec Liberal Claude Ryan, the undisputed leader of the federalist cause in the province, Clark's approach might well be the most constructive one he could follow.

"Each day (Quebec Premier Rene) Levesque invites me to make specific propositions because he wants to attack me," the prime minister has said. "I do not want to give him the target he seeks. I also need time to make sure that our propositions are acceptable to the rest of the country as well as Quebec."

Meanwhile, the prime minister has quietly removed some of the aggravations that Levesque has been able to attack in the past, including that suggestion that Quebecers could not decide their own future. What he meant, explains Clark, is that there is no provision in the British North America Act for a province to secede. But for practical purposes, he said it would be "unthinkable" for the rest of Canada to force Quebec to remain within the federation.

He also cleared up earlier suggestions from some of his ministers that a Conservative government would not negotiate sovereignty-association with any Quebec government which received such a mandate from the people. Obviously, a federal government would have to negotiate with a provincial government, he said.

MAKES FRIENDS
The prime minister, who needs all the electoral help he can get in Quebec, has won some new friends there for other reasons, one of which was to allow the use of French in air traffic control. The federal government's decision to give provinces control over off-shore mineral rights, along with the election pledge to turn Loto Canada over to the provinces, was also welcomed.

But what seemed to please Quebec's editorial writers most of all was Clark's decision not to establish machinery for a federal referendum on national unity. Trudeau had planned to have the machinery in place "to contradict or double-check an erroneous or undemocratic Quebec referendum." Some Quebecers viewed it as a rather threatening posture.

Just a few months ago these same people were suggesting that Clark's alleged intransigence was a threat to the federal system.



Halton's History

From our files

SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS
THIRTY YEARS AGO—It's the first time anyone in Georgetown has ever been "in the money" through an Irish sweepstakes ticket. The lucky person was Mrs. Thomas Sykes, of Church Street. Her ticket drew a consolation prize of 50 pounds, or about \$150, when the Hospital Sweepstake was held in Ireland a couple of weeks ago.

Council approved a request by police Monday night for the placement of a stop sign at the corner of Main and Mill Streets.

The Right Rev. Willard Brewing, Moderator of the United Church of Canada, and minister of St. George's United Church in Toronto, was the guest speaker at the 110th anniversary of the Georgetown United Church Sunday.

Members of the Presbyterian congregations of Union and Norval will attend a social service in Norval this Sunday afternoon when the speaker will be Rev. Russell Self of Toronto, brother of the minister, Rev. J. L. Self. It will be Mr. Self's last sermon in Canada, as he sails from Montreal aboard a freighter next Friday bound for India. His destination is Jauni, in the central India mission field, where he is posted for seven years.

DELINQUENT MOURNS
TWENTY YEARS AGO—Suggesting Dieppe Memorial as the name for the cenotaph location, Rev. Kenneth Richardson, speaking at Sunday's remembrance day service, said he would like to see soil from battlefields where Canadians fought incorporated at the cenotaph base and water from the high seas sprinkled in remembrance of local sailors who gave their lives in the cause of freedom.

Rumors tagging Georgetown with the one of the highest delinquency rates in the province were dissolved last Tuesday with Harry Greenwood's disclosure that only 12 in Georgetown, adults and juveniles, are on probation. Mr. Greenwood is the probation officer for Halton County.

Public school board chairman for many years until his retirement from office last term, R.C. Salter has been appointed to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of board member Herb Arnold. The appointment was made last Thursday night when the board met at Harrison Public School.

Light bulbs being used to protect two large treatment tanks in the uncompleted wing at the Alliance from freezing overshoot their purpose Monday and ignited a heavy thickness of insulation. The tanks were stripped of their paper and felt wrappers within a few minutes and a section of concrete pouring wall was charred in the blaze.

A dump fire Sunday morning caused some of the firemen to miss the Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph. The fire, which had been smouldering on the property of Garnet Building Products near the CNR trestle broke out when fanned by a heavy breeze. However, no damage resulted. The firemen emptied one tank on the blaze and after sufficiently dousing it, returned to the station.

HOME BURNS
TEN YEARS AGO—Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital reached a milestone Friday morning when they processed their 10,000th in-patient record. The hospital opened in June of 1961.

An empty house on the McGibbon property near Stewarttown burned to the ground during the small hours of Saturday morning after firemen answered their fourth Halloween night alarm. The house had been empty for years and had fallen into ruin. Firefighters had concentrated on protecting a barn nearby. A clue to the fire's origin was found near the house by Deputy-Chief Erwin Lewis. The department would not elaborate for fear of hampering their investigation.

A 50 per cent cut in school board trustees fees, from \$3,000 per year to \$1,500 and the elimination of a mileage allowance was one of the first recommendations unanimously endorsed by Esquering council Monday night. The next hard-hitting clause called for a reduction of 25 per cent in the salaries of all employees of the Halton County School Board receiving over \$10,000 a year and a 15 per cent reduction for those receiving between \$12,000 and \$18,000.

