

ADVERTISEMENT

# Oakville Hydro leads green power initiatives

Efforts are being made worldwide to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, of which hydro has traditionally been a significant source. Oakville Hydro recognizes this, and, as a result of diligent research and proactive initiatives, has emerged as one of the first utilities in Ontario to offer residents a green power program, interval metering promoting conservation, and a new source of green power within their town limits.

Demand for hydro in Ontario is growing at such a rapid pace that options being explored continue to focus on conservation rather than new generation. "The cost of conserving energy is a lot less than what new generation would cost," says Bob Myers, Director of Energy Services.

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty recently addressed the importance of energy conservation when he set a goal to reduce Ontario's energy consumption by 5 per cent by 2007. "The more we reduce our demand for electricity, the less we'll need to spend increasing supply by building new sources of power," said Premier McGuinty.

One of McGuinty's goals is the installation of a "Smart Meter" in every home in Ontario by 2010. These meters are programmed to record energy consumption on a hourly basis in preparation for rates that are based on on- and off-peak times; rates will be higher during peak hours. Oakville Hydro is already busy preparing Oakville for this by ensuring that all new homes now built in the town have such a meter installed in a nearby transformer.

"Traditionally, we read people's meters every two months to determine hydro usage," says Bob Myers. "These new meters record hydro usage every hour, allowing us to differentiate use between peak periods and non-peak periods, and charge a reduced rate for hydro use during non-peak hours."

Since introducing its Green Light Pact Program in March 2003, Oakville Hydro has been successfully encouraging residents across Ontario to support green power.

The program gives any resident of Ontario the opportunity to contribute to a cleaner environment by helping pay for electricity generation that comes from renewable energy sources.

A Green Light Pact costs \$60 and allows you to purchase 660 kWh of green power production that is injected into the Ontario electricity grid annually. Half pacts can also

be purchased at \$30. A full pact is equal to three weeks of electricity used by a typical home. Purchasing a pact helps reduce the need to generate the same amount of electricity by conventional means, in turn, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Green power has a low environmental impact and is generated from renewable energy sources and technologies such as low-impact hydro, wind power, biomass (burning organic material), landfill gas recovery and solar facilities.

"People have a choice of where Ontario's energy is being generated," says Mary Craddock, Manager of Retail Division. "Instead of it being generated from fossil fuel, they can choose to have it generated from a green capacity and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions." However, she adds, it's more expensive. "Yet, many customers will choose to pay that premium."

The greater expense is because of the intermittent nature of many renewable energy sources such as solar and wind. It's also because many renewable energy sources are based on new technology

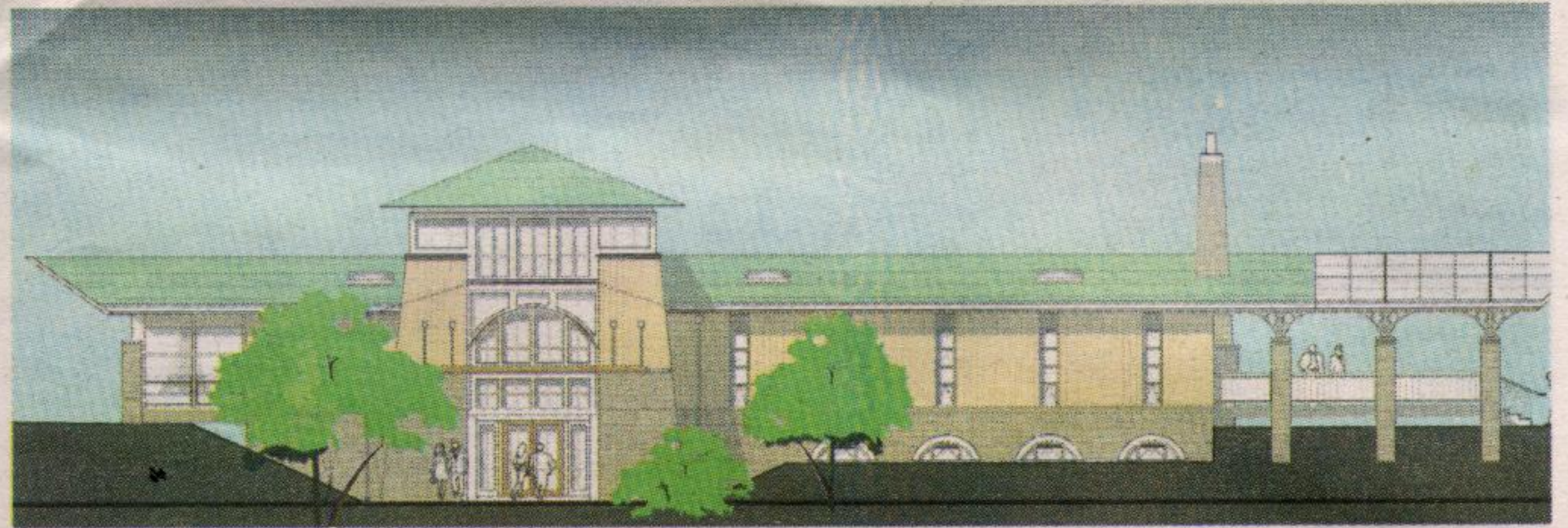
and the facilities are more expensive to build. But with more demand and technology improvements, green power will become less expensive in the future.

