

Government eyes Speyside hydro escarpment crossing

A joint report to the Solandt Commission from five ministries of the Ontario Government and Ontario Hydro suggests Speyside is the point in the Niagara Escarpment that Hydro's proposed 500 KV line should cross with the escarpment. The five ministries include Agriculture and Food, Environment, Natural Resources, Transportation and Communications, and Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs. The brief states the government committee or working committee favors two power lines in a single escarpment corridor rather than two

separate crossings. **Prefer over 401** If the two crossings in a single corridor zone are feasible, the committee favors the Speyside-Limehouse crossing rather than in the Highway 401 zone. The report also deals with a number of concerns in connection with the Parkway Belt. The report points out the need to make sure the use of the parkway plan is compatible with the terms set out when the belt was announced. The report indicates the parkway belt must serve a number of purposes and if it is used in some places by the towering hydro lines it could

defeat other uses such as recreation and open space. The report suggests most of the impacts discussed can be alleviated by substantial redesign of the Parkway Belt West to ensure compatibility of the various functions of the belt. **Reinforce Belt** The plan calls for early definition of the right of way for the 500 KV lines. This would be important to reinforce the Parkway Belt plan in areas where heavy development is taking place, the report says. Any redesign of the Parkway Belt to accommodate the 500 KV lines should provide

buffer strips on which trees and plants can be located. In order to minimize the financial losses resulting from delays in incorporating the Bruce Generating Station, priority consideration should be given to the section of Parkway Belt West. That belt extends from Milton to the proposed Halton Terminal Station with the aim of providing Hydro with an early approval to acquire this part of right of way for the hydro corridor.

Agricultural experts will discuss hydro line

A panel of individuals with agricultural expertise will discuss the impact of the proposed 500 KV hydro line on agricultural land in Ontario at a meeting Nov. 23 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ferguson Block of Queens Park. Harold Middlebrook, a Burlington farmer has been appointed to represent Halton and Peel farmers on the panel. Agriculture Federation president Bruce McClure told the administration committee of County Council he hoped one of their members

would attend as an observer. Middlebrook told the committee he had presented a verbal and slide presentation to the Solandt Commission earlier and felt the agricultural brief had been well received by the committee. **Serious look** Middlebrook said one of the upshots from all of the discussion on the hydro line will be that farm groups will take a serious look at land use and permanent zoning for agricultural land. He told the

committee he hoped regional councillors would give serious consideration to the ideas presented by the farm groups at a later date. Esquing Deputy Reeve Len Cox said both Esquing Council and a citizens' committee in the township had thrown their support behind the agriculture federation's brief. Cox described that brief as the best documented and said it recommends the most reasonable route. The Federation chose a route that followed Highway

Use slabs along lake

When W. A. (Bill) Johnson suggested that Esquing council should consider using precast concrete slabs being thrown into the township dump for road beds, Reeve Tom Hill said he would look into the suggestion. He did. Now the 8 x 12 throw-away slabs from a township plant near Milton are likely going to end up as

part of a break-wall to prevent shoreline erosion along Lake Ontario. Reeve Hill told Mr. Johnson this week the county thought the slabs would be ideal to line the lakeshore with to help combat high water which has plagued the lower end of the county. Mr. Johnson was pleased the county could use the large scrap slabs instead of letting them lie in the dump and he feels the new use is more utilitarian than the one he proposed. Weatherman to his wife: "I wish you'd quit saying 'your guess is as good as mine'."

Developers pay

Design another addition sewage treatment plant

A preliminary design for a further and final addition to Milton's sewage treatment plant was ordered by Milton Council Monday. The design is required for submission of

an application to the Ministry of the Environment to determine whether such an addition can be constructed. Correspondence from Victoria Wood and Goldfan

Holdings Ltd. indicated the developers would pay for the design work for the next treatment plant addition, with the costs considered prepayment of capital levies. Mayor Brian Best noted this was the same procedure that was followed in the addition just completed. Clerk J. McGeachie later in the meeting reported the town had collected \$994,000 from development firms to cover the complete cost of the current treatment plant addition so that no debentures would be required. Mayor Best emphasized this type of financing by the municipality had made the development possible at no penalty to the older sections of the municipality. "In the last three months alone the town has picked up close to \$1,250,000 in capital levies," he noted.

