

## Allison Conference cost \$4,000

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the time their meter is read. Currently people are sent their bill at the end of the month.

Neither Mr. Allison nor Mayor Miller would comment why Mr. Allison spent \$1,000 more than the mayor at the New Orleans convention.

The I.E.E.E. conference is held every two to three years, said Mr. Allison.

Mr. Allison said commissioner Roger Haggett was the commissioner who questioned the commission policy on compensation. Mr. Haggett first made the enquiry shortly after being appointed to the commission in August in 1989, said Mr. Allison. Commissioners have since decided to introduce a resolution eliminating spousal support at conventions. It is expected to pass in April.

But Mr. Allison said the commission's total expenditure of \$33,000 to attend conferences is no more than a board of director for a corporation similar in size would claim. It would probably be less, he added.

He also stressed commissioners put in extra hours that don't show up in their salaries.

## Smith Meeting 'ego trip' for directors

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Smith, are the Legal-Matters Conference and the Commissioners-Manager Conference.

Because Halton Hills Hydro is a member of the MEA, the commissioners are expected to attend the annual meetings, said Mr. Smith.

But the commissioner suggested in an interview Monday the MEA annual meeting was the least beneficial of the seven conferences he attended in 1989. "I think it is a once-a-year ego trip for the MEA board of directors," he said. But Mr. Smith said the meeting isn't an ego trip for hydro commissioners.

Mr. Smith was most supportive of the Legal-Matters Conference because it allowed commissioners to simulate actual legal situations they might encounter on the job. The commissioner also liked the Commissioners-Manager Conference because it promoted understanding and co-operation between the two jobs.

It's up to the individual commissioner to decide for themselves what conferences would be beneficial to attend, said Mr. Smith.

He acknowledged some conferences are repetitious from year to year and "I'd be lying to you if I said otherwise." But it's up to the

commissioner to glean something from the convention. If the commissioner doesn't he has no right being there, he said.

When asked whether two commissioners should have gone to the MEA, Mr. Smith said two commissioners could see "both sides of the coin."

Mr. Smith argued the pending motion to eliminate the inclusion of spousal expenditures is the "right thing."

And Mr. Smith expressed frustration with the current compensation process not only in Halton Hills but also with all of the provincial hydro commissions. There is a lack of uniformity, said Mr. Smith, meaning some commissioners might spend less at conventions but they receive a large salary. Herein lies any possible confusion on the part of the public about the expenses of hydro commissioners, he said.

Mr. Smith would like to see an overall structure to create uniformity between comparably municipal utilities. A limit would be set on commissioners' salaries and how much they could spend at conferences in a given year, said Mr. Smith. Then there would be no basis for confusion, he said.

## Miller Mayor Miller opposed expenses for spouses

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sued for engineers, he said.

Mr. Miller initially decided to go to the convention because the commission had sent a representative to the conference for the past 25 years. He reasoned therefore it is a worthwhile conference. This was

the first time the mayor has gone to the convention during his six years with the commission. And this was the first time he ever attended a hydro conference outside the province, said Mayor Miller.

Commissioners are entitled to go to one out-of-province convention a year.

When asked why two commissioners needed to go to the I.E.E.E., the mayor replied, "don't ask me." Each commissioner is responsible for deciding whether or not to go to a conference, he said.

Mr. Miller supports the change in policy about spousal expenditures saying he has always opposed the policy.

"It was overly fair," the mayor said.

The mayor expressed support for the MEA annual and summer conference saying it taught commissioners how to promote hydro-electricity conservation among the public.

The mayor's expenditures at hydro conferences accounted for just over \$6,000 of the approximate \$11,000 the mayor spent on conferences in all of his capacities.



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