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## Ontario Hydro to announce energy-saving plan

By BEN DUMMETT  
 the Herald

Ontario Hydro will announce this October, a financial scheme to help Halton Hills and other municipalities across the province reduce the amount of energy used by street lighting by approximately half, said Jim Connell, a Commercial Energy Supervisor for Ontario Hydro.

The \$30 million project calls for Ontario Hydro to fund 25 per cent of the cost to a municipality to convert its existing street lighting system to more energy efficient lights, said Mr. Connell.

"(The plan) is a good idea," said

Ted Drewlo, the Manager of Operations for Halton Hills. "But it's not a question of whether or not the town wants to save energy, it's a question of whether the town can afford to convert its street lights."

Although Ontario Hydro will pay 25 per cent of the cost, that still leaves 75 per cent of the cost that the town must cover, he pointed out.

Mr. Drewlo said he will soon start looking into what it would cost the town to carry out the conversion. "I'll likely include a report on the cost in the 1991 operating budget," he said.

Most street lights throughout On-

tario, including Halton Hills, operate on mercury vapor, said Mr. Connell. Mr. Drewlo agreed, but, he couldn't estimate what percentage of town street lights. "But we've hardly made a dent," he said.

Those street lights that have been updated, Mr. Drewlo said, operate on high pressure sodium, the type of energy source Ontario Hydro says is the most efficient.

While a mercury vapor lamp might require 1,000 watts of energy to generate a certain amount of light, a high pressure sodium light might require approximately 450 watts to generate the same amount of light, said Mr. Connell.

Across Ontario, mercury vapor street lights account for 63 per cent of the total. High pressure sodium street lights account for 22 per cent, while incandescent and low pressure sodium street lights account for the remaining 15 per cent, according to Ontario Hydro statistics.

Comparatively, high pressure sodium street lights more effectively convert energy into light, and have a longer lamp life than mercury vapor street lights, ac-

ording to the study.

The initial capital cost of installing high pressure sodium street lights is the only disadvantage the report shows. But the low operating costs off-set the initial capital costs, the report states.

"Energy costs decrease anywhere from 24 per cent to 75 per cent while light output and coverage is maintained," according to the report.

Mr. Drewlo said the town's total energy costs for 1989 were \$444,782 and of that amount \$106,172, or 24 per cent, was spent on street lighting.

Mr. Connell said Ontario Hydro is hoping for 100 per cent conversion over the next four years.

The crown corporation is pushing communities to convert their street light system on the basis of a conversion pilot project in Windsor, said Mr. Connell. Since the conversion, which occurred from 1983 to 1985, there has been 46 per cent reduction in demand for energy, he said. As well, the kilowatt load has been reduced from 5,985 kilowatts to 3,204 kilowatts.

Annual energy savings in 1986

were \$548,240 and the total capital cost to convert the city's street lights was \$2.7 million. That means the city will be able to pay back the capital costs in five years, said Mr. Connell.

## Escapees captured

Halton Regional Police have apprehended two "dangerous" male young offenders who escaped from a Milton Provincial Court holding cell last Thursday at approximately 4:45 p.m.

Police say arrest warrants were issued for the young offenders, last seen in a holding cell in the court building.

Burlington police apprehended one of the offenders Aug. 2 in Burlington and Oakville police caught the second suspect in an Oakville residence in the early morning hours of Aug. 3.

## Power outages hit Georgetown

Where were Georgetown residents when the lights went out?

Or maybe a better question is what were the reasons for the power outages on Saturday and Sunday?

According to Kurt Durski, Halton Hills Hydro Operations Manager, a hydro pole located near Park Avenue and Main Street South was struck by a vehicle at approximately 1 p.m. Saturday. The power outage affected the downtown section of Georgetown for about two hours, he said.

Police said the vehicle was originally parked on Park Avenue west of the intersection and crossed the intersection down the hill of the avenue. The vehicle was reported to have struck a parking sign and continued striking a cable wire connected to a hydro pole, snapping the pole.

Police reports indicated the vehicle was severely damaged. No driver was in the vehicle, however charges were laid against a passerby who police report deliberately set the parked vehicle in motion.

Mr. Durski said the pole has not been replaced, however, power was restored with a temporary replacement.

Mr. Durski said the reason for the power outage early Sunday morning was because a tree branch came down on a feeder line from the Pleasant transformer station in Brampton. Brampton's power was not affected as the line provided power to Halton Hills only.

Approximately half of Georgetown residents were without power for at least three hours, Mr. Durski said.

## Neilson's worker burned by acid

Robert Souliere, 58, of Georgetown, remains in stable condition after receiving third-degree burns to the lower part of his body after falling into a tank containing sulphuric acid at Neilson's plant, located on Guelph Street, Georgetown, Saturday at 6:15 a.m.

Halton Police, who are investigating the industrial accident, say Mr. Souliere, who was working at an elevation on a pump and was reaching to turn a stuck valve when he slipped on the vat's edge and fell into a foot-and-a-half of sulphuric acid.

He received third-degree burns to 40 per cent of his body. Police say Mr. Souliere climbed out of the tank and drove to the main building on plant property for help.

First aid was administered at the scene and Mr. Souliere was taken to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. Mr. Souliere was subsequently airlifted to the Wellesley Hospital burn unit.

Mr. Souliere is expected to remain in hospital for at least another two weeks.



## Georgetown artist displays talents

Local artist, Linda Donais, (right), was on hand last Wednesday to greet the 150 people who attended the opening of an exhibit of her work at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre. Ms. Donais is seen here explaining one of her works entitled "Curious Fox" to Georgetown resident Denny Ursel. The painting, which is one in "mixed medium" or a combination of

water color and chalk pastel, is one of 38 pieces which make up the exhibition. The exhibition is entitled "Country Perspective" and runs through to August 18. Like the painting of the fox, the majority of works are done in water colors and/or chalk pastel. (Herald photo by Ben Dummett)