

New town's perimeter is 72 miles

North Oakville Councillor Don Gordon advises people taking a tour around the perimeter of Central Halton to take a lunch if they start their tour in the morning.

After taking a tour around the perimeter of what will form the Central Halton area Gordon reports the perimeter is 72 miles.

Gordon's trip was basically to familiarize himself with the proposed new municipality. "It's strange, but you could get lost in your own town," Gordon reports.

Long ride
His excursion took him up through Nassagaweya, south along the new Burlington limits, along Oakville's northern northern boundary and up the Ninth Line.

Gordon who has announced plans to run locally in the central Halton municipality said he made that trip and will make others to familiarize himself with the areas for which he will be responsible if elected.

Library . . .

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Taking into consideration the difficulties of the handicapped who may wish to visit the library steps are being kept to a minimum and where steps are necessary ramps will be provided to make for easy egress and ingress.

Work rooms and storage space will be provided in the basement. The administration area will be sufficiently large that when a branch library becomes necessary or advantageous it can be administered from the head library. Plans are being made to accommodate a branch library in conjunction with the building of the new high school at the corner of the Third Line and Main St.

Local History
Eventually a local history section will be developed Mrs. Conway said noting the lack of any comprehensive material at this time. "A number of people coming here ask for local history but we have very little to offer."

Subscriptions to magazines, newspapers and periodicals would increase greatly once there is space to keep them. Now old copies are thrown out but they will be saved when space is provided.

Mrs. Conway said the present library was too small to cope with today's need. She noted many people moving into the community were surprised to find the service and facilities so limited.

Council has appointed a committee to collect and organize material on Bruce St. School. The material will be turned over to the new library. Edgar Foster, Miss Margaret Maxted, Mrs. Mel Mel Robinson, Tom Hutchinson, Miss Barbara Mackay are members of that committee.

Lawn bowling

Marie McMillan, Stella Hefernan and Mrs. D. Downs were among lady winners at Milton Lawn Bowling Competition Monday night at the Milton club.

Male winners were Roy Currie, Delbert Downs and Gear Sinclair.

Ebenezer

Try forgiving sermon topic

by Mrs. Ron McLean
The flowers in the church were in memory of the late Wilfred Kennedy. Paula Kitching was soloist. Mr. Finley's sermon topic was "Try Forgiving."

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Has original Hydro corridor been discarded?

By Hartley Coles
Has the original Ontario Hydro proposal for a power corridor from Middleport to Pickering been discarded?

Not necessarily, but quite likely. So this newspaper was told by B.H.I., the environmental planning consultant hired by the Solandt Commission to find a better route than the original route Hydro proposed.

The original route of the corridor proposed by Hydro was to have run through Terra Cotta along the south end of Erin and Eramosa townships and then cut diagonally across Nassagaweya township. A substation was to have been located near Ballinafad for a North-South hook-up that would run between farms along the Fourth and Fifth Concessions in Esquesing to another substation south of Milton.

The final decision on the line is going to rest with the Ontario Government who will seriously consider the recommendation from Dr. Solandt in his report. Dr. Solandt, as his name, will receive a recommendation from BHI as a result of their studies over the past year. This will be revealed at a press conference at Queens Park Monday, September 13.

Ontario Hydro has also a part to play somewhere in the proceedings but it has not been defined.

The original route was "out" as far as the BHI study was concerned. They started the study fresh, with no preconceived route and came up with four alternative routes, one of which was rejected by Ontario Hydro as being too risky in the event of disaster.

However, parts of the original route also appeared in the other three alternatives.

As a result of a public meeting in Acton one of the alternative routes "Q" was modified and considered, and placed on the agenda at subsequent meetings with the public. The modified "Q" suggested the lines should follow 401 Highway and the proposed Parkway Belt on their way through Halton.

Meanwhile, however, at least two proposals from this area have suggested that the original route should be considered. One came in a brief from Milton Council authored by Mayor Brian Best, which argued that when all factors were considered the original route was best. Eramosa township council also suggested it be considered as second choice to 401.

The Milton brief points out a route along 401 would adversely affect the Kelso Conservation area, the Halton County Museum and the proposed provincial agricultural museum to be built at Kelso.

The irony of the situation is that the Halton Region Conservation Authority, which operates the huge Kelso complex, has suggested the 401 route is best and will affect Authority holdings least. They have sent a brief to the Solandt Commission urging 401 as the best route through the county.

So, on the one hand, we have Milton suggesting Kelso would be adversely affected if the corridor went along 401. On the other hand, the people who operate the concern, suggest 401 would be best.

The now almost comic drama extends to nearby Eramosa township as well. The township fired a submission away to the BHI recommending the hydro corridor should follow 401 but which also said that with the exception of Councillor Betty Lou Clark, the council would prefer the original proposal if 401 is not accepted.

This raised some fireworks at a Council meeting last week where one resident and a councillor suggested they were speaking out of turn because the original route had been scrapped. Another farmer affected by the original route said two officials from Ontario Hydro assured him it wasn't necessarily so. If the routes suggested by BHI are not acceptable, they were reported as saying, the original route was still very much in contention.

This kind of talk from officials of Ontario Hydro, of course, cast doubts on the real role the Bruce Howlett group plays in the final decision for the 610 foot swath of towers and 200 acre substations.

It seems that the BHI requests for submissions from the various municipalities is also unlikely to solve anything either. All most affected municipalities request the corridor go somewhere other than their own municipality, the BHI consultants told this newspaper.

Selish? Maybe. But the spectre of the mass of towers and substation forests, does not bring out the best in politicians. The most perceptive see that if the marching sentinels go through their jurisdiction ratepayers will blame the closest whipping boys at hand which means them. That kind of talk isn't going to help them at the next election.

There's another paradox here, too. We have yet to hear anyone seriously dispute the need for the 500KV corridor. Everybody seems to admit it is necessary but outside of those who have worthless acres they could sell to Ontario Hydro and then rent them back for \$1 a year, the general mood has been "Keep them away from here."

Over 2,500 people in North Halton and the south part of Wellington (Erin and Eramosa townships) signed a petition in a one day campaign, requesting the corridor follow 401 Highway. Even if you acknowledge that some people will sign anything the figure is still pretty impressive.

We wonder if Premier Davis knew the BHI's nest he was going to stir up when he decided the people of the province should have a say in where the heavy duty corridor was to go? He is brave indeed, if he did.

Last week the deputy-reeve of Eramosa suggested that those who opposed the original route were helping out Canada's enemies by denying needed power to industry and farm. At a recent meeting, the Warden of Halton, Anne McArthur threatened to cut off grants to the Halton Region Authority from Nassagaweya if they endorsed a resolution suggesting the corridor follow 401.

She later retracted and declined to vote

on the resolution by declaring a conflict of interest because the line would go through her property bordering the expressway.

The lesson here is obvious. Self interest is not confined to the residents of the townships. It extends into the political arena as well.

Only a few weeks previously Mrs. McArthur was accusing the "land barons" north of Toronto of using pressure to get the lines off their estates.

With all the spinning over the east-west route of the corridor most people are not aware there are still other corridors which will intersect with the east-west one, the most important for this area being the north-south one originating from the Bruce generating station at Douglas Point.

It is going to take a firm hand to straighten the issues out and decide where that "best" route for the powerful hydro lines will be laid out and it is becoming increasingly difficult to distinguish between what is self interest and what is political expediency.

The final decision must not appear to be autocratic but we fear it will be. And this will defeat the entire purpose of the Solandt Commission and its child—the BHI study.

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