

# Thinking Day brings Guides and Scouts together

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

An indoor campfire will mark this year's local celebration of *Thinking Day* when Girl Guides, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts throughout the world give special emphasis to international friendship.

About 180 Acton boys and girls will gather from 6:30 to 8 pm at Robert Little school for a ceremony

on Feb. 22 – the birthdays of Boy Scout founder, Right Honourable Robert Lord Baden Powell and his wife, Olive (Lady Baden-Powell), world chief Guide.

All members of the Scout and Guide movement are invited for the joint indoor campfire filled with readings, songs and skits. Each year, the Acton Guides and Scouts trade responsibilities for

the day.

"The boys usually have a service, but we always do something non-denominational. The girls feel being out of a religious building brings more people out. We would rather be active than sitting," explains Linda Inglis, leader for the Pathfinders (12 to 15-year-old girls) group and assistant district commissioner for Acton Guiding.

Both girls and boys celebrate Scout-Guide week with banquets, ceremonies and displays to spread the "Baden Powell spirit."

Collections are also taken during the week with the contributions going toward the Worldwide Brotherhood of Scouting and the World Friendship Fund.

Inglis, 43, says *Thinking Day* exudes a bit of respect from the Acton youngsters, some of whom will wear their respective uniforms to school and later to the ceremony. Lord Baden Powell was a strong believer in brotherhood and togetherness.

Inglis adds she's moved on *Thinking Day* when hearing the readings and the singing of various songs.

"The kids are not afraid to say who they are (i.e. Cubs, Scouts, Guides) on this night and shouldn't be embarrassed because they're having a good time," she says. "I

find it moving to be in that atmosphere at that time."

An Acton resident of 18 years, Inglis says she's trying to get Guides more aware of camping – training for survival and safety and getting used to the outdoors.

Inglis, however, is surprised the Scouting and Guiding movement has kept up with this day because of today's fast-paced world and the fact all leaders are volunteers.

"If I had a choice, I would give up something else in my life rather than Guiding. There is a terrific bond there. It's a way of community spirit, helping one another and that's a terrific way of life," says Inglis, who starting in Guiding at age 8, made her way through Air Rangers at 17, married and returned as a leader here in 1984.

The Girl Guide movement was founded in Great Britain in 1909 after Lord Baden Powell had Scouting well on its way.

# Hydro uses new backup supply

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After many tests to ensure its reliability, a newly constructed backup hydro supply for Acton was put to the test last Wednesday.

The Halton Hills Hydro-Electric Commission used the backup supply – built by their engineering staff – during an outage around 5 pm. As a result, despite the power supply interruption out of Ontario Hydro's Fergus transformer station that occurred shortly after 5 pm, the power was restored to Acton before 6:30 pm.

