

Acton customers won't feel shock treatment from Hydro

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
The New Tanner

By 2000 Acton hydro consumers will be able to shop for their electricity supplier just like they can now for long-distance telephone service. While the province works on legislation to end Ontario Hydro's monopoly on Ontario's 10-billion-a-year electricity business, the new general manager at Halton Hills Hydro, Dan Quatto, predicts that large businesses will take advantage of electricity competition and consumer choice before local customers will.

"Changing their (electricity) supplier is not something that a typical residential cus-

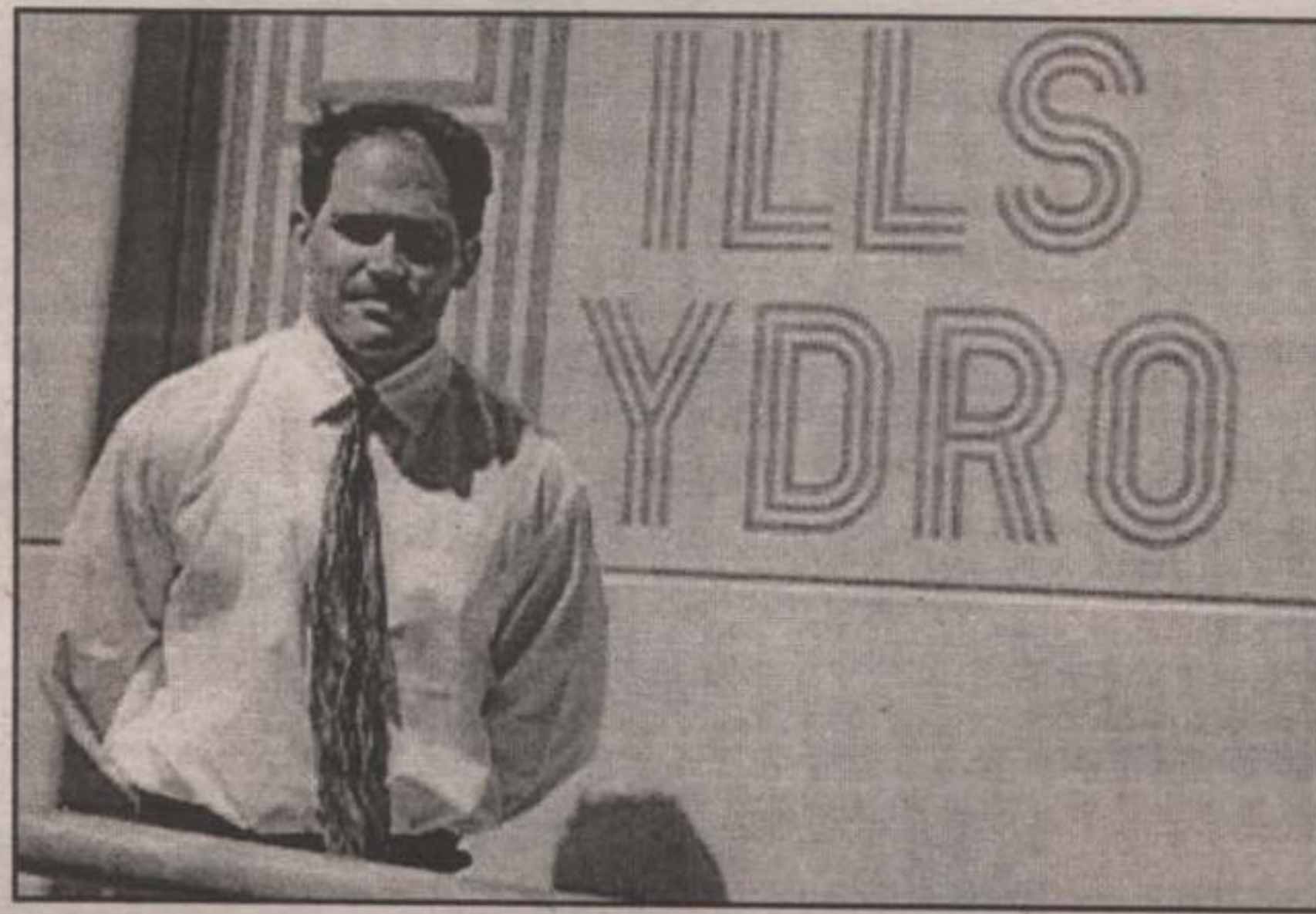
tomers will want to be involved with for the near future," Quatto explained in a recent interview, adding that Acton residents may get approached by energy brokers.

