

CH to take part in energy use reduction program

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**

The Champion

Conservation Halton and Milton Hydro are joining forces to help lower energy consumption during peak periods.

At a recent meeting of Conservation Halton's (CH) Conservation Areas/Community Relations Advisory Committee, an information report was filed that outlined a new project being initiated at CH facilities with the help of Milton Hydro Distribution Inc.

"It's a model for corporations and citizens to embrace," said committee member and Milton councillor Brian Penman, who's also on the hydro commission.

The project is double pronged. The first initiative, called the Energy Drill Program, will be

implemented across all CH facilities reads the report, submitted by Kevin Keith, director of conservation lands services.

It's what Mr. Keith said he calls a win-win program. It encourages staff to reduce energy — by actions such as shutting off air conditioning and turning out lights — during peak consumption periods, or "times of high wholesale electricity market prices," says the report.

In return, CH will receive from the independent electricity system operator an amount equal to the wholesale cost of electricity for each hour of participation in the program, the report states.

The program will help reduce CH's cost of operations as well as reduce to the community good stewardship of the environment, it says.

A Partnership Letter of Intent has been signed

by CH, the report said.

Staff will receive training about the program through workshops and seminars, and an 'energy marshal' will be appointed at each facility.

"On days where there are reliability issues for the power system and environment issues, we implement the program and co-ordinate with other demand-response programs across the province," said Don Thorne, president and chief executive officer of Milton Hydro.

"They (CH) are a leader in conservation in the community, so it's a natural partnership with us."

Report cards will be issued to measure the effectiveness of the program.

In the second part of the partnership, a Strategic Energy Assessment will be developed to help CH conserve energy over the long-term,

the report reads.

Mr. Keith said the program seems like a good fit for CH and Milton Hydro.

"Sometimes the timing is just perfect," Mr. Keith said.

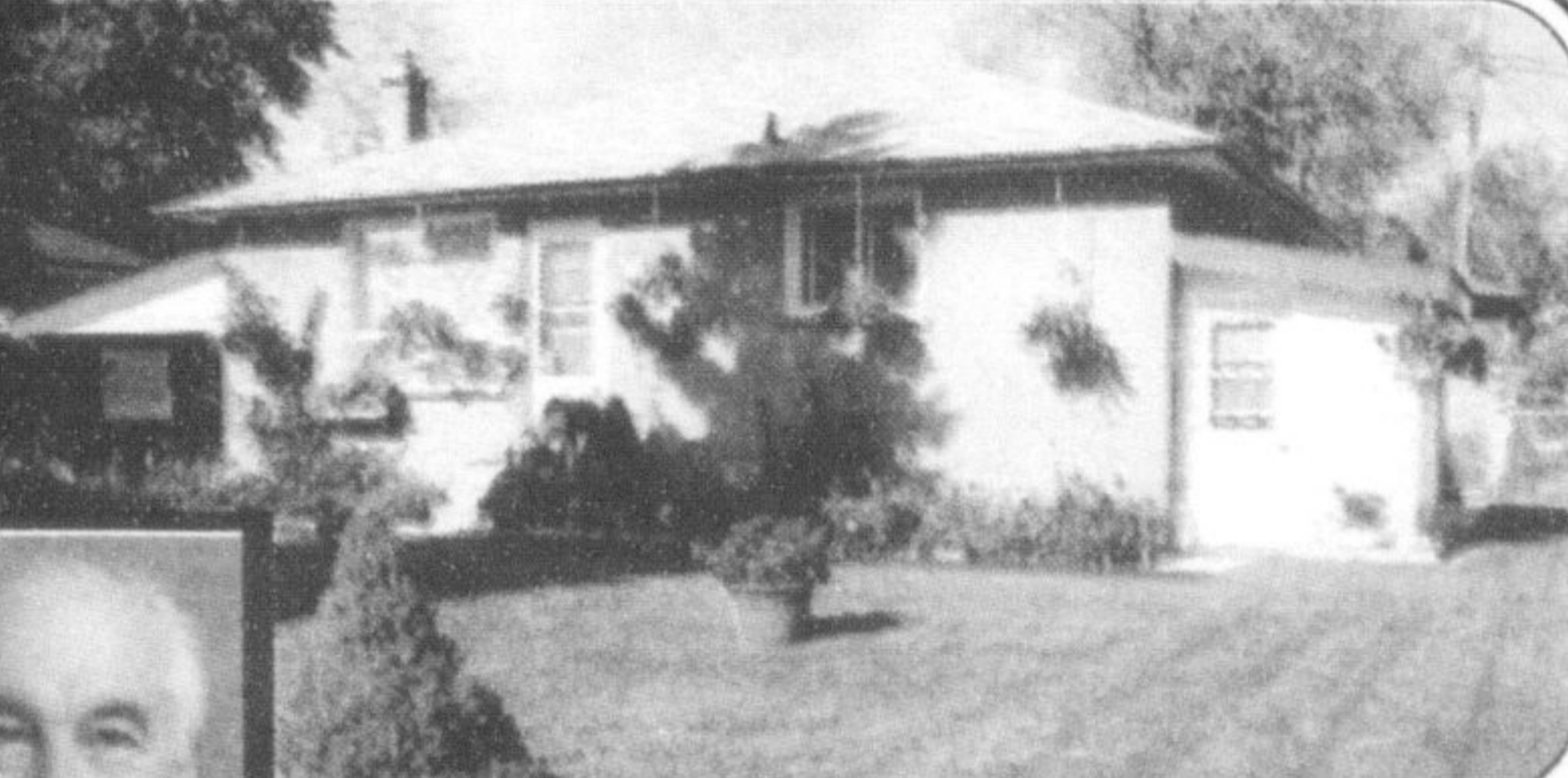

"And with the future challenges in energy, we should be leading the way. That's what we're trying to do."

The Energy Drill Program was originally implemented as a pilot project at the Milton Leisure Centre and Robert Baldwin Public School, Mr. Thorne said.

Soon the Milton Public Library will also participate.

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This page appears in the Milton Champion (circulation 21,000), The Independent & Free Press (circulation 25,065) and Oakville Today (circulation 27,000). For booking information, call Diane Wolstenholme at 905-878-2341 ext. 210 or email dianew@miltoncanadianchampion.com.