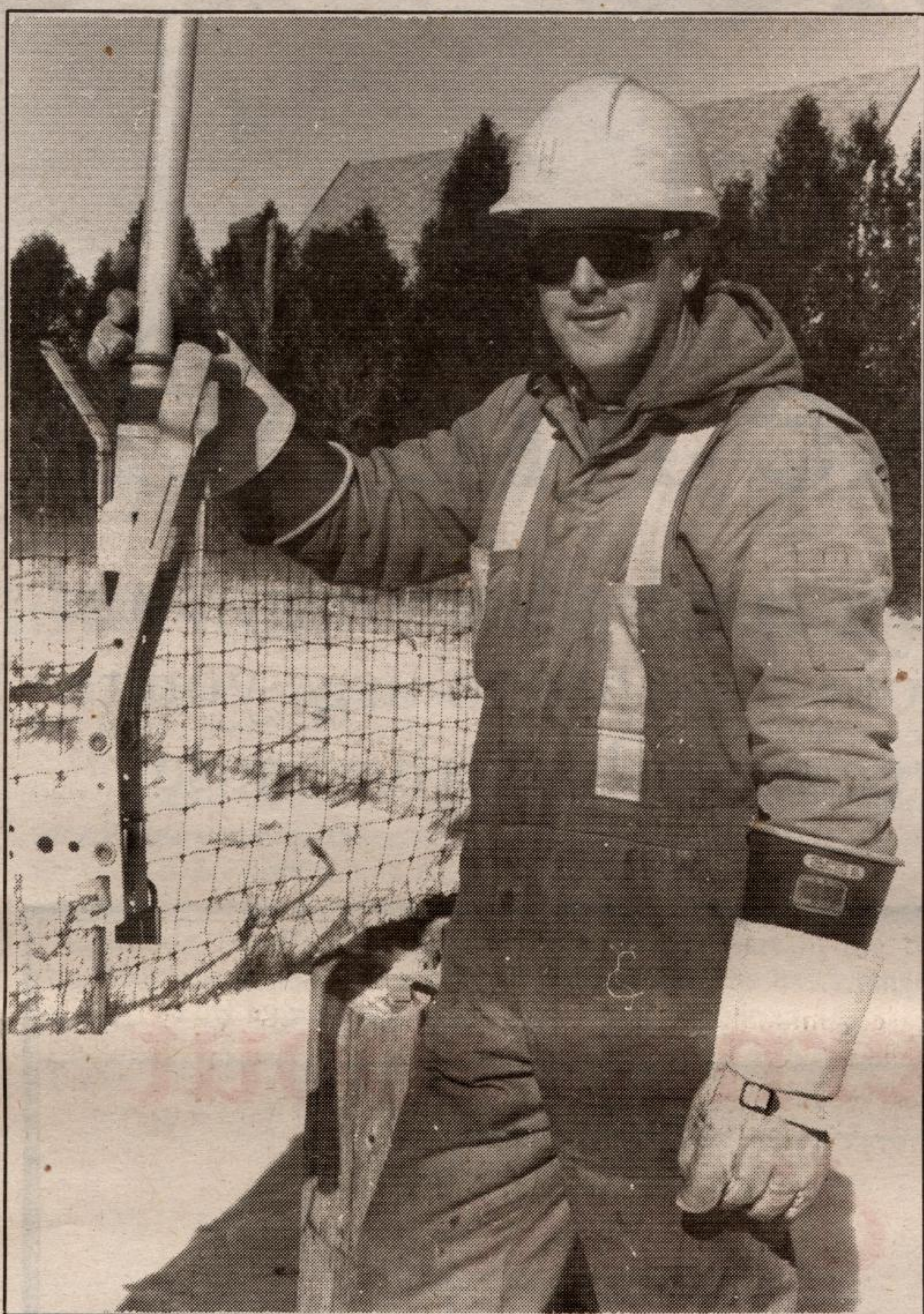
Halton Hills Hydro General Manager Dave Collie says other surrounding areas such as rural Milton, rural Guelph, Rockwood, Erin and Hillsburgh continued to be out of power for several hours, with some areas not having electricity until 11 pm.

The new Acton backup line – an extension from the 5th Line to Churchill Rd. – was constructed late last year at a budgeted cost of \$180,000. Its purpose is to provide a backup supply in the event of a failure of the main supply, such as Wednesday's occurrence.

Collie says Halton Hills Hydro does other projects at a much larger cost, but admits for this project, it was a significant amount of money to spend.

Previously, Acton's only feed was from Fergus, a fair distance from Acton and considered a storm corridor, hence the many power outages in recent months. Milton, Georgetown and Brampton all had backup supplies before Acton.

"Taking the brunt of calls from upset customers, understandably, and not being able to rely on someone else, we took matters into our own hands and built our own line," comments Collie. "That may



**BACKUP SYSTEM:** Halton Hills Hydro lineman Hessel Faber shows off the switch to trigger Acton's new backup supply in the event of a town power outage. (Doug Harrison photo)

sound easy, extending a line down the highway, but the challenge was in adjusting, so our other feeds (in Georgetown and Brampton) weren't overloaded.

"We want to minimize the disruption for Acton people. People expect reliability, so we have to do everything we can to give them

quality service."

Said Hydro Chairman, Dobbie Frizzell: "This improvement to the power system in Acton is a clear demonstration of our commitment to provide reliable energy."

For further information, contact Dave Collie at Halton Hills Hydro (853-3700), ext. 201.