Study stream Dealing with the proposed final addition to the treatment plant, Mayor Best noted representatives of the Ministry and the municipality had discussed the possibility of such an addition. He reported the Ministry was still involved in analytical work regarding levels permissible of phosphorous and nitrate in the stream receiving the plant effluent. The water quality branch is still considering acceptable provincial criteria and these will have a bearing on whether or not the present treatment plant can be extended.

Board responsible Mr. Lawson replied by pointing out that the parent has a concern for the school as long as he has children attending. The board must be responsible for future generations. "We feel we must steer a middle of the road course and try to do what we feel to be right as your representatives," he continued. "a board should not 'heel' to particular pressure groups." Phylis Benjamin of Lorne Scots Dr. asked, "Why am I forced to pay for a school that is irritating everyone and that we don't want?"

It was pointed out to Mrs. Benjamin that all the people in Halton County will be paying for the school, not just those living in Dorset Park. Not all parents are opposed to the open concept idea. Merna Tripp of Elliot Cresc. said she agreed with the open area. Her daughter was not doing well in the traditional school and was actually six months behind in her development. Since attending an open concept school, she has caught up and is doing extremely well.

Movable walls Mrs. Benjamin asked if it would be possible for provision to be made in the plans for sliding doors. "We could even put up the money for them ourselves", she suggested. The meeting ended in general agreement that movable walls should be included when the school is built.

At the meeting of the Halton Board of Education the following evening, a notice of motion was made by trustee Lawson to include demountable walls. The board will consider this motion at the next meeting Nov. 22.

MAIN PROBLEM The ordinary driver is the main traffic safety problem, says the Ontario Safety League. The problems cannot be solved by creating scapegoats—drunks, speeders, teenagers, old drivers, etc.—to take all the blame.



Nick Longo Jackie Beeton Patty Heatherington Bert leRoy
Ross Cescon Photo not available

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Parents protest . . .

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to work for them". John Lenz, principal of W. I. Dick, said he felt the plan would be more spacious than his school, allowing for assemblies to be held. He explained that it doesn't change the program being taught. The last thing he would want to see is a child being frightened by a new concept, he said.

Same teachers One of the teachers from W. I. Dick suggested that perhaps it would be a good idea if the present staff were moved to the new school. She explained that the parents know and have faith in the teachers and they may feel better having the same contacts during the change-over to the new school.

Mr. Gentleman pointed out that at this stage no such decision could be made. A principal will be appointed by the board in February and it will be his responsibility to choose his staff. Another teacher from W. I. Dick pointed out that the children are already working in groups. She suggested that when the principal is chosen, another meeting should be set up with the parents to decide on the program.

Concerned with the child who needs peace and quiet in order to learn and study, one parent asked how this would be accomplished with a library in the middle of all the classrooms. Logan MacDonald, a teacher at Joseph Gibbons School, Georgetown, where open concept is a reality, explained, "It is not distracting to most children. Children adjust quickly to anything you throw at them."

"I feel you're only concerned with space, not with the education of the child," another parent said. **Likes design** Ken Lrowbridge, a principal in this area for 20 years and presently at Fairview School said, "Each school I have worked in has been traditional. I would like to work in the open area building. These are improvements made over the last school built. I like this design because there are so many different types of experiences we could provide for the children. A traditional building pre-ordains the type

of experience because of the confines. Open concept is good for larger and smaller numbers of children. We don't necessarily have to stay with the "average" school class. Your problems will not be building problems, but people problems." **Acusing the board** or undemocratic practices, one of the parents suggested that those concerned could refuse to send their children to the school. In this way they could fight the board, allowing the electorate to have the last say.

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Bob Cat

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