"I think that homeowners should be wary of signing contracts because some of them are long term - two or three years - and they should at least investigate buying power in the traditional way from the utility, before they sign anything," Quatto suggested, adding that Halton Hills Hydro is waiting to see what the implications of the new energy act will be.

"We haven't approached homeowners about it yet because we don't know what the fall out will be. Some of these companies are gambling and signing up customers with the anticipation that they can get these great deals, when the deal might not be better," Quatto said.

The proposed Energy Competition Act would split Hydro into three publicly owned companies - a system operator, a transmission company and a generation company which will now have to compete with other power generators.

Quatto said that Halton Hills Hydro might have to look at strategic partnerships in a deregulated industry to



STRUGGLE FOR POWER: The new GM at Halton Hills Hydro, Dan Quatto, is confident that the local utility will be able to compete in the deregulated electricity industry that is proposed by Queen's Park.

continue to be competitive.

"We'll have to look for alliances where ever they make sense and this could include amalgamations with other municipalities or forming a partnership with a gas company. It could mean anything. We have to be open to look at those things that will improve efficiencies and improve service."

Quatto described Halton Hills Hydro is a "wires company."

"We manage the wires and we do this as an arm of the municipality as a non-profit company. We don't

know what new electricity rules will be approved by Queens Park but the competition will put pressure on us to keep our rates low."

Extra cash saves jobs

Some of the Halton teachers and instructional assistants laid off earlier this spring - including those in Acton - may be rehired thanks to the Province's decision to give the Halton District School Board an additional \$9.5 million for this fall's education budget.

A change in the provincial funding formula will give more money to boards with secondary school students who take more than 7.2 credits a year. Boards will also get special education grants for students needing extra help now, instead of having to wait until after individual student claims are processed. The Halton board will get \$24 million for special education this September and can apply for more, but not all of the 273 instructional assistants that were laid off will be recalled because the board will get \$9 million less than it did last year for special education. The Board has already recalled 57 elementary teachers and 36 full-time secondary teaching positions since it issued lay off notices earlier this spring.

Students charged

Four Acton High School students were charged with consuming and possessing alcohol following an end-of-school party last week. The male Young Offenders were also suspended from school, except to write exams, after being caught drinking off school property at 11 a.m. on Wednesday.

A neighbour called the school after hearing people setting off firecrackers in a barn behind an abandoned farmhouse in the McDonald Blvd. -Churchill Rd. area. Police confiscated beer, coolers and sherry, issued the four with tickets and escorted the teens to the school.

