



Halton Cable Systems general manager Jim Magee is shown here with the dish which will capture signals from the Canadian satellite to distribute the pay television channel to subscribers in Halton Hills and Milton as soon as the Canadian Radio Television Commission (CRTC) gives the go ahead. Mr. Magee estimates that pay television will be here in a year or less, and Halton Cable Systems is ready to begin broadcasting as soon as they get their licence from the CRTC. (Herald photo)

Premium television

Pay TV for \$10 a month?

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald Staff Writer

Cable television operators think pay television will be here within a year, and Halton Cable Systems Ltd. is ready to transmit as soon as they get the go-ahead.

Halton Cable, which provides cable television in Milton, Georgetown and Acton, has the necessary equipment to receive television signals from the satellites and transmit it to pay television subscribers, according to general manager Jim Magee.

All that remains is for the Canadian Radio and Television Commission (CRTC) to give pay television its blessing, and the cable operators can apply for licences to transmit the pay television channel.

John Ollivier, program director for Halton Cable said there have been a lot of misconceptions about pay television.

"I think pay television, or premium television, as I prefer to call it, is an option, and people have to be aware

that it's an option, and not replacing cable television," he said.

The CRTC recently had the longest hearing in its history to look into the provision of more wide-ranging television service to remote areas which might receive only one or two channels. The hearing also

ended up taking a look at pay television when cable operators, represented by the Canadian Cable Television Association, made a presentation which said that extending conventional television service to isolated areas depends mainly on the introduction of pay television.

The association says that if people were subscribing to pay television, the subscription fees would pay for the cost of extending satellite coverage to remote communities. Only one channel on the satellite would be used for pay television, and 50 cents from each pay television subscriber would be

used to offset the cost of programming, packaging and satellite delivery of extended services. For a home viewer to receive the pay television channel, it would be necessary to purchase a converter,

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Landfill site decision expected later this week

A short-term but highly important solution to Halton region's current solid waste disposal crisis hangs in the balance this week as Ontario's Environmental Assessment Board opens hearings on the region's plans to expand a second existing landfill site.

Regional solicitor Dennis Perlin said this week he expects little opposition from Board members at the hearings, which were scheduled to begin yesterday (Tuesday) morning in the Burlington city council chamber. Mr. Perlin estimated that the hearings will end tomorrow.

Prevented by continuing legal wrangles over its proposed 240-acre landfill site in rural Milton, the region last year endorsed plans to expand the existing Oakville and Burlington sites to accommodate solid waste generated in their own areas and in the north.

The Oakville site on the Fourth Line, to which the region will add capacity for another 280,000 tons of garbage is expected to be filled to capacity in its present state next month, well before its original closing date. Halton Hills and Milton waste has been trucked there since the Georgetown landfill site closed in October.

The region has applied for environmental sanctions to expand its Burlington site north of Highway 403 by another 325,000 tons, thus heading off its current closing deadline late next summer.

Ontario's director of environmental approvals has acknowledged the urgency of the disposal crisis by waiving the hearing requirement as it applies to the Oakville expansion. The region estimates that the twin expansions will accommodate waste from across Halton until late 1983.

Also on the drawing board is the proposed development of privately-owned land adjacent to the Oakville site for landfilling.



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