

No white shirts

Energy crisis helps area chimney sweep

By MICHAEL HOLLETT Herald editor

The Arabs aren't the only ones cheering about the current energy crisis...

Two years ago, Mr. Holmes was a fire place builder and he noticed a sharp increase in the use of fire places and wood stoves...

At the same time a relative of Mr. Holmes had a chimney fire and that was the last bit of convincing that he needed that a market for chimney sweeps existed.

He says his wife and friends were convinced he had "a screw loose" when he first decided to become a sweep but now that he has become a successful businessman they approve of his decision.

"Now my wife worries about the risks in the job and she's not crazy about doing my laundry these days," he says.

DIRTY JOB

Mr. Holmes is a self-taught sweep. There are no courses offered in Canada on chimney sweeping and there is no regulating body...

Mr. Holmes does not wear the "traditional" stove pipe hat and white shirt when he sweeps, in fact, he totally disapproves of sweeps who do.

His sweeping "uniform" includes black pants, a black shirt and a black baseball cap.

recent popularity of wood burning has also led to an even more recently developed interest in chimney sweeping as a career.

He says the last two months have seen a sharp increase in the number of chimney sweeps because of recent media publicity given to the trade.

BAD SWEEPS "A bad chimney sweep can actually make your chimney more dangerous."

He explains that chimney sweeping is a three stage process however many sweeps skip one of the steps. Initially the sweep seals off the fire-place from inside the house...

According to Mr. Holmes what a sweep does during the

next stage of the job separates the good sweeps from the bad. He says the "white shirt" sweeps will simply go into a house open the damper and sweep up all of the soot and from the bottom of the fire place ashes and then consider the job finished.

For Mr. Holmes, the next step is to put on goggles and a gas mask and then go up into the chimney from inside of the house with a special vacuum cleaner that sucks up all of the soot, ashes and fire residue that build up in a chimney.

"I come out of there black like a coal miner," he says. "Chimney sweeping is something that has been neglected for years and years and it will probably still be a few years before everybody gets it done regularly."

EUROPEAN CUSTOMERS He says the largest number of his customers are European because they are used to having chimneys swept. He says that city people are the worst

for having their chimneys swept. Few even consider having them done until they hear of someone who has had a fire. Mr. Holmes says that woodstove chimneys and pipes should be cleaned once every year because the tin woodstove pipes are susceptible to deposits of fire residue.

Fire places should be cleaned after every three to six cords of wood are burnt in them. He says the length of time it takes to burn that much wood depends on the individual and can take anywhere from a year to three years of semi-regular use.

