

Local business benefits from Power Savings Blitz

By Frances Niblock

Some times, you can get something for nothing as Acton land surveyor Dan Dolliver discovered recently when he took advantage of the Ontario Power Authority's Power Savings Blitz for small businesses.

A contractor in partnership with Halton Hills Hydro replaced old non-efficient fluorescent lighting in Dolliver's Mill Street offices with new lighting and covered the first \$1,000 of the bill.

The total job cost \$1,053 so Dolliver ended up paying \$53, and received lights so bright "we almost have to wear sunglasses," he

said on Monday, adding he's been told to expect a 33 per cent reduction in his electricity bill for lighting.

"I was skeptical at first when the chap from Lightworks Inc. showed up in my office with the retrofit offer. I was immediately suspicious of the offer of something for nothing, but I checked with Halton Hills Hydro and was told all about the conservation program," Dolliver said, adding the crew that removed and replaced 11 sets of lights were efficient, cooperative and his staff were able to continue working during the five hours it took to do the job.

Under the Power Savings Blitz program, small businesses that qualify can received up to \$1,000 of energy-saving lighting upgrades for free. To qualify, businesses must have an account with a demand of less than 50 KW, and be categorized as a non-food service.

Lightworks Inc. will assess a business's lighting and hot water pipe insulation, identify electricity saving opportunities, review a list of recommendations, install upgraded lights and safely dispose of the old equipment.

Jon LeFave of Lightworks Inc. said the program is designed to reduce ener-

gy consumption resulting in lower electricity bills to help Ontario lower its requirement for new power production capacity.

"This very aggressive program is directed to small commercial users. If the energy audit shows that the retrofit would cost \$1,200, the owner decides if they want to just go ahead with the first \$1,000 or pay any additional amount themselves," LeFave said, adding typically the \$1,000 would replace 15 old fluorescent fixtures.

Linda Boyer, an Ontario Power Authority program consultant with Halton Hills Hydro called the

Power Savings Blitz program a "no brainer," and said they have about six Acton businesses signed

up so far. Lightworks is also working with other hydro utilities in Halton Region.

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