

Community

Hydro commission forced to write-off bills

Halton Hills Hydro Commissioners learned Friday the commission has had to write off approximately \$26,000 in unpaid bills for 1989.

Commission General Manager Jerry Trudell, assured the five commissioners a collection agency has been hired to recoup some

of the money. He speculated some of the bills would be paid but he would not indicate an amount.

The outstanding bills can be broken down into two categories: accounts receivable and miscellaneous accounts. Accounts receivable totals approx-

imately \$10,000 and involves 66 unpaid customer hydro bills. The miscellaneous account totals \$16,000 in unpaid bills.

One bill totals \$14,000 and involves a traffic accident in which a vehicle knocked out two hydro poles. The other outstanding bill arises from the bankruptcy of a Georgetown developer, explained Mr. Trudell.

Mr. Trudell said the names of those with outstanding bills is confidential.

The utility's Billing and Collection Supervisor, Norma Weir, predicted following the meeting, that very few of the accounts receivable will be paid. The 66 customers are all people who no longer live at the billing address, she said.

Utility Comptroller Danny Edwards, following the meeting, refused to speculate if the miscellaneous accounts will be paid, saying the two matters are before the courts.

Commission Chairman, Bill Smith, requested and received direction from the other commis-

sioners to investigate charging interest on write-off accounts. He made his request in light of the fact that the outstanding \$10,000 for accounts receivable is triple what it was the previous year. The 1988 amount was just over \$3,000, said Mr. Trudell.

"I believe we should charge interest. My contention is most small businesses charge two per cent interest on late payments."

At the present, the commission charges a fixed late payment charge. Once the five per cent charge takes effect, explained Mr. Trudell, there is no other increases.

To Mr. Smith's Idea Commissioner, Jim Fisher said "people are on three day or four day work days and a hell of a lot of people

are out of work these days."

"Come on, get off that crock, if people can afford hydro, they can afford to pay it," replied Mr. Smith.

Halton Hills Mayor and hydro commissioner, Russ Miller, said the commission should consider the idea of late payment interest charges but not to lose sight that not all of the utility's customers are businesses. "Some are little kids and old people."

"Let's not lose our compassion," urged the Mayor.

Hydro contract awarded

Halton Hills Hydro Commission Friday awarded its hydro pole contract to Guelph Utility Pole Company.

The Guelph company underbid Domtar Incorporated of Trenton and B.J. Carney Company Limited of Montreal.

According to a commission report, the utility orders eight varieties of poles during any given year. Guelph utility prices ranged from \$107 for the shortest pole and \$747 for the tallest pole. Domtar's prices ranged from \$99.65 to \$778.25, while those of B.J. Carney were from \$149.26 to \$781.75.

Amendment premature

Continued from Page 1

never put into effect by the company.

"United Aggregates says their licence shouldn't be changed, but they can't have it both ways," she said. "If there were no changes in the licence, we should have a lake right now (the lake being one of the rehabilitation components)."

Other delegations present at the meeting included Rob Cook, Executive Director of the Aggregate Resources Association of Ontario and Bob Doyle, representative for the employees of the Acton Quarry. Both men supported United Aggregates position.

The delegation most opposed to increased extraction by United Aggregates was EAGLE (Ecology Awareness Group) represented by Guiseppe Gori.

He said the United Aggregates licence isn't valid by any of today's criteria and there are enough doubts on the validity of the licence to give the town an opportunity to protect its natural

resources.

He also tried to clarify that the amendment is asking for 75 acres, not 75 percent of the area. As both figures were used, many councillors expressed their confusion about the amount of land that would be reduced for expansion if the amendment was passed. This confusion was accounted for by the prematurity of the proposal.

Mayor Russ Miller said if Eagle is only asking that 75 acres be saved, it wasn't such a large request considering there would be over 350 acres left for the company to extract from.

"It's inexcusable if you (the company) can't take 75 acres out of approximately 350 to promote the environment," finished the Mayor to a round of applause from members of the crowd overflowing the council chambers.

In the final vote, nine councillors favoured the staff-made resolution calling the amendment premature while three councillors opposed it.

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