

# Rockwell moves into fibre optics

By ANI PEDERIAN  
Herald Staff

On the brink of its 10th anniversary in Georgetown, a Todd Road company is looking at a second expansion and a new product.

Rockwell International's Wescom Canada Division is getting into the manufacture of fibre optics. That's the future direction for this telecommunications company, says personal representative Helen Reid.

It has meant plans to expand not only the Georgetown building at Todd Road and Sinclair Avenue, but also Wescom's staff.

Staff is currently 100, four times as high as the staff Wescom brought to Georgetown in January 1977 when it moved here from Brampton. Then, there were only 25 employees, Mrs. Reid said.

"At that time, we were mainly a distribution warehouse for products coming from the United States," she said. "We began increasing manufacturing here, and we now have a staff of 100."

The move to fibre optics will mean 50 more employees, Mrs. Reid anticipated. Technical engineers, assemblers and unskilled workers will be hired and trained in a three-phase expansion of the company.

The expansion will also double the size of Wescom's production area. The last expansion in 1981 only increased the company's office space. This one will see the back part of the building increased by 11,600 square feet, Mrs. Reid said. The building

will then be 32,817 square feet in total.

The Halton Hills Site Plan Review Committee recently approved this addition, subject to a number of conditions, including a landscaping plan.

What is fibre optics? It's the latest in telecommunications equipment. Instead of the copper wires currently used in telephone systems, fibre optics is "the state of the art." The size of a strand of hair, this marvellous sliver of glass can carry up to 8,000 voice channels. That's a big difference from the maximum 200 voice copper wires.

"One of the problems telephone companies are having today is the mass of wires gets bulky because they're using copper wires," acting General Manager John Barker said. "The number of voice channels on copper are nowhere near as great as with fibre optics."

Cost has come down in the last few years for fibre optics so that it's becoming more economically competitive with copper wires, he says.

In fact, six of Canada's telephone companies have joined together and gone out to tender for fibre optics. Wescom is one of the two finalists for the tender.

Mr. Barker is eagerly awaiting word of Wescom's bid. Formerly Wescom's marketing manager, Mr. Barker was named acting general manager just last week. He follows Mike Pasco who left for greener pastures.



Telecommunications boards are being assembled by (left to right) Nancy Hayes of Georgetown, Marlene Rand of Georgetown and Marcelle Amond of Acton. The women are assembling the boards before they go through the wave soldering machine at Rockwell International's Wescom Canada Division in Georgetown. (Herald photo)

England and across Canada. In May, they had a Chinese government delegation visiting.

"We're quoting (prices) on equipment for them now," Mrs. Reid said. "Telecommunications equipment doesn't mean a lot to most people."

"We don't make telephones as some people think," Mrs. Reid said. "We make the switching systems used in the central offices."

When you dial direct, the Wescom equipment makes automatic identification of where the call is placed from. Air Canada has one of the systems at their Montreal head office.

Wescom also has developed and manufactured an air to ground system for private planes, in Georgetown; fire alarm systems to automatically ring firefighters at their homes when they're needed; and equipment for air traffic control towers.

## Plant stresses quality

"We have a five year warranty on our equipment. I don't think you have that in a lot of industry, so quality is one of the things we stress," Mrs. Reid said.

Most of the staff at the Georgetown plant are from Georgetown, with the rest coming from Brampton, Acton, Erin and Guelph, she said.

Wescom was an independent, privately-owned company based in Chicago when Rockwell bought it six years ago. Today, it's part of the multi-billion dollar, multi-industry company based in the U.S. with products in electronics, aerospace, automotive and telecommunications.

Along with fibre optics, Wescom will continue in its manufacturing of telecommunications products. The company ships products to the U.S.

## Business Banter

This is the first week of Business Banter. The column is about businesses and will feature snippets of information about what's happening around town with a number of firms and retailers. If you know of expansions or changes taking place at your workplace, or know an employee who has won an award, give us a call at 877-2201.

### Z Club

There's a popular new program at Zellers that is ready-made for frequent shoppers.

It's called the Club Z. Every Club Z member receives a bonus of 1,000 points when they make their first purchase of a store item. Points can be collected on additional purchases until items can be obtained from a catalogue of gifts for free. For example, a 20-cup coffee maker is 75,000 points while an alcohol level monitor is worth 100,000 points and so on.

Gifts are ordered at the customer service desk at Zellers. Fletcher's Family Shoe store is another retailer who has had much success with a similar program. At Fletcher's frequent customers are offered discounts according to the number of purchases they have made.

