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President's Message
 Melissa De Brouwer

The Hydro Deposit issue has reared its ugly head again. Last year, Milton Hydro developed a new deposit policy in order to avoid the risk of non-payment by their larger users. Essentially, any business that used more than 50 kW was required to pay a security deposit. The deposit formula called for 2.5 times the highest month's consumption in the last 12 months, at the highest rate charged during the last 12 months. For some businesses, this worked out to 5-7 months of average usage. No concessions were to be given for a good payment history and the deposit was to be held indefinitely. The Chamber got involved on behalf of our large members because we felt that the model used was highly flawed, and in the end we took the matter to the Ontario Energy Board.

The OEB eventually responded by telling Milton Hydro that it, the OEB, would not allow disconnection of service for non-payment of the security deposit until the issue of security deposits had been resolved. The OEB then set up a working group to research the issue and make recommendations that would be fair to both the distributors and the customers. The working group appointed a sub-committee with representatives of both groups. The sub-committee met numerous times last fall, eventually reaching a consensus and writing a draft paper with recommendations in November. Then along came Bill 210, freezing rates for small users and not allowing any disconnection until April 1, 2003.

In February, the working group met twice to discuss the impact of Bill 210 on the paper as submitted by the sub-committee. The Chamber attended the first meeting, but was unable to attend the February 28th meeting due to short notice. The final draft paper issued by the working group on March 15th was a complete departure from the original paper submitted by the sub-committee. Whereas the sub-committee had reached a consensus on the security deposit policy for the >50 kW user group, the working group has rewritten that section as the LDC Version and the Customer Version of how the security deposit policy should be decided.

The Chamber has responded with strong opposition to the Final Draft, as have the other customer group representatives. Although we're frustrated by the ineffectiveness of the working group, we will continue to fight on behalf of our members, and we'll keep you updated.

RENEWAL MEMBERSHIPS

Thank you to the following members for renewing their Chamber membership.

A Country Mile Inc. *	L.S. Walker Machine Tools Inc.
A R Down Landscaping	Mattamy Homes Ltd./Mattamy Development Co.
Ad-Scope Promotions	Michael T. O'Gorman, CGA
Ainsworth Inc.	Milton Diagnostix Imaging
Aquapure Water Systems	Norden-Jensen Inc.
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Better Living Home Health Care	Private Fleet Sales Inc.
Bob Baynton's Carpentry	Rodger Rosenfield Data Inc.
C.I.B.C. Small Business	Roto-Static Cleaning Services
Cabinet Dimensions Inc.	State Farm Insurance (D. MacRae)
Canadian National Railway Company	Summit Office Supplies Inc.
Christmas Exteriors	Sunny Oasis Internet Corporation
Clarke's Golf Services	Taylor Nursery *
Compudreams Canada Inc.	Telehop Communications & Interhop
Crave Systems	Terra Greenhouses *
Fay's Electric Inc.	Town & Country Sign Maintenance & Service
First Professional Collision & Paint	W. Hedley Grieves
Girl's Inc. Halton	Whiterock Ostrich Farm *
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Halton Machining	
Hendrik Tool & Die Inc.	
Hypertherm Canada	
Inca Interactive	
Koletch Designs	

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

COMMUNITY AWARDS GALA
 Saturday, April 12, 2003 at
Granite Ridge Golf Club
 Make plans to attend and acknowledge those who have made a significant contribution to the community. Tickets on sale at the Chamber office call - 905-878-0581 to purchase a ticket or to reserve a table for your group. Join us for a night to remember.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS:
 Tuesday, April 22, 2003
Hitherfield Preparatory School
 2439 - 10th Sideroad, Campbellville
 The three Rs will take on a whole new meaning at Hitherfield! Return to your school days and network with fellow Chamber members.

Tuesday, May 27, 2003
Elayne Tanner & Associates / Marilyn Samuels
 11084 - 5th Line, Rockwood

GOLF TOURNAMENT:
June 17th, 2003 - Granite Ridge Golf Club
 Registration forms have been mailed to last year's golfers. If you missed out in 2002, make sure you are part of our 2003 tournament. Call the Chamber for a registration form 905-878-0581. "Duffers" welcome - with their own trophy & prizes. We expect to sell out at a full 288 golfers this year!

We are pleased to welcome our sponsors (to date) - Dinner Sponsor - SKD Automotive Group; Hole in One Sponsor - Wallace Pontiac Buick Cadillac; Luncheon Sponsor - Escarpment Business Community; Cart Sponsors - L.S. Walker Machine Tools and Air Liquide Canada; Refreshment Sponsor - Roxul Inc.

We still have several sponsorships available. This is a great opportunity to promote your business with the leaders in Milton's business community. Call the Chamber for a sponsor package or buy a hole sponsorship for \$100..

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