

Gov't land grabs opposed by county

ONTARIO CTY. - The Provincial Government should 'pay its way' with respect to grants in lieu of taxes, Ontario County Council agrees.

Members supported a resolution to this effect, submitted by the Counties of Lennox and Addington.

Several municipal representatives cited examples of land owned by the Province in the County of Ontario.

Warden John Williams said the nuclear power station in Pickering Township, if assessed and taxed as any normal business, would probably exceed five to six million dollars annually.

He complained of a recent purchase of land west of Frenchman's Bay by the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority which led the Ontario

Municipal Board to cut assessment on the property to \$350,000 from \$718,000. He asked council to support the resolution to aid other municipalities.

"The provincial government took 1,500 to 2,000 acres for a bird sanctuary in my township," said Reach Township Reeve Edward Oyler, "which resulted in a loss in ratepayers and municipal taxes.

"I don't think it's fair for the government to come in and take two to three thousand acres," he said. "We should get something in lieu of taxes."

Scugog Reeve Cecil Fralick told council the provincial government had obtained 400 acres in his township, much of which had lake frontage, which reduced the township assessment.

Although Pickering Village Reeve Ross Murison considered it would be a waste of time to ask the province to pay taxes, Scott Township Reeve Robert Timbers said the province should pay taxes on its parks because in some cases it was not even paying grants.

Reeve Timbers said he would not support the resolution because "it doesn't tell us

anything", and asked for one with "more meat in it".

The Lennox and Addington resolution said grants in lieu of taxes should be paid on provincial parks because the municipality does not receive taxes, parks create more use of roads and other services, and park land is usually of a prime, highly assessed nature.

A farmer's barn burned down and the agent for the insurance company, explaining the policy that covered the structure, told him that his firm would build another barn of similar size instead of paying the claim in cash.

The farmer was furious. "If that's the way your company does business, you can cancel the insurance on my wife!"

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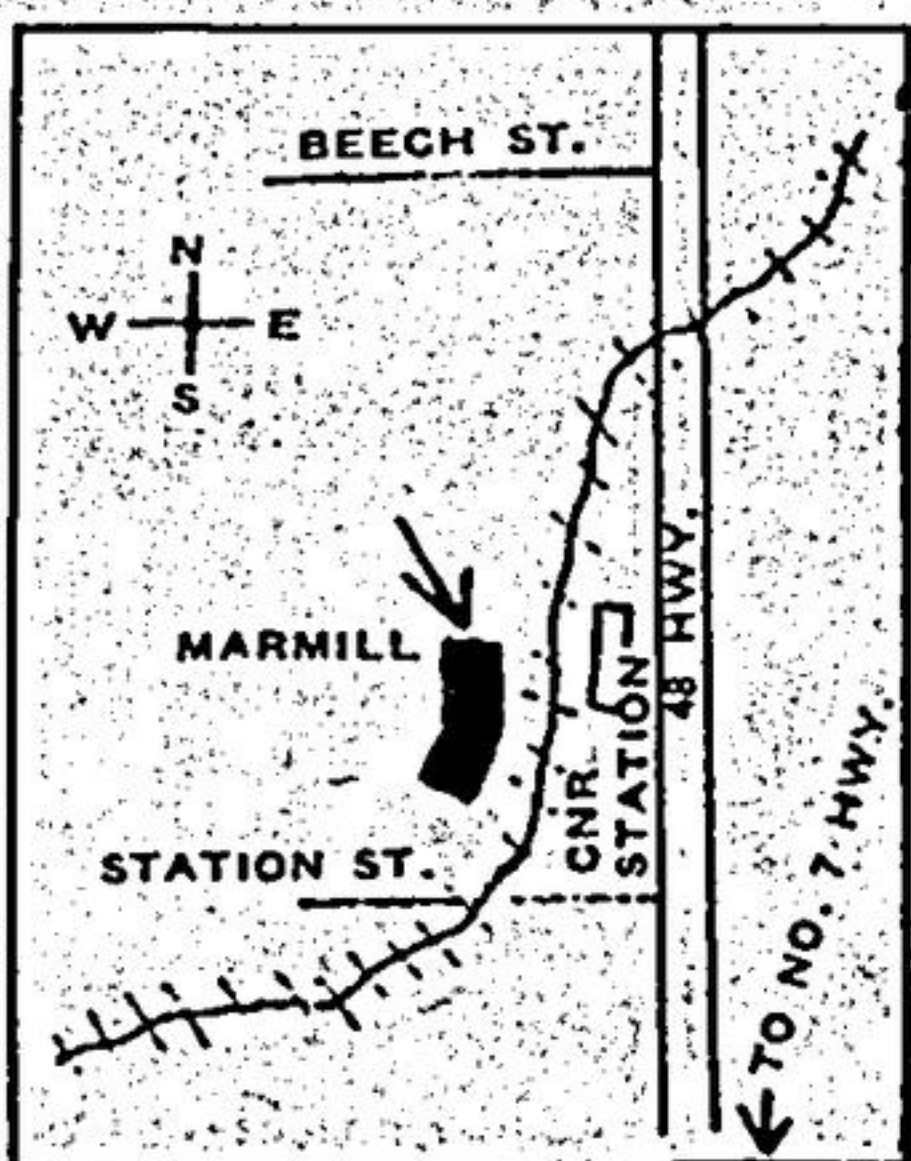
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