

NOTICE TO HALTON WATER AND WASTEWATER RATEPAYERS

1997 Water and Wastewater Rates

Halton Region has approved the introduction of a special water rate (the "Watermain Charge") effective January 1, 1997, to be applied to all water consumed on or after that date. The principal features of this charge include the following:

- The "Watermain Charge" has been introduced to finance the cost of replacing seriously corroded watermains in Halton. These deteriorating watermains are resulting in safety concerns (restricted water flows for fire fighting) as well as health problems (water colour, taste and odour).
- To address these problems a decision was taken by Regional Council to accelerate an existing cast iron watermain replacement program. The actual replacement of deteriorated watermains is considered to be the most effective and safe solution to address the health and safety concerns. Under the approved program watermains will be replaced within a 7 year time frame, with the total cost (\$111 million) financed over 10 years.
- Regional Council reviewed options for dealing with these health and safety issues, including a lower cost option of adding chemicals to all municipal water; an approach that would mask the taste, colour and odour problems. This option was rejected because it would fail to address safety concerns resulting from restricted water flows for fire protection - corroded watermains actually restrict water flowing through them.

It was Regional Council's decision that the safest and most complete solution to the problems with Halton's cast iron watermains was to approve the replacement option.

- This initiative will be funded from revenue derived directly from the "Watermain Charge" applied at the rate of 13.96¢ per cubic metre for all metered water consumption. This charge will appear as a separate line item on your utility bill and will be in place for a period of 10 years, after which time it will be removed. **For the average residential ratepayer with annual water consumption of 300 cubic metres, this charge will amount to approximately \$42 per annum.**
- The "Watermain Charge" represents the only increase in water and wastewater rates in 1997. All other components of the program have been financed at 1996 levels.

For further information concerning water and wastewater rate structure and policy, including the "Watermain Charge", contact the Region by telephoning 825-6000 (878-8113 for enquiries from Halton Hills) and asking for "Water and Wastewater Enquiries".



The gifts of giving

Vina Shannon (left) and Madeline Collier conducted a last minute check of the food hampers prepared by the Georgetown Lioness Good Neighbor program, serving the less fortunate in Halton Hills. The hampers were delivered Dec. 23, just in time for Christmas.

Photo by Ted Brown



Captain Dave Kennedy of the Georgetown Salvation Army picked up the fourth truckload of toys from Georgetown Marketplace Mall December 23, with help from Josh Horney of the mall. The toys were sent to the Salvation Army Christmas hamper and toy drive, which supplied more than 125 hampers and 200 children with a special gift for Christmas.

Photo by Ted Brown

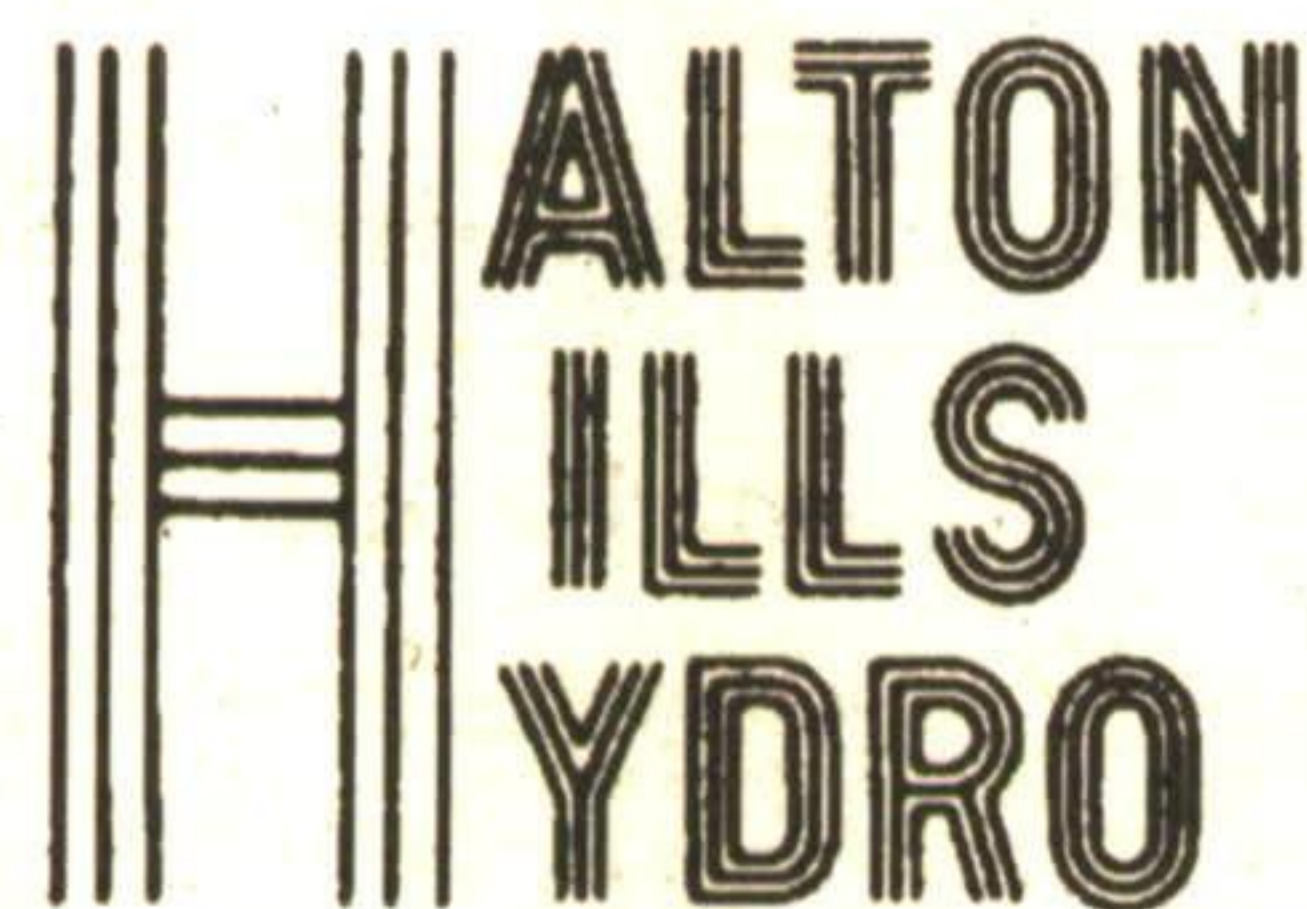
Happy New Year

from the

HALTON HILLS HYDRO ELECTRIC COMMISSION

For the Fourth Year in a row we are pleased to announce that Hydro Rates will decrease!

This year's decrease is OVER 3% for residential customers.



So Have A Happy New Year on Us!

Fact:

Residential Customers Pay \$120 a year LESS than in 1993!

