

High estimates for hydro users

People who do not make available their hydro meters for reading and fail to fill in the meter card are the target of a new Acton hydro commission crackdown.

Hydro superintendent Doug Mason told the commission at their monthly meeting Thursday morning that meter readers have been having problems recently in the Kingham Rd. townhouses. He explained that some homeowners have erected a fence right to the road, and the readers cannot get into the back yards to read the meters. If no one is at home, a card is left for the resident to fill in.

Chairman Wilf McEachern pointed out that under the power act, the commission must have access to the meters during reasonable hours of the day. It is illegal to block off access, he said. Acting office manager Marj Loutlet said there are 30 to 40 customers throughout the town who do not have access to the meter, and do not

fill out the card left behind. She said these people's bills are totally guesswork, and they make the estimates high.

However, Mrs. Loutlet said, there was one case where hydro employees had not got in to see the meter in several years, and estimates were done all the time. When the residents moved, employees got in and discovered that the estimates were low. A bill was sent to their forwarding addresses for close to \$200 but the money was never received.

The commission decided to send each negligent person a registered letter saying from now on, the estimates would be much higher than previous bills. Mr. McEachern said a person is not going to skip town if the commission owes them money. A registered letter is also going to be sent to Alteo Construction and inform him of the inaccessibility to the readers at some of the townhouses, especially in Phase Three.



SAFETY AWARDS were presented to Indusmin Monday for the company's record of no lost time accidents for 1976. Jim Creighton, safety superintendent for the company, is flanked by George Cantwell, yards superintendent, and Jack Champoux, Halton superintendent. Last time loss accident for the company was in 1974.

School board

Rejects calculator ban

Trustee Bert Hinton's call for calculators to be banned in Halton's elementary schools was rejected Thursday by Halton Board of Education.

Hinton also wanted high school students who selected courses which require calculators to buy their own.

He said he talked to many math teachers and they all agreed with him that calculators shouldn't be used by elementary pupils.

Hinton thought students would find ample opportunities to use calculators outside of class and the decision to sue them shouldn't be left to the teacher's discretion. He said he could see no benefit in the machines to elementary pupils urging Halton follow Scarborough in banning them.

He said there was nothing to say the board couldn't revise the policy in the future to allow calculators if there was evidence of student benefits.

Both he and Trustee Don Long thought calculators could be used in elementary schools by handicapped pupils. Hinton thought use should be restricted to perceptually handicapped children.

Trustee Helen Howard-Loek asked Hinton if he wanted fingers and toes cut off too since they were the original calculators. She said knowing how to use calculators will be a basic skill students must know in the near future.

Constant use of calculators weakens mental arithmetic skills, Trustee Len Crosier stated. Trustees Bill Herd and Forence Meares both opposed the ban since there is no evidence calculators are harmful. Trustee Elaine Riehm said the board needs a flexible policy like the one now being used.

Policy doesn't allow use of

calculators until students have demonstrated, in region-wide tests, they are proficient in arithmetic.

Barrier blocks driver view

A Mill Street barrier obstructed the view of one driver and led to a collision on Mill Street Thursday morning at 10:20.

The car driven by David Logan, 141 Main Street, received about \$500 in damages, police say. A second car, driven by Alex Brunton, of Woodbridge, took \$150 in damages, police say.

Highway 25 collision

A highway 25 collision, near Steeles Avenue, caused about \$250 in damages to the car driven by Lee Vickery of 9 Division Street Friday afternoon.

A second car in the mishap, driven by Anne Simms of Hamilton, took about \$50 in damages, police say.

Council says no to management study

In his own words, Councillor Peter Morris fought a losing battle to have a management study done of the town's operation.

He lost the battle at finance administration committee and lost it again, Monday night at council.

He said council has not even gone as far as finding out the cost, or setting the terms of reference.

Councillor Pete Pomeroy asked why finance administration committee had asked several consultants to submit briefs on their background if they had no intention of proceeding and turning it down before even knowing

the cost. Mayor Tom Hill suggested it go back to committee, and consultants be interviewed to find out the cost.

Morris said no prices could be given until the terms of reference are decided by council and staff.

Councillor Mike Armstrong termed it a waste of time to interview or set terms of reference when there was no intention of doing anything about it.

Councillor Russ Miller repeated his previous contention that there is not money in the budget for such a study, and said people are fed up with studies.

Councillor Walter Blehn agreed it would be a waste of money unless council agreed to abide by any recommendations. He said in previous cases this had not always been the case. "We're just going around in circles."

"They might recommend a new municipal building and then where would we be," commented Armstrong.

Morris claimed no reputable firm would make recommendations beyond the financial ability of the town.

Patterson took the opposite tack, saying consultants do not take ability to pay into consideration. He predicted a cost between \$50,000 and \$60,000 for such a study.

Only Morris, Maltby and Hill voted to send the matter back for review.

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New youth centre proving successful

Acton's new youth centre, meeting Tuesday and Friday evenings in the scout hall, is doing very well, according to co-organizer Joanne Vlietstra, and attracting a core group of 10-20 youngsters.

"These same people are out every time," she said. Activities vary at the centre. Friday nights they have been holding dances, while last night they played baseball and told ghost stories. They had Twilight, a local group, to perform at the

first dance, and for the second, three of the teens acted as disc jockeys.

The centre is planning some activities with Georgetown, whose centre is also doing well. Similar organizations in Burlington and Milton have not been as successful.

Miss Vlietstra is asking parents for any ideas they might have for things for the group to do, and says that money is needed for bus fares if the group ever goes out of town.



CARELESS SMOKING is blamed for a fire in a chesterfield last Wednesday evening at the home of Mrs. Ken Milne, 56 Church St. W.

Careless smoking blamed

Careless smoking is blamed for a fire in a chesterfield last Wednesday evening. Acton fire chief Mick Holmes said firefighters were called to the home of Mrs. Ken Milne, 56 Church St., at 11 p.m. to extinguish flames in the sofa. The piece of furniture had to be carried out of the house to prevent flames from spreading.

Mr. Holmes estimates \$100 in damages to the chesterfield.

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