

Milton 'secession' proceeding

New grant eliminates mill rate hike



(Photo by Jeff Lorrman)

THE CHARM OF DICKENS' ENGLAND

Students at George Kennedy Public School presented the musical, "Oliver!" Wednesday and Thursday to delighted audiences. School staff and parents assisted the students in

presenting a polished version of the well-known Dickens' story of the orphaned Oliver Twist. The starring roles were filled by different students each night. Story inside.

GEORGETOWN WOMAN CHARGED AFTER \$43,000 DISAPPEARS

A Georgetown woman faces criminal charges involving the theft and misappropriation of more than \$43,000 belonging to the Georgetown Figure Skating Club and Protemp Finishing Systems Ltd.

Eugina Petrelli, a 29-year old mother of three, was charged April 18 by Halton regional police with two counts of theft over \$200 and two counts of fraud.

Currently free on \$5,000 bail, Mrs. Petrelli is due to appear in Milton provincial court May 12 for the setting of a trial date.

The charges stem from an eight-month long investigation at Protemp's Georgetown plant between March and November, 1979, during which time Mrs. Petrelli was employed as the company's treasurer. She was initially arrested February 6.

An additional arrest came earlier this month following five weeks' further investigation by police concerning missing Figure Skating Club funds. Mrs. Petrelli served as club treasurer over the past two years.

Club president Carol Lamb declined to comment on the matter.

Corridor battle ends; NEB rejects ICG plea

The Bruce-to-Milton powerline being built by Ontario Hydro is not an international powerline, the National Energy Board has ruled.

The board was asked Dec. 18 to stop construction of the 500 KV powerline being built by Hydro between the Bruce nuclear generating station and the Milton transformer station.

The request was made by Reford Gardhouse and Walter Scott on behalf of the Interested Citizens Group, Halton Corridor Committee.

Energy Probe and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture supported the request.

The applicants contended

that the Hydro powerline is an international powerline under the definition given by the National Energy Board Act.

They also alleged that Ontario Hydro was in violation of the terms and conditions of its licence to export electrical energy. They maintained the violation was that Ontario Hydro is charging inadequate

prices for exported energy and exporting firm power as opposed to interruptible energy as authorized by the licence.

VIOLATED LICENCE

The board ruled in a decision released last Wednesday that an international powerline is "facilities constructed or operated for the purpose of transmitting power from or to a place in Canada to or from a place outside Canada."

The board concluded that the evidence and arguments do not show that the Bruce-to-Milton line falls within that definition.

NO JURISDICTION

"It therefore follows," said the board's decision, "that the National Energy Board does not possess any jurisdiction in respect to this powerline."

The board also ruled that there was no evidence or arguments to suggest that any term or condition of Hydro's licence has not been complied with or has been violated.

The Interested Citizens Group had also asked for a public hearing to determine whether the powerline is required by present and future public convenience and necessity and to assess the environmental impact of the powerline.

That request was also denied by the board on the grounds it has no jurisdiction over the Bruce-to-Milton line.

An National Energy Board spokesman said Wednesday that the decision can be appealed to the federal court of Canada.

The National Energy Board Act says appeals against NEB decisions can be based on two areas: jurisdiction or errors in law.

ICG terms decision 'just semantics'

Finally confronted by an apparent end to their seven-year battle against the Bruce to Milton hydro transmission corridor, members of the Interested Citizens Group (ICG) have termed last week's National Energy Board decision against them "bureaucratic semantics".

Acton area resident John Schneider, an ICG director, admitted last week that the NEB decision comes as no surprise to the group, but added that there may still be other avenues of opposition.

Mr. Schneider's comments were supported by fellow director Walter Scott, one of the landowners whose property is directly affected by the 500,000-volt corridor. Any further action against the line by the ICG, he said, will be largely a matter of available funds.

The ICG has spent a great

deal of money on the prolonged fight to get justification for the line already and Mr. Scott questions the value of spending more.

He was reluctant to disclose alternative strategy which the ICG may be contemplating.

Exporting power to the United States only increases Ontario's role as "drawers of water and hewers of wood" for our neighbors, he said, and this is a role we should rightfully be filling in the eyes of these neighbours apparently.

If Ontario Hydro really wanted the best deal it could get for power supplies to its customers it would be buying power from Quebec or Manitoba where power prices are lower rather than selling it to the U.S. to recoup expenses, he said.

Mr. Scott said he feels an

east-west power grid should be built from province to province to help tie the country together as the railway once did instead of letting each province build lines south to export surplus power to the U.S.

Mr. Schneider said that people don't feel the question of the government's right to impose things like power corridors on the people has been addressed nor that justice has been done.

"It should be interesting to see what will happen when the second line is brought out of Bruce," he said. "We (the ICG) and the group east of Toronto have done our best fighting for fair practices and the group around Wingham knows it and knows what the result has been. It should be a very interesting experience for Hydro when they try to get that second line out there."

By STEPHEN FROST
 Herald Staff Writer

A notice of motion will be presented to Milton town council May 5 asking Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed to introduce a private member's bill in the provincial legislature allowing Milton to secede from Halton region.

Even with additional provincial subsidies of \$133,196 applied to Milton's 1980 regional mill rate, there will be an increase of 24.6 per cent over last year's rate.

Halton Hills treasurer Ray King said that he expects this municipality's regional taxes to remain at the same level as last year's because of a \$148,450 grant also supplied by the province and announced this week. Last year's regional mill rate was 12.03 per cent.

