

National Electrical Week--February 8 to 14

Planned obsolescence

How long should light bulbs last ?

Many a homemaker, grimly replacing burned-out light bulbs these long winter evenings, grumbles about the bulb manufacturer and his "planned obsolescence". She feels that light bulbs are purposely made to last only a certain time--and that they seem to burn out more quickly than when she was a girl. She's right--on both counts.

Lighting experts at Canadian General Electric, Canada's

largest manufacturer of household lamps, agree that light bulbs are burning out faster. But only because homemakers are using lights in more places, and for longer periods, than ever before.

Lights are used today not only to provide illumination, but also for decorative purposes. And most homemakers realize that there is less chance of accidents when their home is well

lit--inside and out. So naturally, with homes better illuminated, for longer periods, lights need to be replaced sooner.

And, as the homemaker guessed, light bulbs are made to last a certain length of time, but for several very good reasons.

The heart of any incandescent light bulb is the filament, an incredibly thin piece of coiled wire, which glows white hot when electric current passes through, to produce light.

The surface of this wire, which is only 18 ten-thousandths of an inch thick, is actually boiling when the lamp is turned on. Eventually it boils down to the point where it breaks, and the bulb burns out.

"One of the scientific laws governing light bulbs is that the brighter the bulb, the shorter life it will have," comments Robert Story, Vice-President in charge of CGE Lamp Department.

"Conversely, if you want the bulb to last longer, we must use a heavier filament which will boil away more slowly, but less light is produced."

That's why the so-called "long-life" bulbs are not necessarily the best buy for normal household use, say CGE lighting advisors. "While they give longer life, you are not getting the same amount of light. We have found that the best balance between the amount of light produced, and the length of life for average household use, is about 750 hours."

In 1970, for the first time in Ontario Hydro's history, power from thermal stations, both

coal-fired and nuclear, will exceed that from hydro-electric sources.

To date, Ontario Hydro has spent or committed nearly \$40 million on air quality control.

The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, February 11, 1970 B3

Milton Hydro . . .

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was being introduced to make sure all customers paid for the power they used. That fall it got cool at the town hall--with the new hydro system the steam generating plant next door was not in use--and the clerk got in a coal oil stove. So the council moved the boiler into the town hall to keep the building warm enough to work in. A nice Christmas present to consumers was a decrease in rates, announced on Dec. 23.

By the end of the year the town's first hydro commission, known then as the Light Commission, was formed. E. F. Earl, W. B. Clements and Dr. R. K. Anderson were the first commissioners. Mayor Dr. H. McCall also sat on the Commission.

Events of the next few years

included the firing of the local electrician after he refused to move into town; the engaging of Thomas Book as his replacement to handle the needs of the 235 hydro customers; problems in extending hydro service outside the town boundaries; sale of the old engine, boiler, generator, pump and other equipment from the old steam generating plant to Milton Textile Co. for \$1,000.

In 1915 the Commission leased a store, known as the "old post office" as a hydro office at \$15 per month. They leased the old power station to Mr. Ager at \$15 a month. Bob Phillips was engaged as electrician in 1923, a job he continued to hold until his retirement in 1954. Records of 1924 indicate there were 496 customers and in 1928 automatic addressing equipment was put in the local office. The old power house was sold to William Higgins for \$3,000 in 1928.

Improvements and events of the more recent years worth noting here included:

1933--HEPC water heaters were purchased for resale here.

1939--New street lighting system on Main St.; Commission purchased its present office for \$3,200; building remodelled at a cost of \$3,490.

1944--Wartime ban on use of hydro power was lifted and 675 hydro customers breathed a sigh of relief.

1947--Substation lot purchased on Bronte St. The equipment for it was purchased the following year.

1955--Milton completed the conversion to 60 cycle power as part of the dominion-wide conversion, and the new two bay truck garage was erected on lands on Commercial St. near the rear of the hydro office.

1959--New fluorescent light fixtures were ordered for Main St., a substation lot was purchased on Parkway Dr., and the hydro men purchased their first new truck after many years of using rebuilt vehicles.

1962--Two-way radio equipment was placed in the trucks and office.

1963--Office renovations cost \$13,000.

1964--Milton Hydro celebrated its 50th anniversary and as a demonstration of mutual co-operation and service between the town and the commission, the commissioners agreed to illuminate the exterior of the town hall to mark the occasion. The lights were turned on April 29 during an anniversary dinner attended by local and provincial hydro officials, with Ontario Hydro chairman Ross Strike as speaker. That year new street name markers were installed at every corner in town.

1967--The new Ontario St. substation was opened to give even greater service to consumers.

1969--Milton annexed 1,600 acres from Esquesing and Oakville and the commission faced a bill for nearly \$70,000 to purchase the "plant" equipment in the annexed area.

A rate adjustment that year saw most rates decrease. The Commission also accepted delivery of its new line truck toward the end of the year. Water meters were installed throughout town and the hydro accepted the added responsibility of meter readings and billings for the corporation.