Philip Sykes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sykes, is in a musical play with famous screen and stage star Dorothy Lamour. He is one of the student cast members of Hello Dolly, the Broadway musical being produced at Licks College in Rexburg, Idaho. Dorothy Lamour of Hollywood is playing the fabulous Dolly, but all other cast members are Ricks' students.

A switch in locale will see the Little Theatre's first production of the season, at Wrigglesworth auditorium, on November 6, 7 and 8. The Rattle of a Simple Man will be switched to Wrigglesworth School, due to the renovations at the High School.

SCHOOL DEMOLITION
ONE YEAR AGO—Halton Regional council has given initial readings to a bill that would ultimately see \$3,700,000 spent on establishing and building its case for the establishment of a major landfill site in rural Milton. Anticipating strong opposition from Milton town council and the Tremaine Britannia Citizens' Group, when the matter comes before the Ontario Municipal Board, regional council Wednesday endorsed a recommendation by its solicitor, Dennis Perlin, to have further comprehensive studies of the site conducted.

The provincial government has appointed a county court judge from Hamilton-Wentworth to the Halton Regional Police Commission for an unspecified term of office. The appointment of Judge Joseph Seime, 45, is effective immediately, a spokesman for the Solicitor-General's office said.

Town council Monday night authorized municipal staff to proceed with the awarding of a contract for the demolition of the former Norval Public School. The only cost to the town will be for the cleaning up of the site, which is not to exceed \$500.

A 53-home subdivision proposed for construction east of Acton at the former site of the Toronto International Dragway could be in financial trouble as a result of town council's refusal Monday night to grant the developer a special concession in its subdivision agreement.

I shall wear a poppy on Remembrance Day. I have brought you up to believe that nothing positive can be achieved through violence; that war is the most violent of human activities and the most wasteful. War is destructive of human life, our most precious commodity. I have taught you that the evil consequence of war does not distinguish between right and wrong, that the innocent suffer along with the guilty. It is the lesson of history that through war, whole nations are weakened by the loss of their finest people, the young, the resourceful, the brave. The old cynicism that nobody wins a war has been borne out in many tragedies of our times.

I shall wear a poppy. Since I have known what that great cruel destructive force that we call war can be like, because I am afraid that I might forget and let it happen again, I must not forget, I must always remember.

I shall wear a poppy. Because a little poppy will do more than help me to remember, it will raise money to counteract some of the evil that men do. It will help to heal the sick, train the handicapped, give hope to the disadvantaged. That alone is a good reason for doing something - remember that.

I shall wear a poppy. Because you are my children, because I love you, I shall wear my poppy. I will remember. David Thomas

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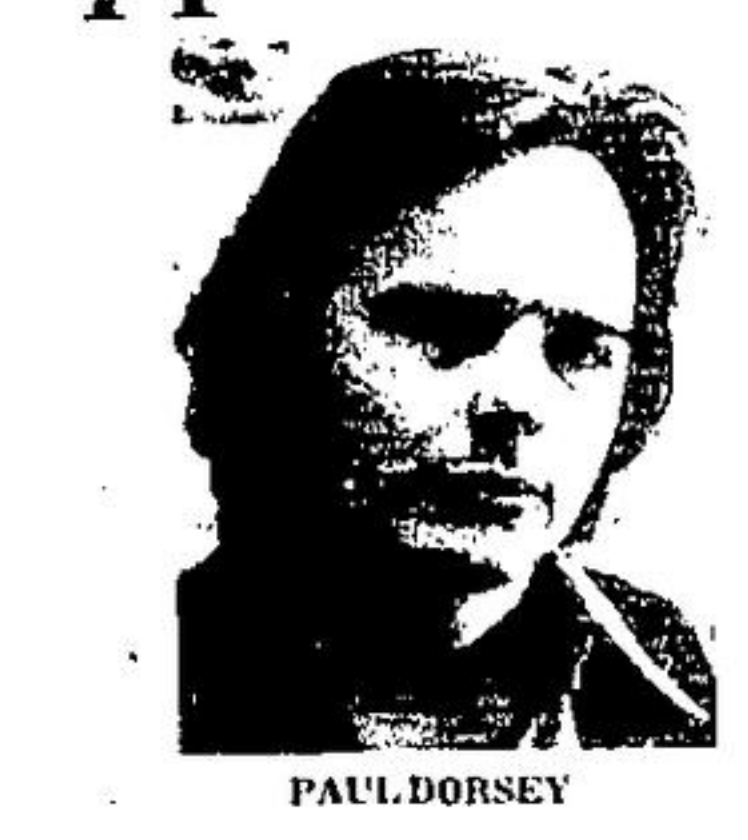
ANNOUNCEMENT

New editor appointed

Herald publisher William Evdokimoff is pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Dorsey, a life-long Georgetown resident and senior reporter for the Herald for the past 16 months, as Editor of this newspaper.

Prior to signing on with The Herald in July, 1978, Mr. Dorsey was a reporter for the Guelph Daily Mercury for three years.

Mr. Dorsey replaces departing editor Michael Hallett, who recently accepted a communications position with the Workman's Compensation Board in Toronto.



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