

Plea for town to be energy-conscious sparks debate on soaring hydro costs

A simple resolution by Councillor Rick Bonnette to have the town become more energy efficient resulted in a debate on rising hydro costs.

Bonnette's motion during Monday's council meeting requested the town administration seek ways of reducing the use of energy in its facilities, without compromising public safety, and report back to council.

He said the town should set an example of conserving energy.

However, before a vote could be taken, several councillors complained bitterly about the rising hydro costs.

"They (the customers) are using less but paying triple," said Councillor Ron Chatten.

"It's an awful lot of money to pay when you've always paid your bills on time," agreed Councillor Joan Robson.

"There's been no doubt that during the summer months the prices increased dramatically, and you may be using less but you'll

probably end up paying more. That's the reality of this new regime under this new deregulated business created by provincial government," said Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Steve Andrews.

He said Halton Hills Hydro Inc., of which the town is the principal shareholder, has been asked to pass information onto its customers about breakdown of costs. He pointed out that HHHI is a non-profit distribution company and the higher costs are the result of higher market prices and additional provincial costs— not the town trying to make an extra buck.

The CAO said he would invite the HHHI staff to come to a future council meeting to explain what has happened to the local bill over the summer months and what might happen next year.

Council also approved the Bonnette motion.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

Hey kids, Santa's here tomorrow

Santa Claus will visit Georgetown tomorrow (Saturday) for the 72nd annual parade in his honour.

The popular event is organized by the Georgetown Lions Club and this year is set for 1:30 p.m. More than 60 floats and eight bands are expected.

Bands will include, Georgetown Pipe Band, Acton Citizens Band, York Lions Steel Drum Band, St. John's Drum Corps, Arthur District Band and Banda Lira. The floats will be decorated in keeping with the theme of this year's parade—Winter Wonderland.

Letter carriers from Canada Post will be walking the parade route collecting letters to Santa from area children.

The parade starts at Georgetown Market Place (Guelph St. and Sinclair Ave.) and travels down Guelph St. to

Mill St. to Charles St. to Park Ave. and wraps up at the fairgrounds.

