

Dr. Omond Solandt Named To Study Construction Hydro Line

A ray of hope was offered to residents of King Township and adjoining municipalities by the June 22 announcement of Premier William Davis that his government has appointed a one-man advisory commission on the construction by Hydro of up to three 500 KV lines from the Nanticoke Generating Station on Lake Erie to the Pickering Generating Station east of Toronto. The right-of-way would cut a swath up to 610 feet wide upon which towers and lines would be constructed along a 140-mile route. King and Whitchurch-Stouffville residents were among the people instrumental in presenting a protest petition bearing signatures of 5,084 residents of 11 townships along the proposed route to the Premier in late March.

The petition decried the taking over by hydro of more

than 10,000 acres of prime Southern Ontario land, charged that the proposed transmission line design is wasteful, out-dated and ignores recognized good practice, and recommended that an alternate route be chosen.

The Premier named Dr. Omond Solandt to carry out the study, as a one-man advisory commission with broad terms of reference and all necessary powers under the Public Inquiries Act. Dr. Solandt will submit his report to the government through Allan Lawrence, the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development.

"Dr. Solandt has had a distinguished career in the public service field, where his particular knowledge and experience in the sciences has been widely recognized," the Premier said. "He was formerly chairman of the

board and the scientific member of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and Defence Council and later became chairman of the Defence Research Board. He retired in May from his position as chairman of the Science Council of Canada, having served in that position since 1966."

The government has asked him to examine and report on, among other things, the mode of transmission, the quantity of power, voltage and number of circuits required, the routing of the transmission corridor, the timing of construction, the design of service installations, such as towers, and transforming stations, ecological practices in maintaining the corridor, alternative methods for determining the routing of future transmission corridors and other related considerations.

It is expected that Dr. Solandt will provide opportunity for interested municipalities, organizations and individuals to present their views. The government hopes to have his report by mid-September or shortly thereafter.

Aware that the matter is a highly complex and technical one and that an increasing number of issues of this kind will continue to arise, Premier Davis reported that he and his colleagues "have been examining the possibility of establishing a permanent environmental protection agency with a high degree of technical and scientific competence, which would serve the growing need for exercise, continuing research and the gathering of available scientific and technical data and information relating to environmental questions."

The Premier pointed out that The Toronto Star in a June 13 editorial, recommended a federal environmental council, which would not only supervise environmental impact studies, but also conduct cost-benefit analysis of proposed major projects. He said his government would be prepared to support such an undertaking, but "we cannot wait too long for it," and will give very serious consideration to establishing its own environmental protection organization.

Mrs. Margaret Britnell, King Township representative on the Hydro Study Group of Coalition of Concerned Citizens, told "The Liberal" that they are delighted with "the appointment of a one-man commission of inquiry into the proposed Ontario Hydro East-West 500 KV Power Corridor."

"While we would have preferred a three man commission, we are gratified that the provincial government has so recognized the seriousness of the proposed consequences of the proposed corridor that they have appointed Dr. Solandt, one of Canada's foremost scientists, to lead this important inquiry," Mrs. Britnell said. "We are also pleased to learn of the broad terms of reference of the inquiry and are hoping for an early meeting with Dr. Solandt."

"We are also most grateful to MLA William Hodgson for his help and support during our campaign for a saner approach to the hydro corridor."

Mr. Hodgson is government spokesman in York Region.

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Branch 375, Royal Canadian Legion
By Chris Ratchford — 884-5260

Enjoyable Dominion Day Weekend Spent At Uxbridge And Belleville

We have just returned from our first summer holidays and have decided that they are strictly for the birds. Had fun but this was cancelled out when we had to trudge for a few miles with a twenty-five pound parcel of dirty laundry on our backs. Shades of service days when we did a nono according to the top brass.

Last time we went to press you were assured that you all would be brought up to date on the happenings for the past little while and some in the future, so here goes—

Friday, June 23 bounced in bright and happy. This was a Friday Social Evening and went over with a loud bang. To start the ball rolling, members of the new executive of the 375 ladies auxiliary were installed. To these ladies we offer our sincere congratulations and hopes for a successful year.

Following this important occasion the dance got underway with Ken Birch and George Cowie taking charge of the festivities. This time they brought along a cobbler of theirs, One Johnny Groulx, to round out the combo. There has never been a time at the local hall when these two melodic lads didn't come up with their best. During the evening there was a mystery winner. This time round it was Mrs. Audrey Apperly with No. 583. Congrats Audrey, President Mary Robson (did we get it right this time Mary?) drew the winning ticket.

