

## Hydro progress shows marked increase seeks new office, workshop for expansion

Following is a report from Acton Hydro Electric Commission outlining its method of operation.

Since operating as a separate Commission since 1960, the Acton Hydro Electric Commission has shown a vast increase in its power consumption. A number of changes have been made and plans are still underway for a new hydro office to include workshop.

In 1959 the power bill from Ontario Hydro was \$153,459.97. During 1965 the bill totalled \$227,927.80. This shows a sharp rise in consumer use. In comparison, the sale of power netted the commission \$208,261.62, as compared with 1965 sale of \$293,103.68.

Since the formation of the commission, the property where

the workshop is located on Alice Street was purchased from the town during the inaugural year.

The same year, No. 2 substation near Eastern Avenue was purchased from Ontario Hydro. In 1963, No. 1 substation located on Willow Street was converted from 25 cycle to 60 cycle in order to increase the capacity. This station was purchased from Ontario Hydro in the fall of 1959.

Although preliminary plans for a new Hydro building started in 1962, it was not until 1964 the commission hired an architect to draw plans. Tenders were called on two occasions in 1965. On both occasions, they proved in excess of anticipated costs. Next week, the commission meets with a second archi-

tect in hopes a new building can still be erected at a reasonable cost to the commission.

In 1961, a hot water heater program was initiated by the commission. Since that time, 367 water heaters have been installed throughout town. Consumers have three alternatives in order to obtain a heater on flat rate — (1) outright purchase at a slight increase of the cost to the commission; (2) on a rental basis; (3) or consumers may finance the purchase of a water heater from the commission.

Hydro is able to promote the hot water heater program at a saving to consumers by installing them on a control system. This system works automatically each day around noon and shuts off heaters during the peak load when power is in demand.

A major advantage of the hydro heater "Cascade 40" is the quick recovery after all hot water has been used. Within two hours, consumers can enjoy a full tank of hot water again at a temperature of 150 degrees.

As well as keeping a close tab on the maintenance of all power lines, the works department assists the town work force in tree trimming and also installing flags on light standards for

special holiday occasions. The cost of this is absorbed by the commission. Maintenance on the town street lighting system is all handled by the hydro department and the cost is charged back to the town.

The first all-electric home in Acton was completed in 1963. Today, there are seven fully-electric homes in town and at present, negotiations are underway for several more.

Last week, the commission agreed to install free a "Cascade 40" hot water heater at the commission unit cost price as an incentive to encourage more fully-electric homes.

Equipment used by the works department includes a 1966 G.M.C. van for use by the meter reader and utility truck. A 1963 Ford truck equipped with aerial bucket and post-hole digger handles all major jobs. A 1954 Fargo linetruck is used to carry reels of cable and other utility equipment and a 1959 G.M.C. truck is used for service calls.

Commission members attend conventions during the year to keep abreast with the hydro program and discuss problems with other commissions which are relevant to problems encountered here.

The work force also attend "workshops" in order to keep



TED TYLER SR.  
Chairman

up-to-date on the latest techniques in coping with power installations and all phases of their work.

The present work force consists of superintendent Doug Mason and two hydro linemen—journeymen, Dorson Frizzell and Ken Hodgson. Newton Hurst handles meter reading chores and assists office secretary-treasurer Mrs. Audrey Urquhart.

Present commission members include chairman E. G. Tyler Sr., vice-chairman Doug Dawkins and members Will McEachern, Orville Brown and Mayor Les Doby, who represents town council on the commission.

## Editor stresses need for Town's progress

(Continued from Page 7)

the Halton - Peel study area which will indicate the rate of growth which may be anticipated.

At the time of the University Study, Acton had one industrial worker for each three to seven persons of population—indicative of a strong industrialization. The study suggests that the availability of open factory space at low rentals or cost may well be the key to the attraction of further industry to Acton. The availability of fixed cost municipally-owned industrial land should prove attractive to industry seeking locations on periphery of the Toronto-Hamilton complex.

The report does not see Acton in the capacity of a major purveyor of goods and services to the surrounding countryside. The study suggests it does not enjoy a wide market area but also suggests it is not able to meet the needs of the local inhabitants for goods and services. The ratio of non-basic to basic workers is 3 to 1, considered quite low.

Relly's Law which is used to determine a community's market area is based on the principal attractions of a town in direct proportion to the distance which it is away from a neighboring town and in inverse proportion to the relative size of the neighboring town. The study's application of this law suggests Acton's market area extends four miles west on Highway 7, three miles east on Highway 7, 4.5 miles south on Highway 25, and three miles north on Highway 25.

Commenting on this assessment report notes the influence of the readily accessible market centres of Toronto, Hamilton and Guelph.

