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Area To Have Own Ont. Planning Staff



Crowd listens attentively to Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough as he outlines planning for the area at a meeting in Jarvis Monday. (Photo by Mercer)

Ontario Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough made it very clear there will be no satellite city in the Norfolk Haldimand area.

He told some 600 attending a planning meeting here Monday "the very thought of a satellite city appalls me."

The meeting was called by the minister to explain his department's view on how regional government would be set up after a three year planning study and a year to implement legislation.

He appealed to the municipal officials of the two-county area to co-ordinate their efforts to come up with a co-operative plan for the development that will come because the Steel Company of Canada's new location straddles the Norfolk-Haldimand boundary.

He emphasized that it would be a first in Canada to necessitate co-ordinated action by all departments. For the first Mr. McKeough publicly stressed the need for closer liaison with the work of the regional development branch of the Treasury Department.

That branch is preparing development plans for each of Ontario's 10 economic regions. Two weeks ago the regional development councils for each of the 10 regions submitted reports containing recommendations as to what the regional development plans should contain.

Mr. McKeough has been accused by political foes and local municipal officials of creating regional governments and establishing regional government studies without proper foundation. At the outset of a speech to 300 municipal officials and 250 spectators in the Jarvis Community Centre, Mr. McKeough chided county officials for not creating a joint planning board as he said he had suggested last May.

"The importance of getting a sound planning program under way are becoming greater as time goes by... and we cannot delay positive steps any longer."

His department has been authorized to hire a small staff to "be attached to the Department of Municipal Affairs and to prepare a plan to guide development of the area and to examine the structure of municipal government and propose any changes that may appear desirable," he said.

"This program and its staff will be closely integrated with (the government's) program for the broad regional development of the province."

Mr. McKeough said no decision had been made on what agency will control the work. It could be a joint planning board of the two counties or a joint committee of representatives of the county councils.

"For the first time in Ontario we will have the opportunity of designing a local government structure tailor-made to meet the specific needs of an area, and to do this before the development problems become overwhelming," he said.

"The new staff will keep in close touch with each of the departments of the provincial Government that will be involved in any substantial way with development here."



Municipal Affairs Minister McKeough (left) makes a point while Warden Ernest Craddock gives his attention. (Simcoe Reformer Photo)

Holding Bylaw Applied 4 Townships

CAYUGA - The provincial government has imposed subdivision controls on the townships of Dunn, South Cayuga and Moulton. An official of the department of municipal affairs said this action was taken because Minister Darcy McKeough is concerned about the Haldimand-Norfolk area because of industrial developments and wants to curb land speculation.

THE OFFICIAL said the imposition of the controls is not meant to stop development but to control it until proper plans are drawn. The provincial order, registered Thursday, will prevent division of land into lots without provincial approval.

Severance of a lot will require provincial approval however. The department spokesman said that application for lot severances which the department considers justified will be accepted.

"There was no control before," the official said. "Anyone who wanted to could split lots."

Mr. McKeough addressed Norfolk and Haldimand officials at Jarvis to discuss measures on joint planning.

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The Peoples' Questions

Q. Questions from the floor put to Ontario Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough.

Q. With regional government what percentage of municipal members will be involved in five years?

A. I don't know - maybe just you and I. We really don't want to lose the involvement of the people of the community.

Q. (From Douglas Martin of Wipole) is Queen's Park setting up a dictatorship?

A. We don't consider ourselves a dictatorship. We are concerned about the type of environment our children and your children will grow up in. We want green parks but no smokestacks and good neighborhoods. These are just a few of the things that I want and if this makes me a dictator then I am a dictator.

Q. (From Lloyd O'Grady of North Walsingham) Will the government give back some of the control?

A. You will need fewer members from the municipalities to represent you under regional government but you will probably get stronger ones. We will be turning some of the powers back to them later.

Q. How long will it be before regional government comes into affect here?

A. Roughly three to four years.

Q. What will happen to our municipal employees?

A. They will be offered a job at the same salary and we will guarantee that for a year. In the overall picture the work force should drop by 10 per cent and shouldn't effect too many jobs when you allow for deaths and retirements.

Q. Who takes over the fire department?

A. They will continue to operate pretty well as they have in the past.

Q. Who takes over the police forces?

A. These things are presently under study.

Q. Will any future annexation be allowed in the area?

A. No future annexation will be allowed while our study is going on.



A metal ball creates a splash as workmen attempt to break rock below surface to seal a leak in a coffer dam at the \$266 million Ontario Hydro site at Nanticoke.

Coffer Dam Has Leak

NANTICOKE - An underwater diver left the Ontario Hydro construction site here Friday after helping to find three leaks that were letting Lake Erie water into a harbor excavation ahead of schedule.

The leaks were in a cofferdam built to hold lake water out and let the second stage of harbor excavation proceed under dry conditions.

When completed, the harbor will be 1,000 feet long, 350 feet wide and 35 feet deep. Coal boats will dock there to unload fuel for the \$266-million hydro generating station.

Public relations officer David Robinson said the leaks were discovered shortly before Christmas when attempts were made to pump out the water behind the second-stage cofferdam.

The water came back in from the lake at the rate of about 20,000 gallons per minute, he said, refilling the excavation to around lake level and preventing further work.

Three fissures were discovered in the dam, the third one a small hole in bedrock covered by a mud layer. Water was travelling through this crevice and sifting through a large area of broken natural rock below.