

Winter scene in the Credit River valley

(Herald photo)

Monday at the arts centre

Heritage Day is topic for Society meet

Fittingly enough, the Esqueping Historical Society, continuing to press for a nationally-declared "Heritage Day" holiday every Feb. 15, will hold its annual meeting on that date (next Monday) in a recently revamped local heritage building, the library-cultural centre at Market and Church Streets in Georgetown.

Although not an official holiday yet, Monday is "Heritage Day" in Canada and the society will view Guelph Uni-

versity's Rural Development Outreach Program slide show entitled "Rural Development: Bronte to Acton". The slides have been used by the region's agricultural advisory committee to underline Halton's farming heritage and the need to protect it from excessive urban development. Halton Hills chief librarian Betsy Cornwell is also expected to discuss the library's plans for an archives room at the Georgetown branch. The meeting begins at 8 p.m.

MPP's report from Queen's Park

By JULIAN REED, M.P.P.
Halton-Burlington

ACID RAIN
Early in the last decade Swedish scientists gave the first warnings about acid rain, which results when emissions of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen combine with rain-fall.

Today in Ontario, between 2,000 and 4,000 lakes (of 25-acre average size) may be acidified to the point where they can no longer support desirable fish species. Scientists estimate that if present trends continue some 48,000 susceptible lakes could become biologically sterile by the year 2000. While the United States produces more sulphur dioxide and nitrogen than Canada, the greater proportion of sulphur and nitrogen oxide deposits in each country result from domestic emissions.

Not only does acid rain threaten aquatic life, it also has detrimental effects on forests, soils and agriculture, as well as corroding buildings, etc. Most of northern Ontario is susceptible to the devastating impact of acid rain, and within twenty years this impact will severely damage tourism, forestry and agricultural operations, unless gas emissions in both the U.S. and Canada are reduced or controlled.

There have been some attempts to convince the public that the U.S. is the main culprit with respect to acid rain. This contention is certainly not supported by the long-awaited report of the federal sub-committee on Acid Rain - "Still Waters: The Chilling Reality of Acid Rain". This report, released last October, has the unanimous support of all nine-sub-committee members, representing the three major federal political parties. It makes some far-reaching recommendations, and provides a scathing attack on the



JULIAN REED

very cautious policies of the Ontario Government in its so-called "war on acid rain". While taking the U.S. to task, the sub-committee also focuses on action which should be taken by Canada.

The sub-committee recommends using all possible political, legal, administrative, and media channels to reduce acid rain from the U.S. It also makes specific recom-

mendations for domestic action, such as limits on emissions by companies, the improvement of emission standards, the study of effects of acid rain, more teeth in environmental legislation, an increase in public awareness, and incentives to persuade polluters to clean up their operations.

With respect to sources of sulphur dioxide in Canada, the report notes that while most emissions come from Ontario and Quebec, there are also considerable sources in other provinces. For example, Inco in Thompson, Manitoba, is responsible for close to half of the emissions of Inco in Sudbury, Ontario, and is third on the list of sulphur dioxide emitters in Canada. Suncor Incorporated (Oil Sands Division) of Fort McMurray, Alberta, is number nine on that same list at 93,000 tonnes per year of sulphur dioxide emissions. This situation lends an ironic note to the Ontario purchase of 25 per cent of that company's shares. Will the Ontario Government assume responsibility for

reducing the company's pollution emissions?

During the last session of the Ontario Legislature, opposition members charged the Environment Minister with being too soft on Inco's Sudbury operation. He replied that the accusations were unjustified. Nevertheless, according to the Still Waters Report, Sudbury is still the number one polluter with respect to sulphur dioxide in this country.

Ministry of Environment studies themselves show that heavy metal fallout within a 50-kilometre radius of the Inco superstack is among the "highest in the world". The government has, in fact,

mislead the people of Ontario with statements that most acid rain in Ontario is a result of U.S. emissions when, in fact, a 1979 Canada-U.S. report says that Ontario's contributions to the acid rain problem are significant not only to this province, but to Eastern Canada as a whole.

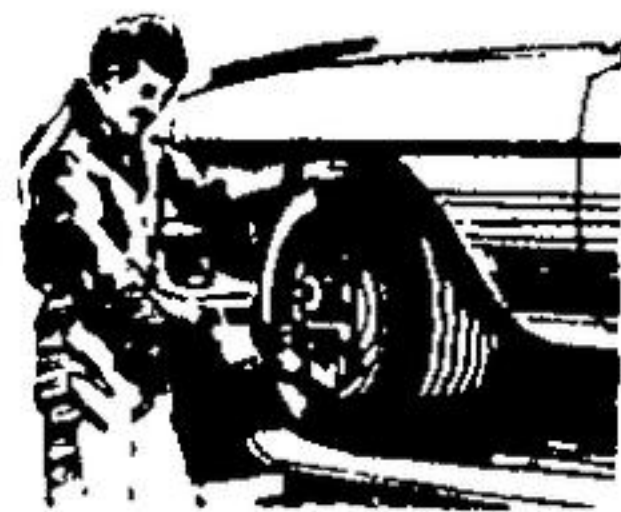
In late 1981, Ontario Hydro signed a letter of intent with General Public Utilities (GPU) to export 1000 megawatts of firm power to GPU in the U.S. via a submarine cable under Lake Erie. Hydro has admitted that 91.7 per cent of the power to be exported will come from coal-fired stations in the province. By 1990, the

sulphur dioxide emissions from Hydro plants required to meet the GPU contract will be some 77.9 per cent of the total sulphur dioxide emissions allowed under the Ministry of the Environment Acid Gas Control Order on Hydro. Research has estimated that approximately 500 Ontario lakes will become biologically sterile (dead) from the acid rain emissions resulting over the ten-year life of the contract (1985-1995). Ontario Hydro's cost for the submarine cable will be \$320 million (1981), whereas their total expenditures for their acid control program will only be \$225 million (1981) through to 1990.

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School board approves five new teacher transfers

Five appointments to schools in Halton Hills were approved Thursday by the Halton board of education.

Anne Geh was hired for Harrison and Speyside Public Schools; Judith Paterson and John Winter for McKenzie-Smith Middle School; Aline Tso for Stewarttown Senior Public School and W.I. Dick Middle School; and Phyllis Shaddock for Howard Wrigglesworth Public School.

The appointments became effective Jan. 4. Resignations were accepted from Paulette Lamondin of Stewarttown Senior Public School and from Marina Rammo of Centennial and Park Public Schools.

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