



Friday's freezing rain storm kept Halton Hills Hydro crews busy and caused plenty of damage. (From left) Two cars were damaged when a tree came down at 70-72 Main Street South, Georgetown. One car had its roof crushed while another car had minor damage and a third car narrowly escaped being hit. Halton Hills Hydro journeyman/lineman Hessel Faber worked on one of the many affected hydro lines Friday while downed tree limbs littered Clayhill Rd.

Left photo by Ted Brown/centre and right photos courtesy Halton Hills Hydro

Freak ice storm keeps local Hydro crews busy

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer

Halton Hills Hydro CEO Art Skidmore is thanking Halton Hills residents for their patience during Friday's ice storm that left nearly 75 per cent of the community with a power outage of some sort.

Tree limbs weighed down by the heavy ice hung or fell down on power lines right across the community knocking out hydro, and there were heavy winds in some areas. Particularly hard-hit for downed tree branches were 15 and 17 Sideroads and Clayhill Rd.



ART SKIDMORE

"Most of the outages were caused by branches on the lines," said Skidmore. Power was out for customers ranging "from moments to days."

"Some areas were fine and others were heavily impacted," he said.

He said most of the town of Acton was without power for about three hours mid-day Friday and there were short term, sporadic outages in other areas including parts of Georgetown.

"We would go down and re-energize a line only for it to trip out again," said Skidmore.

Those with longer-term outages all

had their power back on by 4 p.m. Saturday, said Skidmore.

He said in some areas, Halton Hills Hydro had to bring a tree contractor to remove trees and limbs and four extra Hydro crews were called in.

"Our entire organization responded to this," said Skidmore who in a letter of thanks to area residents (See pg. 6) is also acknowledging staff "who worked diligently throughout the storm and this weekend to return our customers to full service."

He said normally four people man the phones, but an additional six people were brought in to handle the call volume. Engineering department staff members were helping out operations staff. Hydro crews responded to their first call about 4:30 a.m. Friday, and were out fixing problems through about 1:30 a.m. Saturday. They were back out again about 8 a.m. Saturday until about 4 p.m.

Skidmore hasn't seen an ice storm like last week's during his career in Halton Hills, and he said a 23-year Halton Hills Hydro employee doesn't recall one either.

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