



Arch Harkins replaced the wall sockets in his home because he said they were overheating and arcing. The sockets were discolored and much of the wire covering burnt off.

Wiring problem worries members of Harkins family

Members of the Harkins family count themselves lucky to have found a problem with the aluminum wire electrical outlets in their Rosemary Road home.

Arch Harkins spent most of Saturday replacing the 24 outlets in the upstairs and the rest downstairs. At least one neighbor in the subdivision is doing the same. The problem. Some of the electrical wall outlets knocked out last week. However, Mr. Harkins indicated the fuses were working fine. As Mr. Harkins was later unscrewing the front plate of an outlet he said he saw a steady arc inside the outlet.

Inspection found some of the aluminum wires leading into the outlets were almost bare of insulation. Also there was a yellow discoloring of the plastic between the receptacles. "Obviously, looking at the wires, it has been arcing and overheating for some time," he said.

The discovery was "unnerving to say the least," he said in an interview in the Harkins' home Saturday. "I was nervous about going to sleep. 'Very disturbed,'" said Lonnie Harkins.

No hint of the size of the problem occurred to the family when the alarm clock failed to go off last Wednesday morning. However, Mrs. Harkins was puzzled when the television set, which worked the night before, did not function the next afternoon.

That night they got down to checking the electrical system. The wall outlets Mr. Harkins replaced are marked CU-AL 15A 125V. They were made in Canada and marked with the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) symbol. The wires from the wall slip into the outlets.

Mr. Harkins indicated there is no question the receptacles and the aluminum wire conformed to the building code when the home was constructed six years ago. The outlets Mr. Harkins is replacing are marked CO/ALR. They carry the (CSA) symbol too. Wires are joined to these receptacles by

mean of screws. The screw units were bought in town, he said, and cost of replacement is between \$20 and \$25. Mr. Harkins, an industrial relations officer, telephoned the Bovis company and was told his case was the first of its kind the company heard of.

Inquiries to the fire marshal's office at Toronto led to indications Ontario Hydro approved the aluminum wall receptacles because of a shortage of copper. Mr. Harkins also said the fire marshal indicated that because of the softness of aluminum, care has to be exercised in the installation of the units.

The fire marshal also indicated there is a commission which will make recommendations concerning aluminum wiring in houses. A controversy has been raging for several years on its merits.

Mr. Harkins said if the commission reports aluminum wire is no longer in use, he may consider rewiring his home. One of the Harkins' sons, ten-year-old Steven, was awake during most of the night time incident because the fuse box is in his room.

Brothers Dave, 7, and Bradley, 6, slept. "All the expertise in the world wouldn't have made me feel comfortable," Mr. Harkins said. "Darn right. No one can tell me it couldn't have developed into a fire."

Simcoe is by a teacher dealing with the advantages and disadvantages of prostitution. Oakville trustee Elsie Hilson asked Lavender during Thursday's Halton Board of Education meeting if such courses as those in Simcoe County were being taught in Halton. Lavender told trustees he would check into the matter.

There are no red light sex education classes in Halton, according to director of education Em Lavender.

Are we teaching sex education? Yes, we are in the intermediate and senior divisions, Lavender said in an interview Tuesday.

No, we are not teaching lessons like the one under investigation in Simcoe County, he said. The program being offered in

Drop in grants to schools means higher local taxes

by Jennifer Rowe

Local ratepayers will have to pay more for education in Ontario, according to Halton Board of Education finance superintendent Bruce Lindley's latest figures.

The increase is a result of Ontario Education Minister Bette Stephenson's announcement last week that the average increase in provincial grants to the school boards will be 4.27 per cent for 1979, a figure well below the current inflation rate.

Mr. Lindley, said the provincial government has reduced its level of support by approximately one-half to one per cent. Mr. Lindley is still awaiting further information before he can give an exact figure.

In 1978 the provincial grant accounted for 51.5 per cent of the board's expenses. Mr. Lindley estimated this year's grant covers 50 to 51 per cent of expenses. "The extra half or full percent will have to be picked by the local ratepayers," Mr. Lindley said.

