Unpleasant surprises

By JULIAN REED M.P.P. Halton-Burlington Over the years, Canadians have become accustomed to a lifestyle which is very inefficient and extravagant in terms of energy consumption. We have now come to realize that this situation cannot continue.

Like many western nations, our economy has been based upon the premise of continuing supplies of low-cost fossil fuels, and we rely heavily on an uninterrupted supply of oil from OPEC nations.

in the past we gave no thought to the possibility of one or more of the OPEC nations ceasing to produce oil in the required amounts. We did not consider too seriously the threat of increased oil demands from communist-

bloc or third world countries. Recent events in the world have brought us face to face with some grim realities. Moreover, one analyst has concluded that the very extent to which revenue flows into major oil-exporting countries provides fertile soil for the development of political turmoil. Dramatic increases in the influx of revenue into a country tends to raise public expectations. When these expectations are not realized, disillusionment, followed by political unrest, is almost inevitable.

It's been estimated that we have between 20 and 25 years to make the change from a predominately oil-based economy, to reliance upon other energy sources. Meanwhile, we need to increase our rate of crude oil discovery, as well as decreasing our oil consumption.

Clearly, conservation is very important, It can substantially reduce energy needs and does not necessarily have to result in an adverse effect upon our creature comforts.

Governments must provide leadership in this connection. However, we can all, as individuals, play our part.

One office building has achieved energy savings by changes to lights and lighting systems. Lighting levels were reduced to 70 foot candles at work stations and 50 foot candles in other areas. In lounges and the cafeteria every other fixture was removed; in elevator lobbies, one ballast was disconnected and two lamps were removed from each of the eight fluorescent lighting fixtures. Over one year, these changes accounted for a 15.2 per cent saving on

energy bills. At a collegiate in Toronto a solar energy system has been installed. This consists of 900 square feet of solar collectors which heat the hot water used in the school. It is anticipated that 50 per cent of the energy needed to heat 1,200 gallons per day of hot water will be obtained from solar energy.

About a year ago Canada's very first solar-heated school was opened in St. Catharines, Ontario. The heating system, which consists of a solarassisted heat pump, provides about 75 per cent of the building's space and hot water heating energy requirements. In the spring of 1978, the Downtown Toronto Energy

Conservation Program was initiated. A little over a year later, 17 of the companies which manage or occupy 26 buildings in the Program reported major savings in energy consumption. Their onnual savings in energy from all sources was equal to 172,000 barrels of fuel oil - which is enough to heat 7,800 houses for one year, It was estimated that, at 1978 prices, the decrease in energy consumption of the Downtown Program

million,

Energy saving methods undertaken by the companies involved were, for example, daytime caretaking schedules, improved lighting and more moderate utilization of heating, ventilation and air

conditioning systems. Toronto Hydro reported that during the period of the Downtown Program under consideration, there was an actual decrease in peak demand for electricity. This is the first decrease in peak demand since During 1978 housing stock in

Metro Toronto was analyzed by the Provincial Ministry of Energy. It was discovered that it was possible to reduce energy consumption in the half-million residential units by more than one-fifth, at an average cost of \$560 per unit. This amount was arrived at by estimating the money to be spent on items such as ceiling insulation, caulking and weather stripping, devices to set thermostats at a lower temperature for part of the day and or night, installation of storm windows and doors, and insulation of basement walls or other exposed areas. It was also estimated that at current prices, a homeowner would recover his investment In a little over seven years, through fuel cost savings. This is, of course, regarded as an excellent investment for homeowners. The over-all impact

would be quite remarkable: a saving of \$40 million a year, at current prices, in Metro alone. Doubtless many of you will have heard of the thermography process, which measures heat loss from buildings by means of special aerial surveys. The aerial thermograms are analyzed and individual homeowners are shown where their house is losing heat, and what steps can be taken to improve the (Herald photo) situation, and conserve

WELL SAID!

Catherine Codnich and George Dolhai of St. Thomas More High School in Hamilton were the winners of the Lions Club's District A-11 Effective Speaking finals. Shown here with organizing chairman Carl Hansen and district governor Ron Lacey. the winners will be going on to compete in the multiple district "A" contest being held in Owen Sound in May.



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In accordance with the provisions of The Municipal Act pursuant to By-Law No. 80-4 adopted by Council on January 7th, 1980, the first two instalments of taxes for 1980 will become due as follows:

WARDS

FIRST INSTALMENT FEBRUARY 27TH, 1980

SECOND INSTALMENT APRIL 30TH, 1980

The above instalments represent an Interim Billing of 1980 taxes based upon one-half of last year's residential mill rates less the mill rate formally charged for Sewers in the former Towns of Acton and Georgetown. The Final tax bill will be issued about the middle of the year and will also be payable in two instalments.

Upon default of payment of the Interim Tax Levy as set out above, a penalty of one and one quarter (114) percent of the amount in default shall be added on the first day of default and on the first day of each and every calendar month.

Ratepayers who have not received a tax bill should make immediate application at 36 Main Street South, Georgetown, or by telephone (877-5185 or 453-2811)

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