



'MAPLE' LEAF? (Herald photo)

It was his first time on skates for Michael deRyck, but with Mom Truly along, it's not too hard to stay standing. Michael and his mother took part in the skating party at Gordon Alcott Arena last week for children from Maple Nursery School. The school will be offering new programs this fall for three days a week. Anyone interested in inquiring about the programs can contact the registrar at 877-7201.

Town asks NEC to delete pits

Herald Special
With its draft plan in the final stages of preparation, the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) will be asked to delete all wayside gravel pits from its Halton Hills list of permitted land uses.

Town council forwarded the request to the NEC Monday in accordance with a recommendation by the planning board, made the week previous.

"It would not be in the public interest to allow the mining of areas... meant to be protected," the board stated in a resolution.

It also recommended that asphalt plants not be included as an accessory use in the protection area because the "plants are obnoxious and create pollution problems, and affect the environment and wildlife habitats."

The resolution points out that such plants are not a permitted use in Halton Hills zoning and municipal bylaws. Members also recommended that accessory use provision be reviewed to determine whether other obnoxious uses such as concrete batching plants may be permitted.

The board recommends that an annual tonnage limit be imposed on wayside pits given new licences in the escarpment protection and escarpment rural areas under the Pits and Quarries Control Act, and the ministry of transportation and communications wayside pit criteria.

The board suggests that area municipalities such as Halton Hills be given authority to issue permits in escarpment rural areas rather than giving this authority only to counties, regions or cities.

Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson, chairman of the committee which studied the NEC plan, said members feel that since it is rural land that was in question it should be dealt with by a local council rather than by the region although members don't want the land in the town's official plan.

The board vetoed the suggestion that the Niagara Escarpment Planning and

Development Act be amended to provide for appeals on development permits to be dealt with by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and that the OMB be restructured to provide a special section to deal with such appeals.

Reed condemns Hydro power export boasts

By STEPHEN FROST
Herald Staff Writer
Halton-Hurlington MPP Julian Reed, energy critic for the Ontario Liberal party, has condemned recent boasts from Ontario Hydro indicating that the utility earned \$155 million during 1979 through the sale of surplus power to the U.S.

In a statement to The Herald last week, Mr. Reed contended that the earnings do not justify Hydro's over-estimation of provincial power requirements nor any further expansion in the existing power system.

Hydro announced its 1979 export earnings in a recent press release which credited the sale to its 20 per cent surplus above and beyond a 25 per cent reserve intended to meet Ontario's anticipated peak demands.

Hydro claims its surplus is due to the fact that "generating stations take ten to 14 years to be approved, designed and built. Utilities have to forecast electrical needs far into the future and, of course, this forecast is subject to error."

Mr. Reed said he doesn't argue with Hydro's claims of forecasting error but says that the utility has made five reductions in forecast rates for electric usage in the province in the last four years. In spite of this, Mr. Reed claims, Hydro has awarded contracts worth about \$300 million for the Darlington power station that he feels is totally unnecessary.

SURPLUS NOW
Mr. Reed pointed out that the Americans may need our surplus power now, but are planning to build their own power producing plants in the future.

"Right now, Hydro is running around like fleas in fits trying to find buyers for a 4,000 megawatt surplus," he said.

John Minns of the Interested Citizens Group (ICG) noted

that nowhere in the Hydro report is the word profit mentioned.

"Ontario Hydro may claim that their selling of surplus power to the states reduced the average hydro bill to the consumer by seven per cent but they ignore the fact that the cost of electricity has risen 150 per cent since 1977," he said.

The "tremendous increase

in electricity costs is a direct result of Hydro overbuilding in the last four years," Mr. Minns said, adding that Hydro buys U.S. coal at premium prices and sells power back to the Americans at "marginal" prices.

Mr. Minns claims Canadians produce the power for the U.S. by burning their coal and thus get all the attendant environ-

mental damage such as pollution and acid rain.

EXPORT ROLE
When asked about the Bruce to Milton Hydro corridor and its role in exporting power to the U.S., Mr. Reed said that although Hydro doesn't admit it, the corridor looks like a natural link up for a proposed underwater cable across Lake Erie.

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