### 'Fit' cookbook

A Terra Cotta resident is sharing her nutrition secrets with athletes and anyone who likes to eat healthy.

Anne Budge is the author of Fit to Eat, a 304-page recipe book which costs \$14.95.

The book is an expanded version of her book which was originally published for the Canadian Orienteering Federation.

Many of the recipes in the book are favorite dishes of Federation members. Fit to Eat now contains over 450 delicious, nutritious recipes that appeal to people who are, or who feed, recreational or competitive athletes.

The mother of two, participates in orienteering, cross-country skiing, canoeing, hiking and tennis. In the last 15 years she has won provincial, national, American and North American orienteering championships in the Masters age group.

Hurtig Publishers Ltd. are the publishers. For more information on obtaining a copy call (403) 426-2359.

### Much music

Everyone has the ability to be a musician, says Joe Sercerchi, a manager-consultant for the Ontario Conservatory of Music.

Mr. Sercerchi is overseeing the expansion of the Ontario Conservatory to a new location on 330 Guelph Street. For 10 years the music studio was on Mill Street in Georgetown, but the change in location reflects a desire to provide more space for students.

The music school can now accommodate up to 200 students in their new facility.

Classes are taught by Lauraine Jack and Pat Ellison. "Everything starts with a 15 minute evaluation," says Mr. Sercerchi. Prospective students are tested for aptitude and in areas such as finger coordination, their musical "ear", rhythm, attention span and concentration level.

Teachers must attain five courses for their diploma, not an easy task, says Mr. Sercerchi. For more information about the music classes, call 877-3369.

## 4-H wraps up fair season

After a long and busy summer of 4-H work and activities, the Halton 4-H members are getting ready to wrap up their 1986 4-H season. For many 4-H members, their Achievement Programs take place at one of the many community fairs.

On Sept. 26, the Milton Fall Fair will be host to the 1986 4-H Achievement Programs for the Halton 4-H Dairy Club, Halton 4-H "From Seed to Shelf" Club.

The 4-H members in the livestock clubs will be evaluated on their showmanship (their ability to show and exhibit their animal to look its best), and the conformation of their animal. The From Seed to Shelf Club (a gardening and preserving club) will have an exhibit which will

display what they did in their club.

Other 4-H clubs will also have exhibits that will show the diversity and interests covered in the 4-H program.

### Two storey storage

A two storey 11,000 square metre storage and service building was approved by the Halton Hills Site Plan Review Committee recently for the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society.

The Jehovah's Witnesses intends to move the carpentry, sheet metal, electrical and maintenance shops on their complex into this new building off Highway 7 at Trafalgar Road North.

While visiting the fairs, please stop by to see the 4-H exhibits. There's something for every interest.

