

# Halton Hills Hydro wins battle

By BEN DUMMETT  
The Herald

A five-year "power struggle" pitting Halton Hills Hydro Commission against Milton Hydro Commission and Ontario Hydro has come to an end with the local utility saving itself \$300,000, the Herald has learned.

Halton Hills Hydro Commission has arrived at a settlement between Milton Hydro and Ontario Hydro that will require the local commission to pay Milton Hydro \$150,000 instead of the \$450,000 Milton Hydro had originally requested Halton Hills Hydro pay.

The \$300,000 saving isn't only a saving to the utility, said Halton Hills Hydro General Manager Gerry Trudell Friday, it is also a

saving to the Town. If the \$300,000 had to be paid to Milton the cost to the utility would have been recovered through residents' hydro rates, said Mr. Trudell.

Ontario Hydro's Director of Central Region Gord Sanford, confirmed Monday the \$300,000 saving to Halton Hills Hydro. However he wouldn't reveal how much Ontario Hydro and Milton Hydro each paid to cover this amount.

Mr. Trudell said he wasn't concerned how much of the \$450,000 Milton and Ontario Hydro paid. "All I was concerned about is that we only had to pay \$150,000, because there was no way the commission was going to pay the total amount," said Mr. Trudell.

The General Manager called

the settlement "fair."

The controversy arose in 1986 when Milton started to charge Halton Hills Hydro for the use of Milton's transformer station and power lines to supply power to Dufferin Quarry which borders Halton Hills and Milton.

Mr. Trudell explained that Milton Hydro started to charge Halton Hills Hydro to use Milton's power facilities because of a change in Ontario's policy about supplying power.

In 1986 Ontario Hydro introduced a new policy permitting utilities to charge neighboring utilities that required their supply system to obtain power.

Halton Hills refused to pay this fee from the outset, said Mr. Trudell because the system located in Milton was the only available system from which to obtain power for Dufferin Quarry.

According to Mr. Trudell, Ontario Hydro is obligated to transport power to the borders over which a utility covers. That utility only pays for the power itself. The utility shouldn't have to pay for the cost to transport the power to the utility's border of coverage, he said.

It was Halton Hills Hydro's position that Ontario Hydro should pay Milton for the use of the power lines in that Township, said Mr. Trudell.

Mr. Trudell said the commission was willing to pay \$150,000 of the \$450,000 total because once Ontario Hydro delivered the power to the Halton Hills border, Halton Hills was still required to use Milton power lines to supply power to Dufferin Quarry. The cost over the past year totals about \$150,000, he said.

Asked why it took five years to arrive at a settlement, Mr. Trudell said it was Ontario Hydro's responsibility to answer that question.

Mr. Sanford said when Ontario Hydro Commissions were being set up during the 80's, not enough attention was given to the supply of power between utilities and which utility would be responsible for payment.

Mr. Sanford said Ontario Hydro doesn't expect similar problems to arise among other utilities.

## Surprising news from NEC hearing

By BEN DUMMETT  
The Herald

Even if a Niagara Escarpment Commission proposed amendment banning garbage dumps on the escarpment is approved, the amendment will have no bearing on whether or not the Acton dump proposal will get the go ahead.

NEC Senior Planner Marion Plaunt, confirmed this information Friday during a hearing on the NEC's Amendment 52 at the Halton Hills Civic Centre.

Amendment 52 calls for applicants wanting to establish a waste disposal facility on the escarpment to first obtain an amendment to the Niagara Escarpment Plan. Currently an amendment isn't always required.

Ms. Plaunt told the hearing if the Acton dump proposal receives approval under the province's Environmental Assessment Act, the Commission would not use the amendment if approved to prevent the dump from going ahead. The Acton dump is being proposed for the Acton quarry site south of Highway 25.

Amendment 52 wouldn't apply to the Acton dump proposal because the proposal had been made before a decision on the amendment had been handed down.

Under the Environmental

Assessment Act the proponents of the Acton Dump proposal, Reclamations Systems Incorporated, must show the dump is a utility. Under Amendment 52 landfill applicants must prove the landfill is a suitable utility for the escarpment area.

RSI lawyer Richard Hazard wanted the Commission's position more clearly stated in Amendment 52.

Ms. Plaunt told the hearing the amendment includes a clause that states those applicants who have already applied under the Environmental Assessment Act for landfill on the escarpment won't be bound by Amendment 52.

Landfill applications for the escarpment made once Amendment 52 is approved will be bound by the amendment and the Environmental Assessment Act, she added.

Mr. Hazard however wanted the RSI proposal to be specifically identified in the amendment as one that won't be bound by the amendment.

Ms. Plaunt said she didn't think the additional clause was necessary but would consider the request.

The hearing resumes May 15 at which time Ms. Plaunt will indicate if Mr. Hazard's request can be accommodated.

## Spring craft show

The Fifth Annual Spring Holiday Craft Show and Sale returns Sunday, May 5 at North Peel Secondary School on Williams Parkway at Bramalea Road in Brampton in time for Mother's Day gift-buying.

More than 60 local craftspeople and others offer shoppers top quality crafts at affordable prices at the juried show which features wearable art, country-look collectables and hundreds of crafts made in the old-fashioned way. The door opens at 10 a.m. Admission is \$2. There's no charge for children under 12.

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