"From March through December 2003, 65,700 kilowatt hours of green power was purchased through our Green Light Pact program," says Craddock. "This means a reduction of approximately 55 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions so we're very pleased with the results. Our goal is to see it doubled over the next year."

Oakville Hydro has another inventive plan in the works. Halton Region's Waste Management Site on Highway 25 in Oakville presents an ideal opportunity to generate hydro power from a renewable source. The decomposition of waste at the site produces a methane gas that sends potent greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Oakville Hydro wants to use this gas to generate power that can be fed into Ontario's electricity grid. This could reduce the reliance of as many as 3,000 households on dirtier forms of energy production.

Oakville Hydro will continue to explore new opportunities of renewable energy sources, and services that will help its customers contribute to a cleaner environment, offer energy management solutions, fixed electricity prices, and much more.

GIVE THE  
"GREEN LIGHT"  
TO A CLEANER  
ENVIRONMENT



When complete, the renovated and expanded Mountsberg visitors centre will be able to accommodate more programs and visitors.

# Expansion plans approved for Mountsberg visitors centre

Conservation Halton and its volunteer Foundation are pleased to announce that the renovation and expansion of the Mountsberg visitors centre will commence in 2005 with the new centre open to the public in early 2006.

The new centre will be approximately 50% larger and will be able to accommodate more events and programs that families, children and school groups have come to love. The enlarged theatre will be almost double the current size and will accommodate 300 people, and there will be a reception area to host groups of up to 125 people for special events. The building also features an expanded gift shop, upgraded washrooms including facilities for families with young children, and expanded staff work space.

Foundation staff are hard at work with our community partners to complete the ambitious fundraising goal for this new facility. Local government, private businesses and individuals are making their commitments to the Mountsberg Centre and we invite you to make a donation. Whatever amount you can give, large or small, will help make the Mountsberg visitors centre a great success.

Support environmental education — make a donation to the Mountsberg visitors centre.

Donating to the Conservation Halton Foundation is easy. To make a gift now, fill out the coupon below.

To make a donation online, please visit our Web site at [www.conservationhalton.on.ca](http://www.conservationhalton.on.ca) and click on the Conservation Foundation tab on the left hand side.

## SINGLE GIFT DONATION

I would like to support the Mountsberg Project.

Please accept my gift of:

\$250  \$125  \$50  \$25  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please find enclosed my cheque payable to the Conservation Halton Foundation.

Please charge my gift to my credit card:  VISA  MasterCard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Pre-Authorized Payment Plan:

I want to support the Mountsberg Project by making a monthly donation to the Conservation Halton Foundation.

I authorize the Conservation Halton Foundation to deduct the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each month from my credit card account, listed below. I understand I can cancel this arrangement at any time by calling the Foundation at (905) 336-1158, ext. 255 and that I'll receive one tax receipt at the end of 2004 for the total value of my monthly gifts.

VISA  MasterCard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Please send completed form with cheque to:  
Conservation Halton Foundation,  
2596 Britannia Road West, R.R. #2,  
Milton, Ontario L9T 2X6.  
Fax: (905) 336-7014