

# MPP Allan McLean's report

## Want to save money? Why not form your own vanpool?

by Allan McLean, MPP  
Simcoe East

While some of you are lucky enough to work close to your homes, other have to travel some distance to get to their places of business.

As I am sure you know, commuting is costly and time-consuming, particularly when you make the trip alone. In an effort to help conserve energy and provide a valuable new commuter service, the Ontario Energy Corporation has established the Ontario VanPool Organization (OVPO).

Since the first van went on the road just over a year ago, there has been such a popular response that OVPO is quadrupling the number of vans on the road. In the next few months, 100

customized Maxi-Vans will be in operation.

The popularity of this innovative commuting concept comes as little surprise. OVPO has created a system which provides its clients with substantial cost savings, plus the ease and convenience of a personalized service.

Anyone holding a Class-F license can establish a vanpool. All you need to do is get a group of 10 or 11 individuals together, including a back-up driver, who all live and work near one another.

The driver picks up the other members every morning and takes them home in the evening. After that, the van is available to the driver for his personal use at a mileage cost. OVPO takes full responsibility for

the purchasing, maintenance and administration of each van.

Each driver pays a fare which reflects the capital, administrative and operating costs, as well as the distance of the daily round trip.

For example, for a minimum daily round trip distance of 75 kilometres, each passenger pays a weekly bill of \$16. At the moment the longest round trip distance is between Kitchener and Toronto. The weekly cost of the daily 250 kilometer trip is \$27.50.

This means of energy conservation makes good sense for a number of reasons.

Since commuting accounts for about 20 per cent of the gasoline used in Ontario, usually by people driving alone, the vanpooling concept could mean important

energy savings.

In fact, for a person who travels 70 kilometres each day, vanpooling could save about 7,500 gallons of gas.

In addition to the important cost savings and convenience commuters are looking for, employers get substantial benefits too - employees tend to be more punctual and more productive if they're not tired out from travelling. And the energy savings offered through vanpooling benefit all Ontarians.

For further information, write:

Vanpool Co-ordinator  
Ontario Van Pool Organization Limited  
1200 Bay Street, 11th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5R 2A6

## It's an uphill battle for L.I.V.E. support starts flowing in for Midland organization

Midland home owner Stan Dion has become an instant celebrity of sorts since he announced more than a week ago that he was mad as hell over mounting mortgage interest rates.

Dion like so many other Canadians from coast to coast will soon be renegotiating his mortgage which could see him paying well over 20 per cent in interest.

In an effort to combat rising interest rates he recently formed a group called L.I.V.E. (Lower Interest (Rates) Vital (To) Economy).

The group held an information session last night at Midland Legion to which Simcoe North MP Doug Lewis was to have attended.

Support for L.I.V.E. speaks well of the concern home owners like Dion have... some fearing they may have to sell their homes since higher mortgage interest rates could make it tough for them to make ends meet.

Since L.I.V.E. was founded, Dion's telephone (526-5353) hasn't stopped ringing.

"I have received calls from Midland residents in the same boat as us. They have offered to knock on doors in the town, to hand out ballots, to look after our kids while we knock on doors..."

He enthuses, "Since Bev and I started this campaign our phone at home just hasn't stopped ringing. There are people out there just like us."

"The Toronto Sun has been in touch with us and told me that as many as 500 people a day have sent in replies to an article they wrote before the mail strike."

"The Sun has given us ballots to fill out and they will be included with material they plan to send to Ottawa later this year."

"Groups like ours are popping up in Toronto, St. Johns and out west, all over the place. People are just sick about the possibility of losing their home. We have to stick together and let the federal government know we have had enough."

It is the intent of L.I.V.E. to put the pressure on their elected officials at Queen's Park and in Ottawa so that they (MPPs and MPs) can in turn put pressure on their various governments to force money lenders to reduce interest rates especially on mortgages.