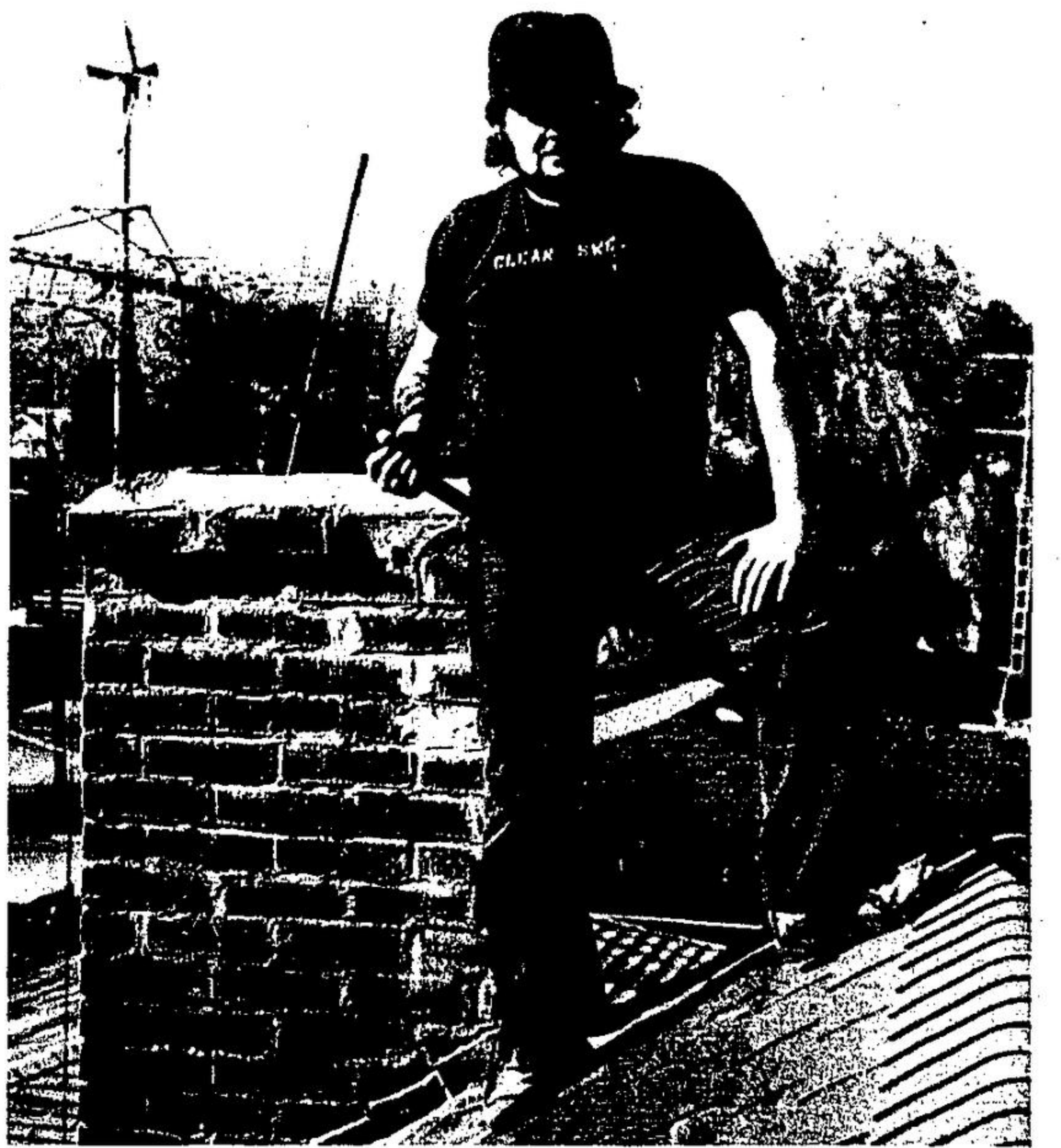
Seasoned hard wood burns the cleanest in fire places and is the least likely to lead to residue build up. Mr. Holmes warns that household paper waste and chemically treated "logs" that burn in color are the worst for messing up a fire place and should be avoided.

Mr. Holmes says chimney sweeping is a dangerous business and, naturally enough, height poses the greatest problem. He says that like almost everyone he was afraid of heights when he began his job but he is beginning to overcome his fear.

STEEL ROOFS He says that the steepness of many old houses is sometimes frightening but, he has never refused to do a house although a few times he says he wishes he had.

Weak chimneys can also be a problem because while he is on a roof, Mr. Holmes counts on the chimneys to steady him. If the bricks are loose, this can lead to a poorly timed stumble.

Wind is also a hazard for a chimney sweep and a sudden gust can be dangerous. Although he was born and raised in Acton, Mr. Holmes has been operating his business from Kitchener for the last two years. He services chimneys, throughout southern Ontario including Toronto, London and a lot of work in Halton Hills.



Chimney sweep Larry Holmes shows how it's done from a roof top perch high above Georgetown. The job begins with a thorough sweep of the chimney using the brushes Mr. Holmes is holding in his hands.

Herald photo

Georgetown angler lands 43-lb. muskie

Lorne Yurichuk of Mary Street in Georgetown found himself in the running for international honors and cash prizes last Thursday when he landed a 43-pound, nine-ounce muskie while trolling on Georgian Bay.

With only four weeks left in the muskellunge season, Mr. Yurichuk's catch could go down in record books as the biggest of 1978, an accomplishment worth hundreds of dollars to Canadian and American organizations which keep tabs on the biggest and the best fishing feats from season to season.

The American angler who landed last year's record muskie (in Canadian waters, incidentally) credited his achievement to sheer luck, but Mr. Yurichuk challenges any fisherman to be that lucky with any consistency.

For 15 years, he has visited Georgian Bay and neighboring waters to try for the elusive muskie that would topple the world's record of 69 pounds, 15 ounces. All those years of experience are now paying off



LORNE YURICHUK

for Mr. Yurichuk and his fellow fishermen, who continue to return to Honey Harbor to try new ideas and improve the old ones.

THESE DAYS

These days, Mr. Yurichuk talks of a "system", devised

over the course of those 15 years, that enables him to land the largest muskie year after year and that will ultimately see fishermen on the Great Lakes pulling in muskies equal in size to the hundred-pound monsters caught commercially.

No luck was involved in Mr. Yurichuk's 43-pound victory last week, which culminated weeks of efforts during which muskies in excess of 25 pounds were repeatedly caught by members of the same fishing expedition.