Today there are 2,073 customers who depend on Milton Hydro to keep the power on for them, 24 hours a day and seven days a week. The hydro has been powering our homes, our jobs and our lives in Milton for 78 years and 73 days now--we've come to depend on it.

Ontario Hydro has its own fleet of 12 helicopters to inspect and string power lines, transport men and materials and spray rights-of-way.



PRIME MINISTER PREMIER MINISTRE

The accelerating rate of change in electronics technology makes it almost impossible to say much that is interesting about the electronics technology of the year 2000. Almost all of the possible developments that one can explicitly formulate seem likely to be realized much sooner.

Kahn & Wiener
The Year 2000

The rapid growth of electronics technology is both a challenge and a tribute to man's use of electrical energy.

To all those involved in the electrical industry, I am pleased to send my best wishes on the occasion of National Electrical Week.

Pierre Elliott Trudeau

Ottawa,
1970.

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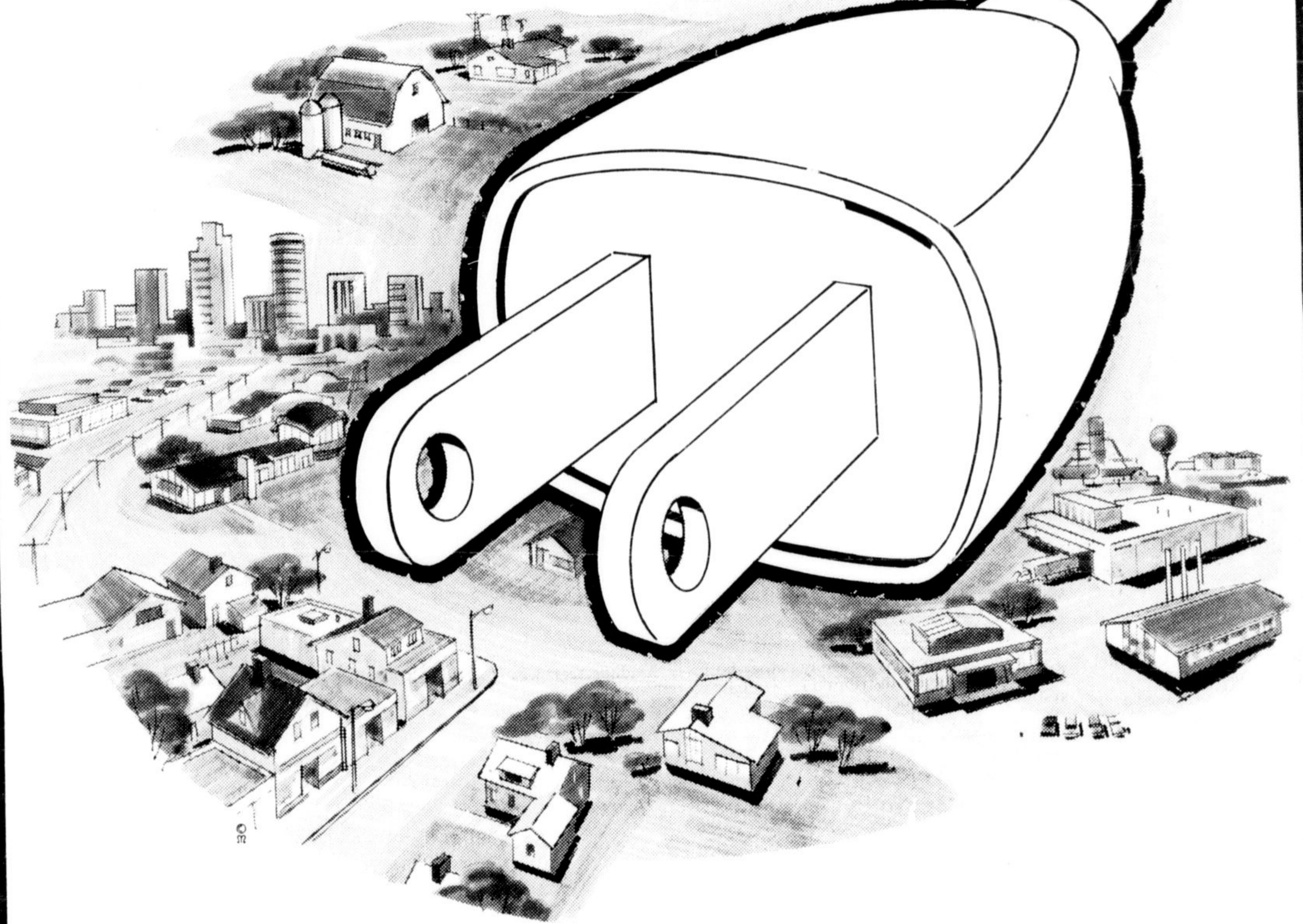
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