It is always fun to hear of weddings, engagements, birthdays or anniversaries. Sometimes we forget to announce the birthdays but try our hardest to remember the other days. On June 23, Mr. and Mrs. William Apperly had the pleasure of announcing the engagement of their daughter Wendy to Ray LaRue. All the best to these two young people.

At this time also we wish to extend sincere congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Pringle on the occasion of their 26th Wedding Anniversary June 29. May you have many more. Did we tell you that Mr. and Mrs. Art Spence celebrated thirty-two years of wedded bliss on June 13.

Before we go much farther, there is one birthday we didn't forget. No way will we ever forget this justly popular member of the branch. Many happy returns to Comrade Leo Butler for June 19. Comrade Leo is 79 years young. May he celebrate many more of the same with us.

Summer holidays are the thing these days and our friends and comrades are taking off far and wide. Also it is at this time every year that we welcome guests from various parts of the world. At this time we sure extend a hearty welcome to Mrs. Laidlaw of Edinburgh. This spritely young lady has become a permanent resident of Canada and is living with her son-in-law and daughter Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hunter of Richmond Hill. It sure is nice to know you.

Recently we had business at ye olde Legion Hall. While there we had the fortune to make the acquaintance of Mrs. Rilla Poole and her brother Comrade Eric Brown of Prince George, British Columbia. This brother and sister team are stationed in Barrie at the present. They report that it was warmer back home than here. Also their gardens were one month ahead of ours. Don't know whether we should stay put or don our travelling boots.

Following the last general meeting, we all had the pleasure of saying "Howdy" to one of the members of Branch 88 Quebec. Lately we have had visitors from Chicago, Levack, Scarborough and elsewhere. To one and all, we are glad to bid you welcome to Richmond Hill.

Some of our comrades are on the ailing list and some are spending these pleasant days in sickbay. If you have a minute to spend why not visit them or drop a card to cheer them up.

It sure is good to learn that Fred Burt is home with his folks; likewise John Farrow. Not so lucky are: Bob Jones in Toronto General; Vic Carline in

from 375, we watched to see just how high that tower of glasses would reach before someone got ambitious enough to knock it down. There it goes our boy Archie has done it again. For your reporter, this has been a long day so back to our wee trundle bed and let tomorrow take care of itself.

Nine am and the darn birds are yelling their heads off. Can't they let a body get some sack time. Gosh just realized it is time to rise and shine; get some chow and take off for the fair grounds. The skies are overcast and look as if there will be some more rain. Got my fingers crossed. Hoorah everything is under control and the competitions are under way. There are trophies for the winning bands, the best dressed band, the best girls band and the Drum Majors Trophy. Who will win what? Up to this point the skies have looked ready to weep but here comes the sun in time to greet the band members of 426 Newmarket. What a welcome. At the conclusion of this noted group's parade, they received a standing ovation. Richly deserved. Just great. Now for the drum majors shot. Did you see the catch that Jim Trenowden made after tossing the mace? Nearly had heart failure waiting to see if he would make it.

Results have come in and there is a general groan of disappointment from the crowd. Jagersoll 1st, Belleville 2nd, Indianapolis 3rd, 500 Best Dressed; London Girls, Best Single Band; the Drum Major Award went to Jagersoll.

To pick out any one point of interest would be difficult. Maybe the sight of the massed bands on parade; maybe the individual groups, maybe the Highland dancers. This year the attendance was greater than last.

Time to board our bus once more and head for home. A grand Dominion Day Weekend is behind us; we have had good company and look forward to repeating this again next year. We take this opportunity to say a very sincere "Thank You" to George Diceman for organizing the outing. It caused him many a sleepless night making this all possible. Sincere thanks to Driver Bill Knox for doing such a super job.

Before we go any further, we would like to send special greetings to an old friend of Branch 375. We mean Bill Connell of Newmarket. Bill and his lovely lady have just celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on June 27. From all of us here at Branch 375, the very best and may you celebrate many more of the same.

Have any of you been out to watch our Fuddle Duddles play baseball lately. This crew of jokers is out of this world. For the first little while they couldn't find home base let alone hit a ball. Well; June 25 was the day. Playing against Stouffville at the end of the first half, the score was 11-3 against. The referee called time and everyone took a breather. Came the second half and the lads from Branch 375 went bat happy. Final score 31 to 13 in our favor. Unbelievable! See they got us so excited that we forgot how to spell. Not only did they win in the morning game but went out Sunday evening and won again. Come out some time and give these lads your support. They are trying to give you a team that will earn some loot for the sports fund) and give you a good brand of ball. Won't you come out, some time? Come on Fuddle Duddles, show them how it is done.

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