

Trail Assoc. tries to save CP bridge

The Maitland Trail Association asked County Council Thursday to help delay the destruction of bridges along the CP Rail line from Guelph to Goderich at least until the provincial government looking into the alternate uses of the line makes its report.

Robert Pattison and Bob Lafontaine addressed council to ask for help in saving the bridges, some of which would cost millions to replace, from immediate destruction. The Trail Association has been

attempting to gain support for the conversion of the CP right of way to a recreational trail.

Mr. Pattison said that the present CP timetable for demolition of the bridges, particularly the massive bridges across the Maitland River west of Auburn and at the Goderich harbour, means they will be demolished before the Inter-Ministerial Committee of the provincial government has reported on possible other uses for the land. "We are requesting the County of

Huron to assist us by interceding with the CPR in an attempt to delay the demolition of the bridges until the final disposition of the lands can be determined", Mr. Pattison said.

He pointed out that without the bridges, the trail would be broken in many places.

Hullett township Reeve Tom Cunningham said he understood it was already too late to save some bridges, noting the bridge across the Blyth Creek near his farm was

now gone. Mr. Pattison said the smaller bridges could be replaced at a reasonable cost but the two big bridges would be expensive to replace. In addition, he said, he understood the demolition contract called only for the steel to be removed leaving the huge cement pillars still standing to mar the scenic entry to Goderich.

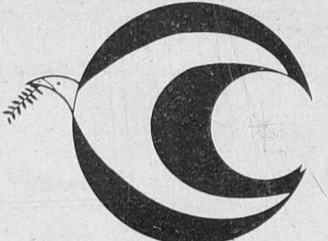
The group didn't get immediate action on its request. The matter was referred to the Planning and Development Committee.

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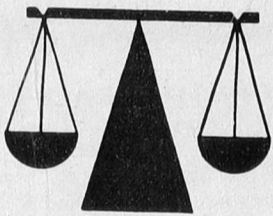
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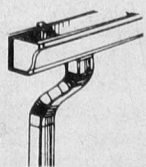
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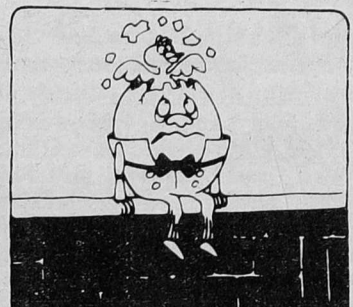
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