



Acton Hydro Commissioners and staff gathered for a goodbye dinner Saturday night. Front row, left to right, Orville Brown, Bob McArthur, Audrey Urquhart, Marj Louttett, Will M-

Eachern and Peter Pomeroy. Back row, Doug Mason, Dorson Frizzell, Ken Hodgson and Ivor Trowbridge. Absent, Ken Hurren and Linda Ramsden.

## Acton Hydro 67 years old get together to reminisce

Acton Hydro Commission was 67 years old Saturday and that evening the commissioners, staff and their spouses gathered for a farewell dinner.

They didn't get together to celebrate the anniversary of the public utility as much as to say a formal goodbye to each other and reminisce about the years gone by. On April 1 the Acton Hydro Commission will disappear and be replaced by the new Halton Hills Hydro Commission, serving Acton, Esquesing and Georgetown.

Master of Ceremonies Bob McArthur said Acton Hydro was born February 9, 1912, and was administered by Acton council until 1921 when the commission was formed. Prior to the birth of Acton Hydro, power was generated by a steam plant at the Inland Publishing Co. Limited printing facility and the Acton Free Press offices on Willow Street.

Acton Hydro's first contract with Ontario Hydro, signed in April 1912, called for the purchase of up to 200 horse power and in 1913 demand was for 141 horse power. Also that first year there were 272 power customers, McArthur recalled.

The first commission was formed in 1921 and in 1926 council passed a bylaw forming the Public Utilities Commission for hydro and water distribution, McArthur stated. However, in 1947, workload forced the splitting of two departments, with Charles Wilson serving as the hydro superintendent and John Lambert overseeing water service. About the same time McArthur said, a deal was made to procure two lots on Alice Street and the hydro workshop was built.

In 1959, McArthur said, the commission was split up with council taking over water. At that time the town clerk was also the secretary-treasurer of the commission, the amalgamation of town and commission staff having taken place

in the early 40s.

McArthur recalled the office building was added to the workshop in 1967 and at that time there were 1,247 domestic, 71 commercial and 40 industrial customers of Acton Hydro, with a staff of six.

Today, he noted, there are in total 2,265 customers consuming 4,936,285 kilowatts per month at a cost of \$109,974. Thirty miles of wire are needed to distribute the power around Acton.

McArthur said he hasn't been able to find any records of who the first hydro superintendent was but the next three were L. G. King, Charles Wilson and Doug Mason. Secretaries of the commission have included B. H. Speight, Fred Turner, Jessie Walker, Jack McGeachie and Audrey Urquhart. He admitted he was probably leaving a few people out, but the past commissioners he had been able to determine included E. J. Hassard, A. T. Brown, George Barber, E. T. Theford, J. M. McDonald, R. J. Kerr, L. G. King, Mac Symon, Fred McCutcheon, Charles Hansen, Dr. Frank Oakes, Ed Hufnagel, A. Mason, B. D. Rachlin, John Goy, Gord McCutcheon, Ray Arbie, Gordon Beatty, D. Dawkins, J. J. Stewart, Les Duby, Ted Tyler Sr., Tom Hill, Peter Pomeroy, Tom Ware, Will McEachern and Bob McArthur.

Commissioners Orville Brown (16 years), Bob McArthur (23 years), Will McEachern (16 years), Peter Pomeroy (two years) were honored as well as the families of the late Les Duby (17 years) and Ted Tyler Sr. (26 years) with plaques and photographs. Staffers Doug Mason (32 years), Dorson Frizzell (20 years), Ken Hodgson (20 years), Ivor Trowbridge (two years), Audrey Urquhart (29 years) and Marj Louttett (eight years) also received plaques and staff photographs. Ken Hurren (five years) and Linda Ramsden (six months) were absent.

## Acton motorist recalled seeing youth who froze

By Linda Kirby

A newspaper story has helped shed light on the mystery body of a 19-year-old Mississauga youth whose frozen body was found recently in a Milton field.

A 30-year-old Acton man was apparently the last person to see James Wintle of Suburban Dr., Mississauga alive.

According to Halton Regional Police, Kevin Merritt of Greencore Cres., Acton, picked up the youth shortly after the 19-year-old crashed his car on Derry Rd. in the early morning hours of Sunday, Dec. 23.

His body was discovered nearly six weeks later in a plowed field 150 yards south of Derry Rd. between Eighth and Ninth Line, Milton, by a group of land surveyors.

According to Staff Sergeant Ronald Southgate, Mr. Merritt came across the accident at approximately 3 a.m.

He told police the youth was still sitting in the car and was debating on how to get the smashed vehicle out of the ditch.

Mr. Merritt told police the youth did not appear to have suffered injuries

as a result of the accident.

When the youth decided he couldn't get the car out of the ditch, he asked Mr. Merritt for a lift to a party.

Police earlier established the youth had left a Lower Base Line residence to take home a friend, but planned to return to the party.

