



NO SURPRISES: Gerry Trudell (left), Murt Allison and Lucinda Landau, design consultant, display the promotional logo for Hydro's new payment plan program. (Doug Harrison photo)

Hydro unveils new payment plan

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

Surprise! Halton Hills Hydro-Electric Commission has introduced the *No Surprises Payment Plan*, designed to avoid astronomical winter hydro-water bills in the form of equal billing.

"This program will put Halton Hills Hydro-Electric Commission in modern-age," said Gerry Trudell, general manager of Halton Hills Hydro, at a news conference on Thursday. "We're looking after the customer with a better cost image and fewer administration costs for us. We're looking at sav-

ings for both the customer and Halton Hills Hydro."

The benefits to the customer are appealing: The customer's Hydro bill will remain the same year-round, they will know in advance the amount of their hydro-water bill, no more cheques will have to be written, they won't have to go to the post office and worry about stamps and envelopes and there will be no more late penalties.

The customers' monthly sum is automatically debited from their chosen bank accounts, so the bills will always be paid on time.

Halton Hills Hydro will take the amount of your bills from the previous 12 months and divide the total by 11 — the number of months on the equal billing plan. The 12th payment is an equalization payment, reconciling the months the customer either exceeded or reduced his or her anticipated usage, said Trudell, who added with the state of the economy, people have until the end of September to join the plan.

"There's a hardship of paying large bills in the winter," said Trudell.

Trudell says he would like to improve the percentage of customers on the plan, which has been in effect for six years, to 50 per cent, but would be happy with 40. By acquiring 800 customers so far this year, 25 per cent — or 2,000 of 8,600 residential customers — are on the program. It has grown 15 per cent since last year.

Murt Allison, chairman of Halton Hills Hydro, mentioned that the commission can only withdraw the pre-authorized monthly amount, similar to mortgage payments and life insurance premiums. Customers will receive statements informing them of their hydro-water account's status.

Social Contract

agreement reached

During the month of July, the Halton Regional Police Services Board bargaining committee, the Halton Regional Police Association and the Senior Officers' Association met to discuss the Provincial Social Contract Act.

Talks ended last Thursday with a tentative agreement. The tentative agreement is subject to ratification by the Police Services Board and the membership of the Police Association and Senior Officers' Association.

No further details are available until ratification.

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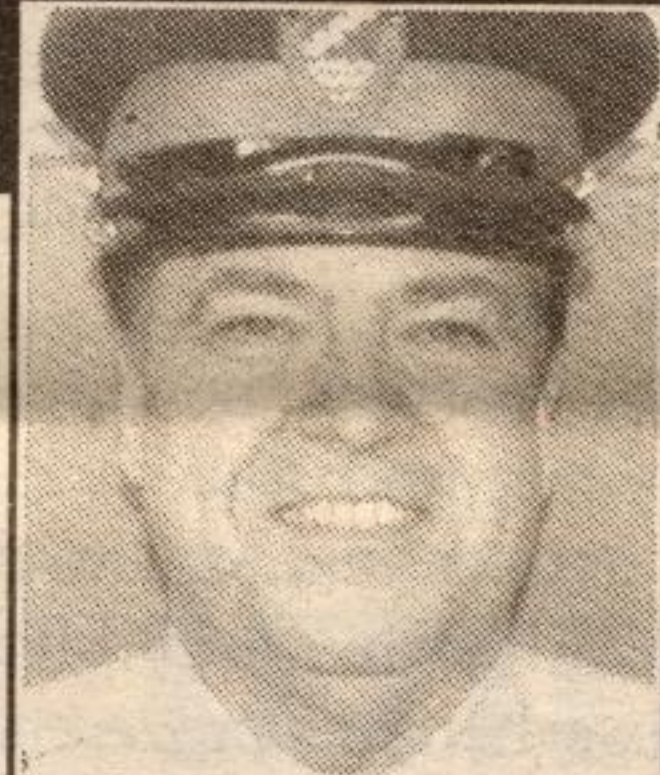
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Don't forget these!

Vacation time! This is a great time of the year, because so many people are heading out for well-deserved holidays. Wherever your travels take you this summer, please have a safe trip. This week I've put together a checklist of items you don't want to leave home without!

Your ticket (otherwise you're not going anywhere), your passport, your visa. Don't forget to bring your itinerary, your personal chequebook and some traveller's cheques.

Other items on your list should include a major credit card, travel vouchers and your hotel reservations. An address book is always an important thing to remember. And bring along any maps and guide books you can get your hands on.

Double check! Don't forget these items: Eyeglasses (an extra pair), a travel alarm clock, your trusty camera and some film. Sanitary products, a raincoat and an umbrella are good things to remember.

A sewing kit, a manicure kit and personal grooming products round out the "holiday" list.

Constable Riddle's Corner is a weekly feature brought to you by the community-minded businesses surrounding this column. We urge you to strengthen local industry and trade by supporting these businesses.



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