-THE SMOKE SHOPPE-

56 Mill St. East, Acton Unit A

853-0411

Serving Acton for Over 25 Years

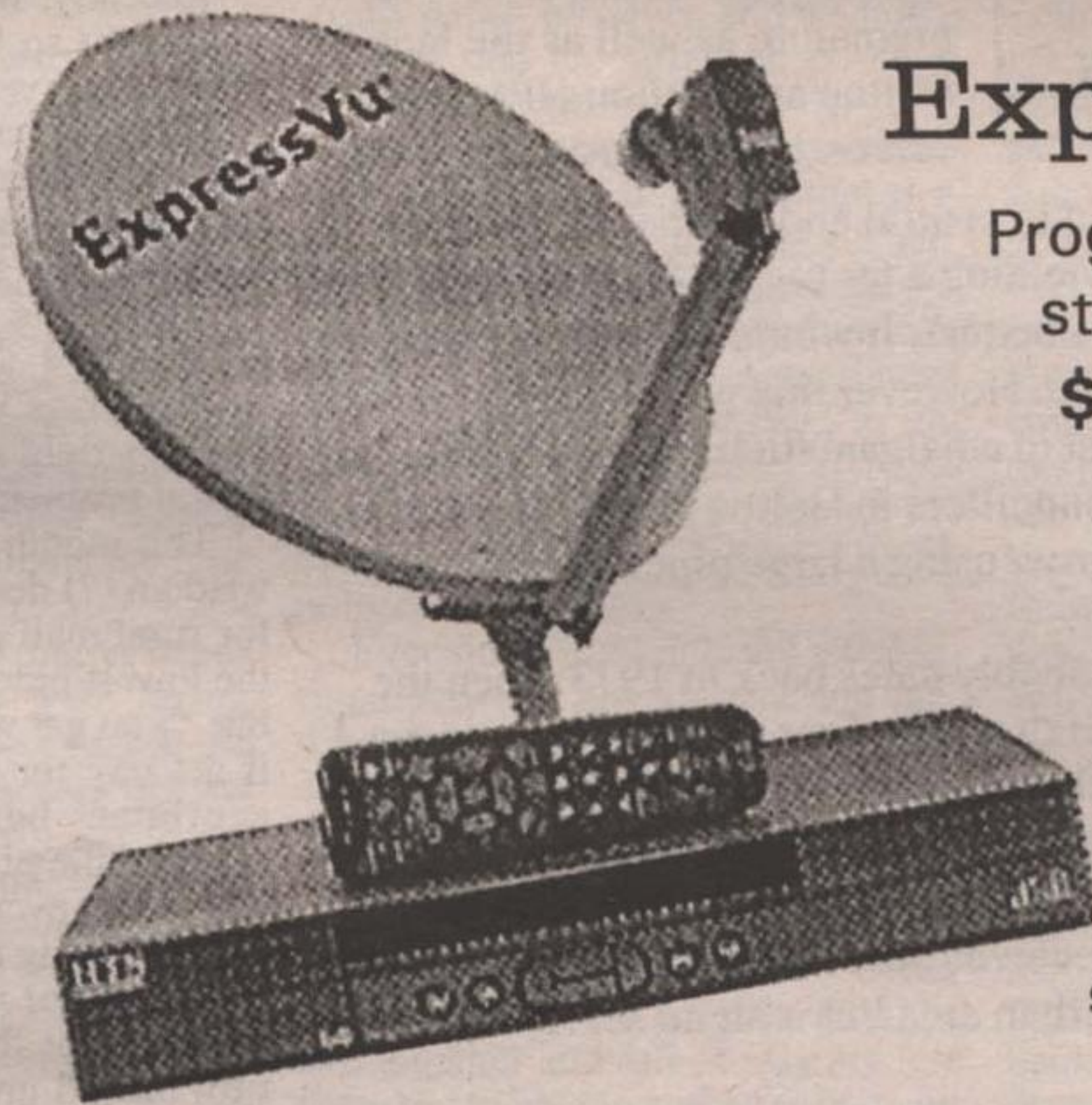
Tobacco, Lotteries, Used Books
(on the United Church parking lot)

Have you thought about ...

SATELLITE TV?

Now you can enjoy

- Crystal clear digital video images and CD quality sound
- Easy to use, interactive on screen program guide (like having a TV guide right in your TV)
- Watching different satellite channels on more than one TV
- Pay only for the program packages you want with flexible programming choices



ExpressVu™

Program packages start as low as **\$7.95/mo.**

Purchase dish before **June 30, 1998**

and receive \$100 Programming Coupon

Now available at:



Acton Home Hardware
43 Mill Street East
853-1730

Bill & Valerie Manes

ACTON PHARMACY LTD.

REACTINE 18's 10 mg Reg \$21.89 Special \$15.99	MENNEN SPEED STICK Reg \$3.99 Special \$2.99
GILLETTE TRAC II plus 10's Reg \$11.89 Special \$8.99	CLAIROL NICE 'N' EASY Special \$6.99
FINESSE SHAMPOO 300 ml Special \$3.39	ALWAYS FEMININE PADS Reg \$5.79 Special \$4.69
COVER GIRL Powder or Liquid Special \$4.99 Lipstick or Mascara Special \$3.99	CREST TOOTHPASTE 75 ml Reg \$1.19 Special 93¢
HUGGIES WIPES Reg. \$5.95 Special \$4.59	JORDAN TOOTHBRUSHES 1/2 Price Special
JOHNSON BABY POWDER 624 g Reg. \$5.59 Special \$3.99	

2 Main Street North, Acton
853-1620

INTRODUCING...
Thought Full of Baskets

We provide our customers with hassle free shopping of "Gift Baskets" for every occasion:

Birthday, Baby & Bridal Shower, Special Holiday, Get Well, Congratulatory, Employee Gift & Prize Baskets.

Take advantage of our special service enabling you to tend to your busy life.

Halton Hills
Tel/Fax: (519) 853-4906

Thrifty Thursday Sale

June 25 ONLY! - All Day Long!

12 Main St. N., Acton (519) 853-1960