Since 1975 school boards have had to get by on grants amounting to 50 per cent or slightly more to cover expenses. Provincial government subsidies, from 1973-75 reached the 60 per cent mark. Ten years ago, the grants figured in at 43 per cent.

"It's just that the funds are not available, not only in education but in all facets of provincial grants," Mr. Lindley said.

Different areas in Halton have a different mill rate but the current average of 55 mills for education will have to be increased, according to Mr. Lindley. He has not received the figures for the mill rate increase.

Betty Fisher, school board trustee for Acton

and Esquesing, said it was difficult to say what impact the reduced level would have on the board until the budget was brought down. "I must admit though I would like to see the government not being so restrictive with the grants," Mrs. Fisher said. She also said it was the provincial government which encouraged higher spending through the building of schools and offering additional programs. "Now they have not come through with the money," she said.

Barry Sheppard, Georgetown school board trustee, feels that the province is expecting the school boards to provide education, but they are not providing the funds, making it difficult for all the school boards to live up to this expectation. "We also have a constant pressure by taxpayers to keep tax costs down," Sheppard said.

Mr. Sheppard said despite declining enrollment, costs continue to rise. "There is no decline in the cost of education. Seventy-four per cent of the funds go to the instructional budget. Even the slight drop in numbers of teachers will not bring the cost of education down," he said.

Mr. Sheppard said the slight reduction in the teacher-pupil ratio, recently negotiated in the teachers contract, will have quite an effect on the costs. "This is why the board went so long

before reaching an agreement with the teachers. We realized the repercussions of reducing the teacher-pupil ratio."

Hartley Sherk, separate school board trustee, said he was not sure of the impact because the board had not come down with a budget yet. Mr. Sherk said the board will have to try and cover all their costs but it is obvious that this will not be possible.

Mr. Sherk said the reason for the cut-backs was due to the government not keeping its part of the teachers superannuation fund, and consequently trying to make up for lost time and money now. "The superannuation fund is more than \$400-million in the hole. The government did not keep up its part of the fund and was borrowing from it. In

order to catch up they are now trying to replace it and school boards and children are suffering."

Mr. Sherk said he was disappointed but not surprised at the announcement of the grant. "The handwritings been on the wall for the past three years," he said.

However we won't be able to keep the budget within these grants. The sad part is we have to now go to the taxpayers," Armstrong said.

Armstrong said the finance committee is in the early stages of the planning and so it is too early to say what will happen. "I would doubt whether we can stay within the grant allotted," he said.

Bill Lawson, trustee for Milton, was not available for comment at press time.

96 dogs, destroyed

Nety-six dogs were destroyed or sent for re-search, during the last three months of 1978, according to a report from the Halton Hills Animal Control officer, Joe Kirley.

The service answered 737 calls, during the three month period, and placed 10 dogs in homes. Owners reclaimed 83 of the 189 dogs impounded.

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Allen A. McMartin, Chairman of the Board of Hollinger, announces that the following changes of officers have been made following the retirement of Mr. A. L. Fairley, Jr. as President and Chief Executive Officer of Hollinger and President of Labrador. Mr. Fairley has held these positions since 1964. He will continue as a director of both companies.

P. C. Finlay has been elected President and Chief Executive Officer of Hollinger and Chairman of the Board of Labrador. Mr. Finlay is a senior partner in the firm of Holden, Murdoch & Finlay and was also previously a Vice-President of Hollinger and Labrador.

C. Bruce Ross has been elected Executive Vice-President of Hollinger and President of Labrador. Mr. Ross was previously a Vice-President of both companies and will also continue as General Manager of both companies.

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11 Oz. 4 Varieties Savarin **MEAT DINNERS** .79

11 Oz. 3 Varieties **EGGO TOASTER WAFFLES** .79

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2 Lb. McCan Strawberry or Raspberry **SHORTCAKE** \$1.98

1.25 Kg. - 1.35 Kg. **QUICK OR INSTANT QUAKER OATS** .99

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