

Environmental study

The Solandt Commission has engaged Bruce Howlett, a consultant to review the environmental factors in Ontario Hydro's proposed Nanticoke to Pickering power line.

Howlett was engaged by the Commission at a meeting Thursday. His study is expected to take several months and he is expected to call meetings where those affected by the power line—including many Nassagaweya and Esqueving residents—can voice their view and work toward a solution.

In Nassagaweya, Hydro proposed cutting a 600 foot wide

swath on an angle across the north part of the township. In Esqueving a trunk line extending south to the Drumquhn transformer station caused concern. About 200 names were collected on a petition in that area.

About 50 municipal representatives attended a meeting Thursday when Dr. Solandt, who conducted the original hearings on the hydro line, announced the engaging of Mr. Howlett for the environmental study. Esqueving resident Peter Branch asked if Howlett's study would include the north-south trunk lines and Dr. Solandt assured him it would.

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Second Section



New Chamber of Commerce Christmas lighting brightens Acton's downtown business section.

Chamber's newest project spotlights downtown

Acton Chamber of Commerce launched an ambitious project this year which culminated in a major Christmas lights program for the town at a cost of \$3,500.

The lights were hung this week by workmen from Acton Hydro and the Chamber is appealing to members and prospective members to get behind their efforts to promote the town during the year to come.

Traditionally the Chamber has taken on the responsibility of organizing the Christmas light decorations but it was decided that the previous decorations—which brightened business streets during the festive season needed replacing. It was decided to go "whole hog" and provide a little better form of decoration and lighting that would be a credit to the town.

In a letter explaining their motives the Chamber is asking members and prospective members to renew or take out memberships so they'll be available to run for office or vote for officers at the annual meeting in January, 1973, and so show their support.

"Many people are under the impression a Chamber functions only for its members," the letter says, "but if it is functioning well it is a benefit to the whole community."

As the present Chamber officers see it there must be a concerted effort to develop Acton's downtown and prevent a repetition of the empty stores which created some alarm this year among businessmen. In this regard, several members of the Chamber executive have met the Development Commission

and are scheduled to do so again on December 13.

It is hoped that in the new year with a stronger membership and new ideas the Chamber will be able to make some constructive suggestions and outline plans to help the development of Acton.

The Christmas lights project is just a start.

The chamber executive adds up the many things they tried during the past year, marking success and failures by the support or lack of it and the availability or scarcity of money. But the executive emphasizes they feel that people working together are of greater value than money.

One of the last acts of the present executive is to plan a gala New Year's Eve celebration which will take the

form of a dinner and dance at the Halton Heights Country Club. The Chamber is appealing for support from all walks of life to make this year's event another success.

The groundwork for many other schemes was laid this year but much of it will not reach fruition until next year or later. New businesses were welcomed to town by the traditional offering of flowers to let them know Acton people are friendly and to create a climate which would be salubrious for commerce.

The Acton Chamber is affiliated with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, which has a membership of 60,000 people and businesses and so has a voice in Government. The directors of the Ontario Chamber make representation to Government on

various issues such as the present one where the Ontario Government is being asked to ensure adequate health care and facilities are established in communities where there is a need.

The teaching of commerce and home economics in the high schools of the province also was instigated as the result of direct pressure from the Chamber of Commerce at Government level.

So the Acton Chamber's big push this year is to get people involved. They are asking for ideas and support.

"When you see your town lit up for Christmas this year, please try to think of the value of the program and give us support for some of the things we are trying so hard to accomplish," they ask. Additional information may be had by phoning 853-2703.

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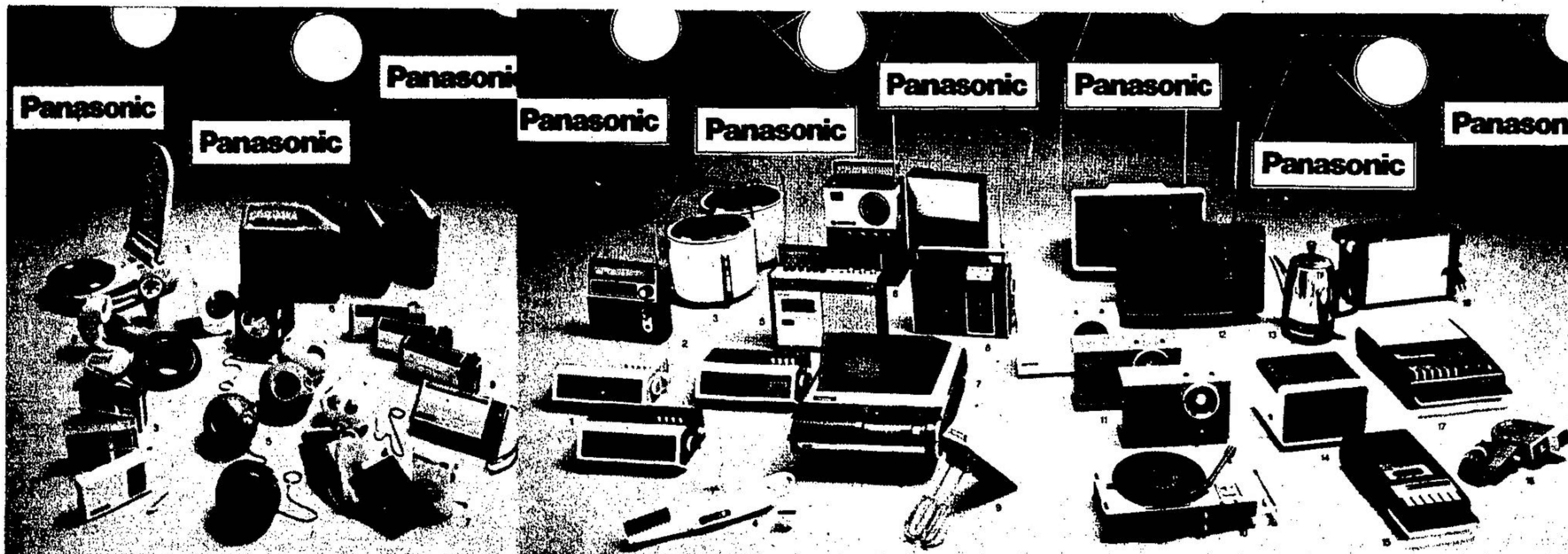
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