"That's not luck," Mr. Yurichuk told The Herald. "It's a matter of skill, technique and patience. If there is any luck involved, it's the same as being lucky to score a goal in hockey."

This season, Mr. Yurichuk and his companions tried the waters of Moon River, north of Parry Sound, where last season's 54-pound record muskie was found. The river offered them nothing this time around, however, and the anglers decided to return to the open bay waters off Honey Harbor.

There, they met with success that convinced them their new "system" was a sound one. Using a depth finder (not to be confused with modern "fish locators" now on the market) the fishing party zeroes in on shallower shoals where the water's depth is about 25 to 45 feet.

RUDDER GUIDING

With Mr. Yurichuk at the rudder guiding their outboard, the anglers watched for the shoals and waited for just the right moment to drop their lines and begin trolling back and forth. Mr. Yurichuk stresses that the success of his system revolves around the movement through those shallow waters of his ten-inch pike lure weighted by specially-designed, nine-ounce sinkers. By stopping the boat, then zig-zagging sharply, the lure is caused to jump erratically and attract the muskie.

The movement of the lure and the knowledge of where precisely to drop the lines are two factors which Mr. Yurichuk says are purely the result of many years' experience. One must virtually anticipate the muskie's location and movement.

It took the Mary Street father of two 20 minutes to reel in his 43-pound muskie, primarily because of the care he had to exercise in drawing his catch from the depths of his off-shore shoals, habitat. He used a 30-pound line.

STRONGER FIGHT

Mr. Yurichuk pointed out that salmon, which he also pursues on occasion, put up a much stronger fight once snagged, but the great muskie poses the greater challenge to fishermen, regardless of how devoted and experienced they are.

Mr. Yurichuk's 43-pounder measured 54 inches in length and carried a 26-inch girth. Such giants of the lakes, he said, are apt to be more than 30 years old.

As for the particular monster landed last Thursday off Honey Harbor, it is now in the capable hands of a Peterbo-

rough taxidermist and is destined to arch its back one last time for visitors to the Yurichuk home who can gaze at a muskie from a safe distance as it hangs mounted on the wall.

And as for Mr. Yurichuk, he's heading back to Honey Harbor before the season ends for one last chance at the 1978 title. He appears to already have it clinched, but with that new system, he might just bring home a world record to boot.

Acton man's film hobby becomes major international enterprise

By BHENDA ROLLINSON Herald correspondent

What first started as an entertaining hobby for an Acton man is now a thriving company that is becoming known all over Canada and the United States.

Peeter Saxon, owner and founder of Pinwheel Productions, began his blossoming career by taking color slides of his family and putting sound tracks to them. He then started taking his camera to parties.

"When we first got married," said Mr. Saxon's wife Celia, "we lived in Mississauga. There was a whole row of townhouses and everybody were friends. We used to have all these big parties."

Mrs. Saxon said her husband's camera was a welcome companion at these get-togethers. Mr. Saxon would take color slides of the goings on and then later he would put music and crazy sound effects to them. He used to make tape recordings of Laugh-In, Hee Haw and other humorous television shows and splice funny things with them to put with his pictures.

Naturally he would have to hold another party to show off his work. His guests were very impressed and began making requests. Another party would follow and so on.

Mr. Saxon was working for Allied Chemical at the time. Just for fun he decided to do a humorous program of his customers which he showed at a convention in North Bay. His customers liked the film so well that he started making sound slide programs for the company, promoting different chemicals. This he did for a few years. It was actually the beginning of his film making career.

Mr. Saxon eventually began doing films for other companies as well. When his employer found out, he was informed of the company policy - no moonlighting.

"You either work for us or your work for someone else." Given an ultimatum, Mr. Saxon decided to take the big plunge and go into business for himself. His brother-in-law, who was already into the business of sound effects, said he would join Peeter for awhile.

So there they were - the two

of them working out of Mr. Saxon's basement, making promotional films for numerous companies such as National Sewer Pipe, typewriter companies and other chemical companies.

In addition, they did orientation programs for new employees in various hospitals such as Mississauga, Oakville and Newmarket. At the time, the hospital in Mississauga was involved in a campaign to raise money for additional hospital facilities, so they showed their film in Square One and other shopping malls.

ALL OVER THE U.S. Otis Elevator was a big customer of Mr. Saxon's and the making of these films took him places such as San Francisco, Texas, North Carolina, New York and Chicago, to interview big contracting companies who use these elevators.

Mr. Saxon also did a film for the Ellicombe recreation de-

partment. The department liked the film so much that it submitted it to the National Parks and Recreation Association's Audio-Visual Contest where it won the Canadian Award. The film then went on to the U.S. where it won the

North American Award in two different categories. Fred Napoli, a radio broadcaster with the CBC, had helped with the script and also acted as narrator for the film.