The youth was apparently on his way back when the accident occurred.

Mr. Merritt told police the teen was intoxicated, but agreed to give him a lift.

After a mile and a half, the youth asked Mr. Merritt to drop him off at a driveway, claiming the party was at that residence.

Police are still awaiting autopsy results from Toronto. Homicide was ruled out by police following an initial report from the Forensic Sciences Centre in Toronto and death was attributed to a fatal mixture of alcohol and narcotics.

Mr. Merritt came forward after spotting a news story in The Acton



Acton resident Kymm Lakin, age 15, was the third runner-up in the recent Miss Teen Mississauga pageant held at Square One shopping centre.



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## Ten Days program

# People need meaningful work

People everywhere need meaningful work a panel of experts concluded at the Friday night's Ten Days for World Development seminar at Knox Presbyterian Church.

The program was attended by over 30 people and discussion centred on this year's theme of Making a Living.

The panel consisted of nurse Susan Martin, United Auto Workers union official Dan Benedict, industry executive Alistair Russell, Rev. Chuck Beaton and moderator Rev. Das Sydney.

"A better, more rewarding working life should not be a privilege enjoyed by people in higher positions only. It is more important that work should give satisfaction also for all those people who have tedious jobs. In industry it is difficult to eliminate entirely the monotony of mechanized work, but there is always the possibility that an employee could be given other tasks and responsibilities and, above all, an authority for his own decisions," Rev. Sydney noted, reading a Ten Days theme statement. It also summed up many of the ideas expressed at the meeting.

The Ten Days program in Acton and area was arranged by a committee involving Eldon Comfort, Anita Farrington, Susan Martin, Lorna Clark,



This panel of experts discussed people's right to make a living at the Ten Days of World Development program Friday night at Knox Hall. Members

of the panel are, from left to right, Rev. Charles Beaton, Dan Benedict, Rev. Das Sydney, Susan Martin and Alistair Russell.

Emilio Rodrigues, Joanne Turner and Steve Ormsby.

The program began with a film about the immense powers of the multinational corporations, entitled "Controlling Interests", which most at the meeting described as "powerful." It showed exploitation of workers in developing nations like Brazil and Chile as well as in a New England community. It claimed corporations are interested in profits only and the United States government is protecting multinational interests in foreign countries while the same firms exploit workers in America.

Russell countered most firms aren't interested just in profits and added world trade is bringing the world more together. He admitted investment goes where it will get the greatest return but it isn't always the bottom line.

Rev. Beaton described the power and influence of multinationals as "overwhelming" and said profit can't be the only motive.

Benedict said it is unfortunate that many working people's livelihoods depend on the strategic decisions made by people thousands of miles away who are concerned about dollars and cents only. He said too many people feel they can't do anything to stop the multinationals and the Ten Days program

should be raising questions of how people can control their own work destinies.

Russell noted a big business problem today is many workers aren't producing products anymore, but instead many people are involved in industry which produces services only.

According to Mrs. Martin money can't be the only motive for working. She said work atmosphere is important and team work approaches can be very satisfying. A good job isn't necessarily one which pays well, but it is a job which is satisfying.

Rev. Beaton agreed, saying meaningful work is a top priority for a happy life. Recalling his days in business, Rev. Beaton said it is fair to expect a fair return for investment, but too many people are motivated by making maximum profit and greed. A decent wage should be paid for labor and benefits for workers and fair return for business investment aren't contradictory as long as greed doesn't hurt either side.

Russell, discussing business ethics, noted accepted business practices in Canada can be very different in foreign nations so sometimes firms actions outside of Canada

## Class preparing info booklet about Acton for Chamber

by Diana Waltmann

The Grade 12 Urban Geography class at Acton High School will be preparing a detailed information booklet about the town and learning about their community in the process, as part of class curriculum this semester.

Janet Fleming, secretary of the Acton Chamber of Commerce, will be introducing the project to Harold Mahatoo's class this Friday.

The group of 31 students will spend two weeks conducting a field survey and collecting information about businesses and services in Acton, before compiling a detailed brochure on the town.

The class will also design, layout and name the booklet, before presenting it to the Chamber in June.

Mrs. Fleming approached the school with the idea of a booklet because she said, the Chamber had no adequate information to send to tourists or businesses enquiring about Acton.

It's the first time a project like this has been undertaken by the geography class, although the school and the chamber did co-operate on a shopping survey two years ago.

Mahatoo said he hopes it becomes an annual project. He added the project was a practical, relevant and more interesting method of teaching the course. Students will be graded on participation and their

clubs, service group contacts, leisure activities, recreational facilities and perhaps a short history of the town.

She added they might also consider listing services and facilities in neighbouring towns and villages.

The booklet would prove especially useful to tour groups travelling through Acton or new businesses wishing to locate here, Mrs. Fleming stated.

When the booklet is completed, which will be at the term's end in June,

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