# Open house at CMHA

The Canadian Mental Health Association is holding its Oasis Open House Monday, Feb. 19 from 3 to 6 pm at its new 9 Mill St. W. location. The open house will feature tours of the facility, refreshments, entertainment, a draw and a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for 4 pm. To learn more about the Oasis Activity Program or the open house, please contact Sandy Bray at (905)845-5044 or Rhonda Ellard at 853-4477.

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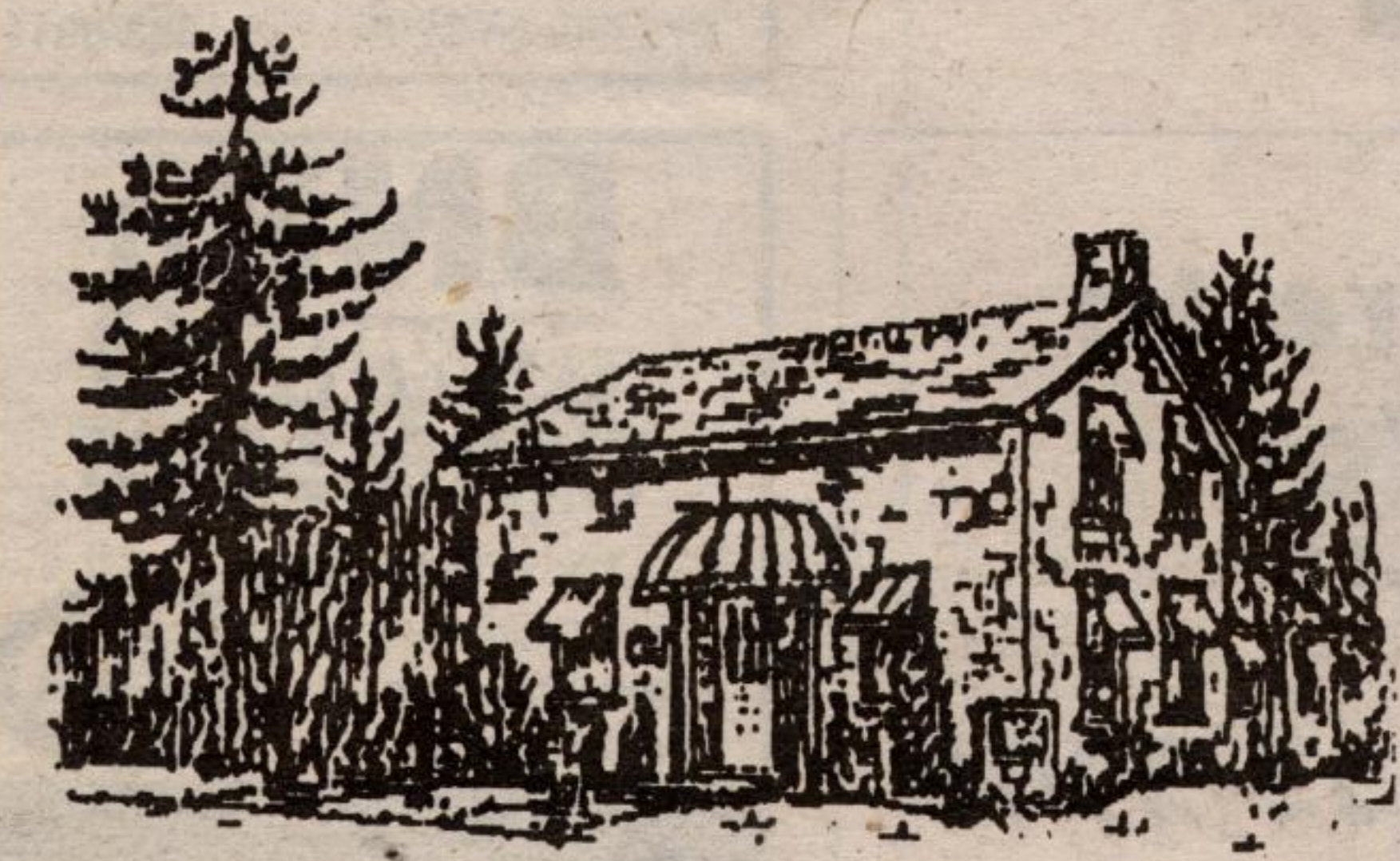
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