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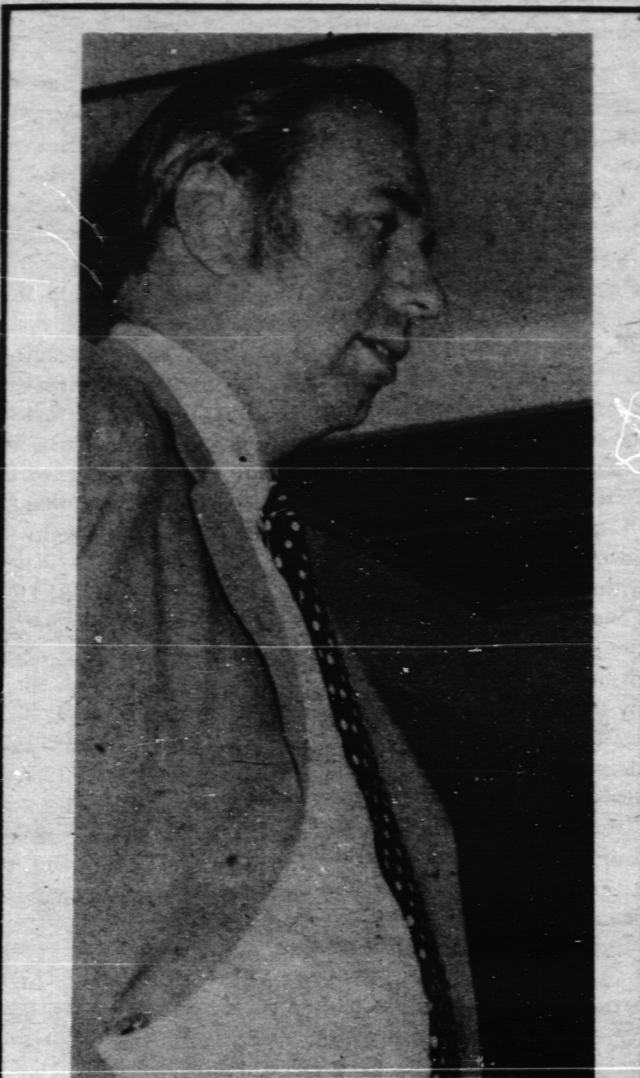
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D'Arcy McKeough, Minister of Treasury, Economics, and Intergovernmental Affairs chats with reporters after he addressed regional council last week in Cayuga. (staff photo)

Townsend 'too much' for H-N region says Darcy McKeough

by Trisha Banks

The Honourable Darcy McKeough, Minister of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs, was present at regional council last week as part of his informal tour of the 14 restructured governments across Ontario.

Mr. McKeough told council, "I am not here to do any checking up, I am trying to find out what is happening or what is not happening. I want to see in my own mind, what the plusses and minuses of regional government are, where we could be of help, and where we could be of less help."

Mr. McKeough presented councillors with a financial overview of Haldimand-Norfolk, saying, "From our point of view, we are satisfied with the financial reports for Hald. - Norf. They are not alarming, but do not show anything wildly wonderful, either." Mr. McKeough said he hoped the report would help regional council

to present the taxpayers with a view of what is going on here.

Mr. McKeough said, "One thing which has gone well here, has been a better sorting out of administrative staff than in other places. In two or three of the regions, we have had an engineer working for the municipality at \$30,000, who goes to the region for \$35,000. The municipality then hires another engineer at \$32,000 when the regional engineer should be available to the municipalities."

Simcoe Mayor Alf Judd, told Darcy McKeough much of the bureaucracy he was speaking of was right in Queen's Park. "We are not given enough power. We are not in the position to make decisions which we should, particularly at the municipal level," said Judd. "The planning process involved going through a whole lot of red tape. The decision-making process should be

transferred back to the local municipalities."

Mr. McKeough told Councillor Judd, "I cannot comment on the relationship between the region and the area municipalities. If you think you are wasting your time when you work on planning for a whole day on something that should be done in one hour, then you are the man to do something about it, not me."

With regards to the Townsend Satellite City, Mr. McKeough told council "Basically what the province is saying, is that the new towns that have moved ahead, have been taken completely out of the mainstream of the municipality. They have been ordered like a dictatorship. If we want to move ahead, we cannot deal with local government staff."

Mr. McKeough also told council, "I feel your hands are quite full with your everyday council affairs, without you having to worry a great deal about Town-

send. Mr. McKeough predicted that the first 1,500 houses would be on Townsend before 1981.

Councillor Gordon Miller disagreed with Mr. McKeough's opinion that the region had enough to do without Townsend. Don't you think the new Town site should have input from this council? There is no one more familiar with this area than this council. I feel more consideration should be given to this council," said Mr. Miller.

Mr. McKeough replied, "If you or your staff have the time or the inclination, then I'm sure the committee would love it. However, I'm quite sure your priorities should be the daily duties of this region."

Councillor Judd disagreed with this last statement, saying, "I feel we should be offering our services at Townsend instead of taking up time with these piddly little menial jobs."

Councillor Catherine Smale told Mr. McKeough, "I dis-

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Norfolk Theatre Company premieres July 20th

by Trisha Banks

Eight professional young actors and actresses will attempt to do the impossible on July 20 -- bring the theatre to Haldimand-Norfolk.

Under the capable direction of Simon Johnston, the group will perform three plays -- The Rinse Cycle (July 20-26), The Hand that Cradles the Rock (August 3-9), and Hobbits (August 24-30).

Rinse Cycle, written by Jackie Grossland, brings back the nostalgia of the fifties, complete with bobby socks, rock and roll and greasers, and takes place--where else?--in a laundromat. Rumor has it that a highly amusing "Strip scene" is included in the Rinse Cycle.

The Hand That Cradles the Rock, written by Warren Graves, beginning August 3,

is a fast paced one-liner comedy, about what happens when a wife is of more commercial value than her husband. Should give women libbers a few ideas!

Hobbits, written by the company, premiering August 24, is a satirical revue based on the books by Tolkien.

The Norfolk Summer

Theatre Company began as an Opportunities for Youth program, but is also partially funded by the Ontario Arts Council, and private individuals such as director Simon Johnston.

The Company is made up of Brad Bedford, Jane Bruce, Michael Duggan, Debi Gow-an, Rhonda Isaacs, Gary

McLeod, Barbara Richardson, and Glynis Davies. They are all graduated of the Sheridan Theatre Program, and former students of Simon Johnston, who taught Theatre Arts at Sheridan.

Mr. Johnston points out that, "Although the performers are all very young, about 22, we are not a high

school group. These performers are all professional people. We aim to please, and we hope that people will come and enjoy it. They don't have to be formal about it or anything, they can wear whatever they please."

"The people in this country tend to think that the theatre is rather stuffy," says Mr. Johnston.

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Administration plans shelved

Plans to have the regional administration offices moved to Jarvis, may have to be shelved for some time, Darcy McKeough, Minister of Treasury, Economics, and Intergovernmental Affairs told regional council last week.

Councillor Keith Shay, who questioned McKeough about room on the Townsend site for the administration offices, said, "In January of this year, we passed a resolution that we should consolidate our administration in the Jarvis area. It is time we got everything all under one roof. Jarvis is the central point of the region, and as such is the obvious place for the administration centre."

Mr. McKeough replied, "It would be better to wait. The proof of the pudding is that we now have two very beautiful buildings that are in the wrong place. Lets not do it again."

Mr. McKeough promised that the problem would be considered by the committee.



During a practice drill held in Waterford on Sunday, firefighters apply foam to a car that instructors set ablaze with gasoline. (staff photo)