When word of this achievement hit a local newspaper, the Halton Hills recreation department asked permission to show the film at the Acton Fall Fair. The local volunteer fire department had a booth close by and saw the production.

Acton fire chief Mick Holmes later got in touch with Mr. Saxon and expressed his interest in the creation of a film for the firefighters. Mr. Holmes explained that volunteer firefighters have no nation-

wide guidelines to follow. He said the only basic training material available must be secured from the Ontario Fire Marshall's office in Toronto and the manuals are strictly American, very mixed up and almost impossible to comprehend. Mr. Holmes stressed there was really a need for good Canadian training material.

Mr. Saxon thought the idea was excellent but he realized it wouldn't be feasible to make a film just for Acton so he set out to determine whether or not there was a market for this type of thing. When he found out there was, he expanded his staff to include a partnership with John Wright.

Mr. Wright was an old friend of his from England who came to Canada just about the time all this was building up. He returned to Stekport, sold his home, his cigarette vending machine business and his variety store and came back with

his wife and family to start a new life in Acton as vice president and marketing manager of Pinwheel Productions. Mr. Wright's wife Barbara works for the company as well.

JOINED STAFF

Also, Richard Ogner joined the staff as production manager. Mr. Ogner had been working for the largest sound film strip company in Toronto, making films for educational television. However, the company folded so he found himself working for Peeter Saxon's Productions. (The company's original name). Mr. Ogner lives in Toronto and travels to Acton every day. He knows every aspect of the film making industry.

The making of the Canadian firefighter's basic training filmstrip series is perhaps Pinwheel Productions biggest accomplishment. It took several years to complete and involved many hours of research and

heavy travelling. Mrs. Saxon said both the Guelph and Burlington firefighters aided in the project.

The subject covered in this series of 25 sound filmstrips are designed to give all Canadian firefighters a thorough understanding of the basic knowledge and skills required to achieve a high level of competence," said Mr. Saxon. In a recent article which appeared in the Canadian Firefighter Magazine, Bill Welsh, president of the Newfoundland Firechief's Association said: "I consider these the best investment our department has made in a long time because in these times of budget cutbacks the men are able to make more use of the available equipment."

To date Pinwheel Productions has sold close to 200 sets of films to places all over Canada and the United States; to fire departments such as Joe Bala Arm, which is located on the east coast and to places such as the Ontario Regional Firefighter's Training School. In addition, the film strip series has made its way to Frobisher Bay. There the films were translated into Eskimo language!

NEW MEMBER

Newest on the Pinwheel staff is Bill Chagnon, an Acton resident who was instrumental in forming the local Optimist Club. Mr. Chagnon is a native of Quebec and one of his duties is to market the films in French speaking parts of the province.

Pinwheel Productions is planning to create over 20 different filmstrip series dealing with fire. The company recently finished a "Fire Prevention in The Home" series and had them distributed in time for Fire Prevention Week which was held in early October. The series covers all aspects from the causes and prevention of fire hazards in the home to the family escape plan, smoke detectors and home fire extinguishers. It is anticipated that this series will serve as a valuable education tool.

In addition the company has started publishing a monthly newsletter which is sent to fire departments all across Canada and the United States.

Moving day for Region

The product of nearly four years of planning and controversy, Halton region's new \$2.7 million headquarters in Oakville is being assessed this week for the first time by those who will spend the most time there, regional staff members.

Moving vans travelled back and forth from the Abbey Life building on the Queen Elizabeth Way at Guelph Line in Burlington, where Halton has rented two floors of office space since its inception in 1974, to the new headquarters on Bronte Road in Oakville Friday, when the bulk of the moving was handled.

SHARE INVITATION

Health unit personnel from Georgetown, Milton and Burlington will be moving into the new building in coming weeks, a factor that has some regional officials wondering whether the additional space at the new quarters will be enough. The region will have about 17,000 square feet of extra space at the Oakville site.

SPECIAL PROJECT

Members of Halton region's health and social services committee last week gratefully acknowledged the receipt of \$39,956 bequeathed to Halton Centennial Manor in Milton by the late Elsie Whitcomb of Georgetown. Manor administrator J.W. Charlton reported that the money will be kept in a separate account to be used for an unspecified "special project" for which recognition could be given to the benefactor.



Busy in their Acton office, Richard Ogner, John Wright and Peeter Saxon check out their latest fire prevention slides. Mrs. Saxon is busy working on duplicating the sound cassettes.

Herald photo