

## Study pledge 'joke'

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will be subject to separate environmental studies. Mrs. Spence argued that since the ministry is starting construction at both ends of 403 in Mississauga — at Highway 401 and at Ford Drive and the Queen Elizabeth Way — the highway "will have to meet in the middle." She claimed the references to the environmental-impact studies were just to appease the public so it feels some consideration to the environment is being given.

"I've said all along that the decision made in 1962 would never be reversed and that's what's going to happen," Mrs. Spence said.

By an Order-in-Council in 1962, Ontario established the proposed 403 alignment. The highway will run north from Ford Drive and the QEW in four lanes to a point about midway between Burnhamthorpe Road and Eglinton Avenue. It then will run in a six-lane configuration along the hydro right-of-way to a point near Cawthra Road. It then swings north with four lanes to join Highway 401, just east of present Highway 10.

Khojajian said the ministry had "quite objectively" looked at the proposal by Mississauga's Save Our Trees and Streams Society (SOTAS)

to have the highway moved. Further studies have "firmed up" the proposed route, he added.

According to ministry officials, a 300-foot highway right-of-way would affect 56 acres of woodlot in the present configuration, not the 156 cited by SOTAS. To protect the maximum number of woodlots, the ministry agreed that the SOTAS route would be the best one. But in terms of the Credit River crossing, there is no difference, they contended, although admitting under questioning that no detailed soil studies had been done.

The SOTAS route, just south of Eglinton Avenue, would still cause loss of about a dozen acres of woodlot. The ministry said that route would require the virtual reconstruction of Eglinton Avenue to the north.

The proposed route, which is best from an engineering point of view, will cost \$45 million (including land), whereas the SOTAS proposal would cost \$74 million. A route approximately half-way between these two suggestions would be \$61 million and again cause destruction of about 12 woodlots.

The main difference in costs would be for land. Just over 200 acres have been acquired for the proposed route, while 242

acres must still be obtained. The SOTAS submission would see 37 acres available now, with 493 to be acquired. The alternative would have 103 acres available and 346 required.

Councillor Hazel McCallion expressed surprise that more land for the proposed route was not in the province's hands. She noted that one of the main arguments used by proponents of the highway was that most of the land for Highway 403, was already bought, so alternatives could not be considered. "Now we find out that's not true," she remarked.

Two weeks ago, council endorsed the proposed Highway 403 route in a 6-4 recorded vote.

Mrs. McCallion thanked the ministry for at least reviewing the SOTAS brief. She also noted that the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Ontario Treasurer Darcy McKeough will both have opportunities for input before final decisions are made.

Council agreed to refer the MTC submission to the planning and engineering staff who will report back to council.

## Prof, councillor

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He criticized the consultant's map, which indicated large green spaces for the park which actually belong to Erindale. Dr. Maycock said it was an "intrigue to bring all of Erindale College's lands into use by the public."

There are certain sensitive areas, especially near the top of bank of the Credit, where special precautions must be taken, the professor claimed. These areas, now used for student field study work, are rapidly degrading with the use of 4,000 students on 230 acres. If the city proposes to have a peak use of up to 3,000 visitors to Erindale Park a day, Erindale College's campus may well be overused, Dr. Maycock suggested. He noted that 450 parking spots will hardly accommodate 3,000 persons.

"We are unalterably opposed to the construction of bridges across the river," the Erindale spokesman said. "There are already problems with trail bikes and fires in the forest," he said. "We're extremely worried."

Later in the meeting, Hooper said he certainly questioned Dr. Maycock's remarks. "These are the public lands the university owns and I certainly don't foresee 3,000 people walking across those bridges to the school. We cannot prevent the public from doing so, if they wish since it is public property."

Dr. Maycock replied that although the college was built by public funds, it was for a specific purpose. He noted that a group couldn't hold a dance in city council chambers just because it's public property.

The university is very encouraging of public use of its facilities, noted the

professor. But he said certain sensitive areas used for study could be destroyed by public overuse.

The college could still not prevent public access, noted Hooper. He added that the costs of higher education were paid by the public.

Dr. Maycock responded by saying the city could be destroying the amenities the public had created for higher education. If the city allows destruction of sensitive areas, then they will not be available for our children's education, argued Dr. Maycock.

Other residents were more concerned with the problem of mini-bikes and trail bikes using the proposed hiking areas. Dave Poore, vice-president of the Erindale Woodlands Residents' Association, suggested the city consider using the abandoned sewage plant on the site for lawn bowling.

That brought a horrified reaction from resident Ward Mueller, who lives nearby. Other residents, who will live near proposed pedestrian accesses from Erindale Woodlands to the park, were also critical of potential problems.

After hearing the public's comments, the committee agreed to defer the question until its next meeting on Monday, July 11.

Even if the master plan is approved quickly by council, no funds for major construction will be available unless money is approved for expenditure in the 1978 budget.

Although \$555,000 was set aside in 1976, council refused to approve additional funds for the park this year to allow any major works to begin. Total costs of the park will be \$2.5 million.

## Family court decision sparks Peel appeal

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commissioner, Jim Crozier, Judge Durham must simply not trust the judgment of the CAS as much as he trusts his own.

"He is choosing to avoid using the children's Aid Society for whatever reasons," Crozier told The Times yesterday. "For whatever reasons, he has chosen to do the same with 57 other children before this girl."

Crozier questioned the authority of the Viking Homes employee to place the child with Viking. He said it was a dangerous decision because it im-

plied a Viking Homes employee living 200 miles away was found to be a better guardian than any of the 310,000 people living in Peel, the girl's home community.

He said that the major problem lies in a lack of adequate communication and understanding between the court and the Peel CAS. Of particular concern to him is the lack of any objective assessment of each child's needs.

Crozier argues that a majority of the children sent to group homes could be better and less expen-

sively handled in Peel. He said that the children, in many cases, would be better off living in their own homes under the guidance of a volunteer probation officer or a professional social worker.

He added that the group-home route is so expensive that Peel could afford, in comparison, to hire a social worker for every child dealt with by the family courts.

Crozier noted that there was no court order covering the payment of costs in this most recent case. He expects Viking Homes will bring the child back before

Judge Durham and ask that Peel be ordered to pay.

In the meantime, the child is in a kind of financial limbo. The supreme court ruled that Durham could not make retroactive orders against a municipality.

The court decision is being appealed by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services in an effort to clarify the status of the child in relation to the family court and to the child welfare authorities. The ministry claims that the financial implications (who pays the

bill) has not been a factor in deciding to appeal supreme court.

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