Another factor contributing to the relatively small trading area is noted that the rural land surrounding Acton is not the type to produce an intensive farming community of density sufficient to bolster the town in its role as a regional trading centre. Another pitfall pointed out is the tendency to fragmentation of the business district by highway strip development which the report notes is not good in the long run for either the highway or the downtown merchant. Acton is not alone in this problem which must also be faced by many communities in both Ontario and the United States.

A high level of industrial employment indicates a strong po-

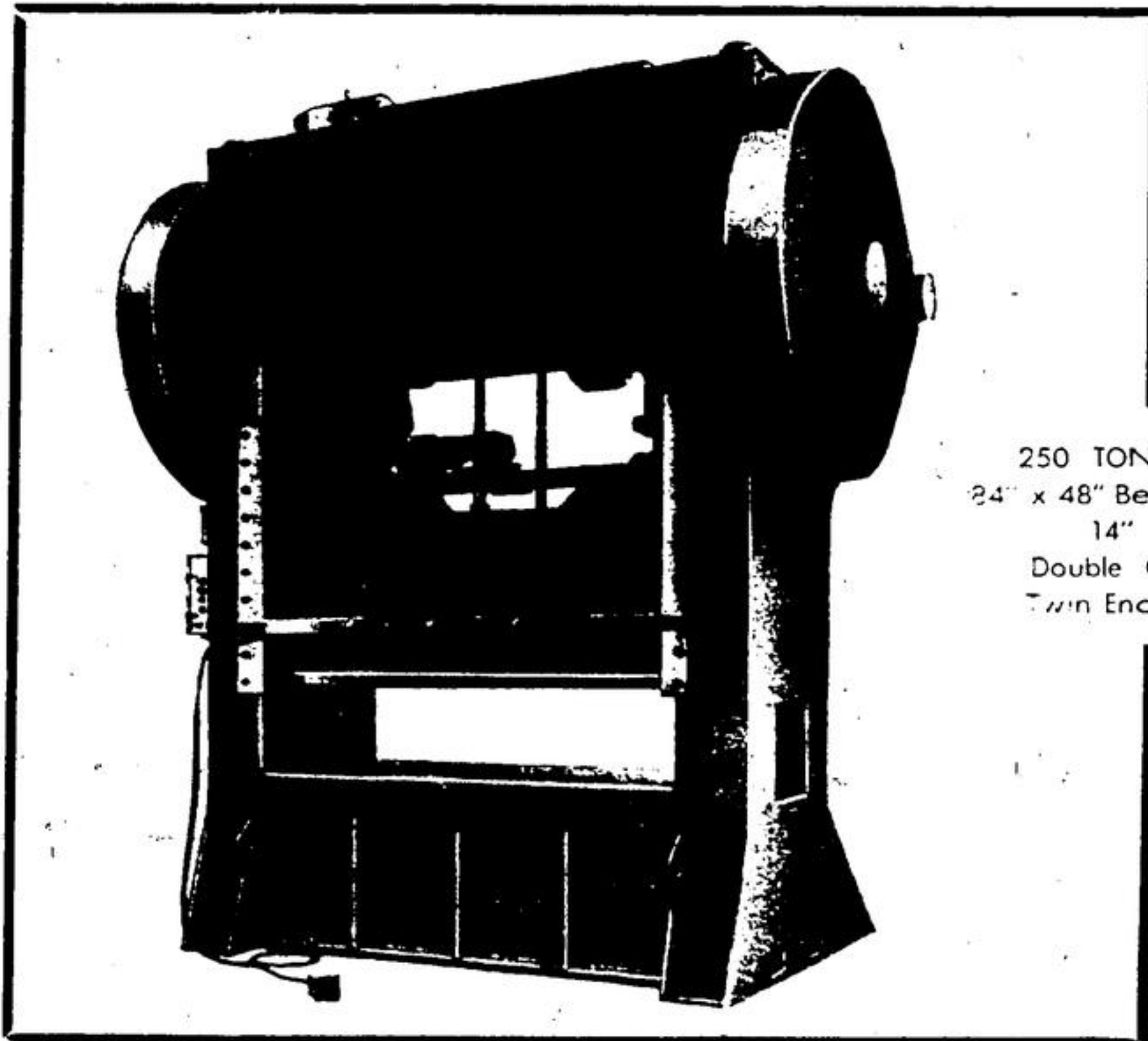
Copies of this special section will be sent to industrial prospects. They will be distributed at conventions and district municipal meetings to stimulate interest in Acton.

tential for consumer spending in Acton and the increased population up to 1981 indicates a resultant expansion of the commercial and service activities. The rapid urbanization of the area around Toronto and in South Halton might make the

(Continued on Page 14)

# BLOW

STRAIGHT SIDE -- ALL-STEEL  
DOUBLE CRANK POWER PRESSES



250 TON CAP.  
24" x 48" Bed Area  
14" Stroke  
Double Geared  
Twin End Drive

# BLOW PRESS

LIMITED

ACTON, ONTARIO, CANADA