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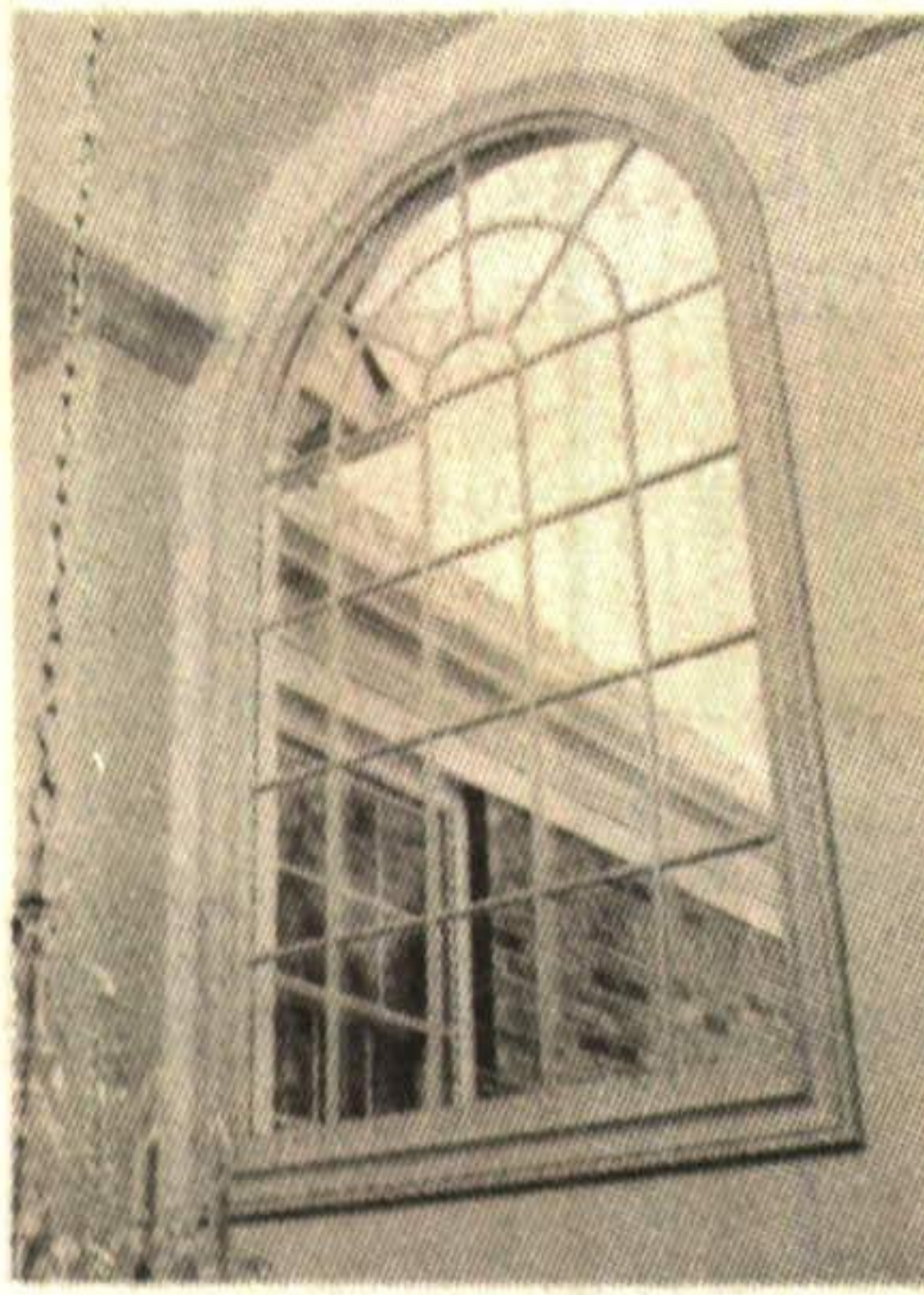


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NEC development controls Decision reversed

Continued from page 1

Also speaking were Daphne Shropshall of the Hickory Falls Ratepayers Association and Don Scallen of the Halton-Peel Naturalists.

They all spoke against the delegation of the development controls. Helen Pelton of the Niagara Escarpment Landowners Coalition spoke in support of the recommendation.

"I notice a couple of councillors are away today," said Halsall, referring to the fact that Johnston made the motion because some council members including Mayor Miller were absent from the original meeting. "I hope we won't have to do this one more time."

Halsall, who had appeared on this issue at the region at least twice before, reiterated the need for a strong NEC to fight the RSI proposal in Acton.

"Who speaks for the hundreds of species of birds and animals that live on the escarpment," said Scallen "What of the 1,000 year old cedar trees, who speaks for them?"

Pelton, a lawyer who said she was volunteering her time with NELC because she believes in justice, referred to the five-year review of the Niagara Escarpment Commission which was released last week.

In the review the hearing officers recommended that development controls be turned over from the commission to municipalities.

"I live on the escarpment and want to protect it," said Pelton. "We don't like the way the NEC administers development control."

Before the vote was taken Councillor Johnston discussed why she supports the shift of controls to the region.

"We are not talking about taking away protection of the escarpment," said Johnston. "That is already embedded in the Niagara Escarpment Plan."

"The lives of landowners on the escarpment have been made very difficult because they have to deal with the NEC. They have had to live with one additional level of government that we don't have to deal with."

Johnston alluded to verbal attacks leveled against her and Rick Bonnette for the stand they took on the issue.

"There should be no room for personal attacks on those who take different positions," said Johnston.

After the vote Halsall said she was "disappointed" by the outcome.

"It's interesting that all the environmentalists are lining up one side (of the debate)," said Halsall.

She added that POWER plans to submit a written response on the five year review, and that it was unfortunate that the group didn't address the question of delegation of development controls during the hearing.

Lois McClure, of the NELC, was pleased by the vote.

"I'm very happy but I was expecting it to go that way," said McClure. She added that the NELC will discuss their future plans at an upcoming meeting. Lobbying the provincial government to support the requests from the municipalities may be an option.

Police Blotter

Man charged

Halton police have charged a 38-year-old Georgetown man with uttering a threat in connection with an incident involving his ex-wife Sunday evening. Police say the woman was at the man's home to pick up her children when he threatened to beat her up. The man is to appear in court April 26.

Lock damaged

Police are investigating damage done to the door lock of a portable at a Mill St., Acton school, sometime over the weekend. Police report that unknown culprits attempted to force open the rear door of the portable, causing damage to the lock. Police say entry wasn't gained into the portable.

Tires slashed

A Georgetown woman reported to police that one of the tires on her car was slashed while it was parked in her driveway overnight last Thursday and Friday. Police have no suspects and damage is set at \$200.

Counterfeit bill

Halton police report that a counterfeit \$100 US bill was passed at a Georgetown bank by an unsuspecting man on Monday. Police say the man received the bill at another Georgetown bank and wasn't aware that the bill was phony. Police are investigating who originally brought the bill into that bank.



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