"Our regional mill rate is up from 16.22 in 1979 to 20.21 in 1980," Milton director of finance Don Loughheed told The Herald. "That's an intolerable increase for one year."

Despite additional provincial subsidies from the province of \$790,000 easing the region's education bill of \$101.9 million, Milton taxpayers will suffer the most compared to other municipalities.

Milton's tax bill will rise \$55 this year on an average assessment of \$5,000 for an increase of 17 per cent over last year.

By contrast, Georgetown's residential tax increase for

education will be 8.5 per cent, while Oakville's and Burlington's will be 7.5 and three per cent, respectively.

Milton Coun. Bill Johnson said he feels that the town of Milton could operate quite efficiently on its own.

"We've gone through all the figures and we feel that Milton has a broad enough tax base that we could go it alone," Mr. Johnson told The Herald. "Besides, we've got the race track (Mohawk), and that generates a lot of revenue."

Vacationing regional chairman Jack Rafitis told the Toronto Star last week that regional government "gets emotional and strikes at the heart of local municipalities."

Mr. Rafitis said he feels that all areas in the region have better policing and better records under regional government. Areas paid for by regional taxes include health and social services, major works projects and the upkeep of regional roads.

Mr. Rafitis wondered how Milton is going to duplicate those services if it opts out of the region.

Mr. Loughheed told The Herald that representatives from Milton will be meeting Tom Wells, minister of inter-governmental affairs this week to discuss matters relating to the tax increases and what Miltonians feel are inequitable grants from the province.



HWP MOM'S DAY

Michelle Corney and Jan Kron, members of the Halton Hills chapter of Halton Women's Place organizing committee, show samples of the carnations which will be available in the area on May 8 and 10 for Mother's Day. The carnations will be sold by volunteers in banks, plazas and other prominent locations to raise money for the operating costs of the hostel for abused wives.

Chapel St. school proposal includes four housing lots

The latest revision to plans for reviving the old Chapel Street school building in Georgetown would see the historic landmark renovated to accommodate 22 one-bedroom apartments and the surrounding land developed for four single-family homes.

A public meeting of the town planning board will be convened to obtain public opinion regarding Chateau Belair Developments Ltd. Planning director Mario Venditti told the

board Monday night that the proposal, orienting the single-family lots toward Chapel Street and Dayfoot Drive, has merit.

"The proposal will preserve the former building and provides rental accommodation which the area needs," Mr. Venditti said. "It would also provide four single family lots and a half-acre park for the area's residents."

The land dedication for park purposes is in excess of the

required five per cent, but it was noted that the area set aside for the park has sanitary sewer and water pipes running under it and would be of little use for housing.

Town engineer Bob Austin recommended a major entrance to the development off Chapel Street and a ratio of 1.5 parking spaces per unit, for a total of 33.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy said that the developer doesn't know just how many units the building would contain.

"I don't think they can put 22 units in there," Mayor Pomeroy said. "What they want is

some idea of whether council wants to proceed with the development before spending money on site plans."

Mr. Venditti was asked when a public meeting could be arranged so that area residents can present their views.

"Generally, we like to give the public two week's notice," Mr. Venditti said. "If we can put it in this week's paper (today) then we could have a public meeting at the next planning board meeting May 13. If we have missed the advertisement deadline then we'd have to wait for another two weeks, 'til May 27."

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BIA core studies recommended

Town council will seek provincial government funding to launch separate studies of the downtown cores in Acton in Georgetown, thus "putting its house in order" in anticipation of Queen's Park amendments that would qualify Halton Hills for downtown revitalization grants.

Under present Ontario legislation, the town's general committee was reminded Monday night, neither central business core is eligible for the grants because the municipality of Halton Hills as a whole has a population in excess of 30,000, beyond ministry of housing guidelines for the grants.

Clerk-administrator Ken Richardson acknowledged that the province also offers financial assistance to municipalities with populations of 60,000 or less, but guidelines again fall short of matching Halton Hills' population, creating a funding gap between the two grant programs.

At Mr. Richardson's suggestion, the committee recommended to council that official plans of all areas involved, including that of Halton region, should be reviewed using a community study grant available from the ministry. If council accepts the committee's advice, town planning director Mario Venditti will discuss the scheme with representatives of the Acton and Georgetown Business Improvement Area boards of management.

"If we have a core study

done for the two business areas, we'll be ready to take advantage of ministry loans if the 30,000 population figure is amended in the future," Mr. Richardson said. "The core studies are financed by grants from the province, so they don't cost us anything."

DEATH PENALTY HAS 99% SUPPORT

Residents of Brampton-Georgetown riding who responded to a questionnaire on capital punishment circulated by MP John McDermid have almost unanimously endorsed some form of capital punishment.

Mr. McDermid announced this week that 99 per cent of those who returned his questionnaire forms support the reinstatement of the death penalty for some crimes.

While only one per cent of the unspecified number of respondents opposed capital

punishment, the MP reported, 66 per cent favor the return of the death penalty for all forms of pre-meditated murder. Another 32 per cent believe that hanging should be used again only for those convicted of specific crimes like hijacking, treason, terrorism, kidnapping involving murder and the murder of policemen and prison guards.

Mr. McDermid plans to outline his survey results for the House of Commons when the issue of capital punishment again arises.



PICKET LINE CONFRONTATION DRAWS POLICE TO SPEYSIDE

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