### Tay ceremonies

Dignitaries representing three levels of government were on hand for the official opening of the 13th Concession bridge spanning the North River in Tay Township yesterday. The \$240,000 structure will be paid for by both the provincial government and local taxpayers with the province picking up the majority of the costs. Seen here for the ribbon cutting ceremony are, from left to

right, Henry Borgdorff of Reid and Associates; John Fennell, Warden of Simcoe County; A. Wittenberg, District Engineer for the MTC; Charles Rawson, Tay Reeve; Bruce McCaffrey, Min. without portfolio; Allan McLean, MPP for Simcoe East and Carl MacFarlane, general manager of Inverleigh Construction.

## \$240,000 bridge opens in Tay Twp.

Officials of municipal, county and provincial governments were on hand yesterday morning for ribbon cutting ceremonies at the newly constructed bridge spanning the North River on Tay Concession 13.

Master of ceremonies for the 11 a.m. event was Tay reeve Charles Rawson with special guests Bruce McCaffrey, MPP, Allan McLean MPP for Simcoe East and John Fennell, Warden of Simcoe County also on hand.

Representatives of the MTC, consulting engineers Reid and Associates and builders Inverleigh Construction joined members of Matchedash and Coldwater councils at the site.

Reeve Rawson welcomed those in attendance and noted the new structure would replace one previously condemned and tore down.

According to the reeve, members of council attempted to close the concession road once the bridge was no longer usable, but a large delegation from the surrounding area "the largest

ever to attend a council meeting" objected, hence the new bridge.

Rawson explained the cost structure involved in construction, noting the \$240,000 price tag would be divided between the provincial and municipal governments, 80 percent paid by Ontario and the remainder by local taxpayers.

MPP Allan McLean explained the absence of James Snow, Minister of Transportation and Communications by informing the group the minister had been called out of the country unexpectedly and his representative, Bruce McCaffrey, noted municipal officials had displayed an ability to spend the 80 percent government funding wisely.

Special remarks and features were followed by the official ribbon cutting ceremony, individual introductions all round and a reception afterwards in Fesserton.

The new structure will in future be referred to as the "13th Concession bridge."

## 'Spin-off' from VW would have been tops

### Lewis scores points

Simcoe North MP Doug Lewis this week criticized federal government interference in the decision by Volkswagen to locate a major factory in Barrie.

"Volkswagon made a business decision. Anyone who knows the way this company operates realizes that they are very thorough in researching their decisions."

Transportation, work force, available sites, would all have played a part in their decision. They decided to locate in Barrie," Lewis said. "All of Simcoe County, including Simcoe North, would have benefitted from the location of the Volkswagen plant in Barrie. Employment opportunities would be created. Spin-off industries would locate in Simcoe county," he added.

"This is the most blatant government interference imaginable. It is bad enough that the Liberal government continually throws hard-earned Ontario tax dollars into DREE failures in Quebec."

"In this case, Simcoe County won the Volkswagen plant on its merits. The Liberal government is intent on forcing it to Montreal or Windsor using the threat of no sales tax remission or the bribe of financial incentives."

"Simcoe County has every right to those jobs," concluded the MP.

## HELP! That's what they need

Katimavik's getting settled! "Katima-what?" And Katimavik's getting to know the communities! "Katima-who? KATIMAVIK! The Inuit word for "meeting place".

You know, the Federal Youth Program whose 33 participants will be arriving Sept. 9.

The community service organization whose four staff members have been in Midland, Penetanguishene and Lafontaine since mid-July. "Ah, THAT Katimvik", you say!

With the good natured help of their seven local sponsoring bodies and a lot of legwork of their own, the staff has located three grand houses for

each of the groups of 11 young people.

One group will reside on Tanner's Beach Road, another at Ossassane Beach and the third on the Lower Road of the Ontario Mental Health Centre Grounds.

They are in need of a variety of items to furnish, decorate and enliven these three large houses - plants, musical instruments (especially one piano), carpets, mason jars, lamps, blankets and living room furnishings. They request that you contact them at 549-8968 or leave a message at 549-3116.

Feel free to phone just to ask questions or chat!