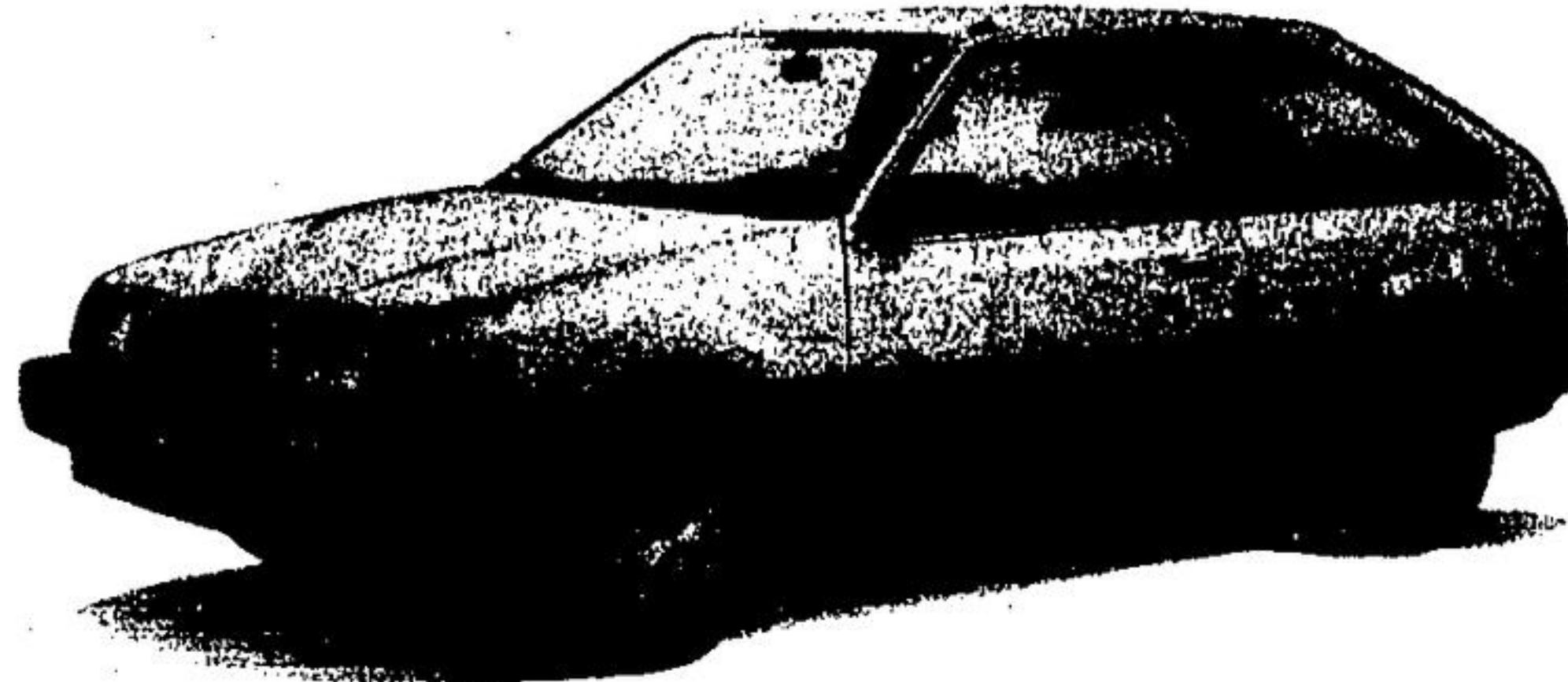
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## Rabies review

Not only are you required by law to immunize your children against disease, but Halton's medical officer of health wants to make rabies vaccinations compulsory also.

Dr. Graham Pollet wants to apply to the Ministry of Health to make immunization of cats and dogs, horses, cows, bulls, calves and sheep compulsory in Halton -- if the incidence of rabies should rise significantly.

Right now, animal rabies is low. The health department will continue to monitor it monthly in case it should jump higher.

## Tenor needed

Any tenor, right now, is worth his weight in gold to the Georgetown Choral Society. If you feel that you have a voice which might help the Choral Society this season, why not drop around to one of their rehearsals.

Rehearsals are held Monday evenings at Knox Presbyterian Church in Georgetown, at 7:30 p.m., and you will be welcomed with open arms. If you just want more information, why not call the president, Anne Lewis, at 877-8720.



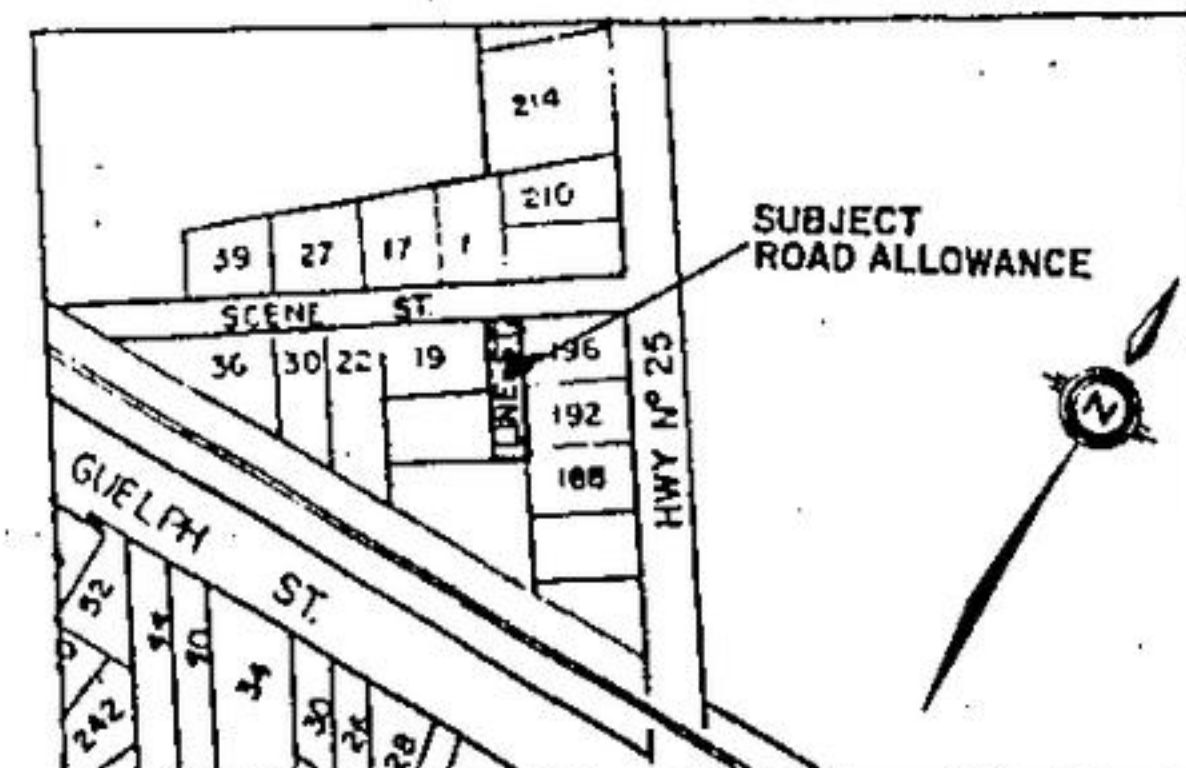
TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

