

He graduated in 1954, married Vivian in September, and joined Ontario Hydro in Toronto as a junior engineer.

He came to Belleville with Ontario Hydro in September of 1955 as consumer service supervisor.

After nine years with Ontario Hydro, he decided to join the Belleville Utilities Commission in 1963 as assistant to general manager Ernie Burnham. He became general manager in 1972 when Burnham retired.

Britton was 64 when he retired in 1994.

"With the utility, it was easy to see what you had accomplished, rather than with a big organization like Ontario Hydro," he said.

One of Britton's first jobs with the commission was helping design the first electric underground subdivision in Belleville. That was in West Park Village in the mid-1960s.

He's extremely proud of how the commission progressed under his leadership.

In 1967, the commission built and moved the electrical department from Front Street to our new service centre on College Street and the water distribution department from Church Street to the service centre.

"The building of this service centre was a big progressive move for the utility commission because it brought everyone under one roof. The office itself moved here in 1974," Britton said.

Other commission highlights included moving from hand-drawn to reproducible and then computer-generated drawings of the city's water and electrical system and changing the accounting records and billing from manual to computer records.

Britton's last big project was overseeing the planning and getting ready to tender the new \$40 million water treatment plant off Sidney Street.

"The project going ahead was an opportune time for me to retire and have someone else take over."

Britton served as president of the Association of Municipal Electrical Utilities of Ontario in 1978 and president of the Electrical Utilities Safety Association in 1976.

He said the local commission never had to take a back seat to anyone.

"We had an excellent operation for our size and everyone in the province knew it. We were like a family."

In retirement, Britton continues to be a member of the Rotary Club of Belleville, active in his Bridge Street United Church and helping out with Meals on Wheels.

"Of course, I will keep involved with the Masons because I believe in its objectives."