38 MAIN ST., SOUTH  
HALTON HILLS (GEORGETOWN)  
877-5185

## NOTICE

Notice of Intention to Stop Up, Close and Convey the Unopened Road Allowance known as Line Street, shown on Registered Plan 25 of the former Town of Acton, now part of the Town of Halton Hills.

Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills intend to pass a by-law to stop up, close and convey a Municipal Street, known as Line Street, shown on Registered Plan 25, as shown in the following illustration



The Council or a Committee of Council will hear any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected by the By-law and who applies to be heard at its regular meeting to be held in the Council Chambers located at Trafalgar Road, Halton Hills, Ontario, on the 14th day of October, 1986, at the hour of 7:00 p.m. o'clock.

This Notice was published on the 17th day of September 1986

Delmar French, A.M.C.T.  
Acting Clerk,  
Town of Halton Hills  
Box 128  
Georgetown, Ontario  
L7G 4T1

Ad No. 708

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION

By the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills for the construction and equipping of a Municipal Administration Building.

### TAKE NOTICE THAT:

1. The Council of The Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills intends to apply to the Ontario Municipal Board for approval for the construction and equipping of a Municipal Administration Building at an estimated cost of \$3,920,000 whereof the amount of \$3,100,000 shall be raised by the sale of debentures payable out of the general rate over a period not exceeding 15 years.

2. Application will be made to the Ontario Municipal Board for an order to approve of the undertaking of the said works. Any ratepayer may, within twenty-one days after the first publication of this notice, serve personally or by Registered Mail on the Clerk of the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills at the address given below, a notice in writing stating objection to such approval and the grounds of such objection and that if a public hearing is held, the objector or representative will attend such hearing to support such objection.

3. The Ontario Municipal Board may approve of the said works, but before doing so it may appoint a time and place for a public hearing when any objections will be considered, but notice of such hearing will be given only to those persons who have given notice of objection as provided for above.

DATED at the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills, this Seventeenth day of September, 1986.

THE LAST DATE for filing of objections is the Eighth day of October, 1986.

J.A. Simon, M.B.A.  
Administrator-Clerk  
Corporation of the Town  
of Halton Hills  
P.O. Box 128  
Halton Hills (Georgetown)  
Ontario, L7G 4T1

Ad. 709

TO THE RATEPAYERS OF THE CORPORATION  
OF THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

## FINAL TAX PAYMENT

The 1986 Final Taxes are due and payable in two instalments:

JUNE 25th, 1986  
SEPTEMBER 24th, 1986

A Penalty of 1% per cent per month will be charged on the first day of default and on the first day of each calendar month until taxes are fully paid.

Taxpayers are reminded the the Ontario Property Tax Credit as provided through the 1986 Personal Income Tax Return is based on the property taxes of the taxpayer's principal residence being paid in 1986.

Please contact the Finance Department, if there are any questions pertaining to your business or real property taxes by:

Telephone 877-5185 or BY MAIL:  
Tax Department  
Town of Halton Hills  
P.O. Box 128  
Halton Hills (Georgetown)  
Ontario, L7G 4T1

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