

Ex treasurer gets house arrest for school thefts

By **Stephanie Hounsell**
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A local woman who swiped more than \$20,000 from two Milton school councils and one in Georgetown when she served as treasurer will spend the next six months under house arrest.

Brenda Pickering, 43, pleaded guilty to three counts of theft over \$5,000 earlier this year.

Pickering — who has no previous criminal record — served as the volunteer treasurer for the school councils at J.M. Denyes and W.I. Dick as well as at Georgetown's Stewarttown Public School between 2002 and 2005.

A police investigation was initiated after a complaint by the Halton District School Board that irregularities had been discovered in the school councils' accounting practices.

Pickering was charged in February of 2006.

Friday at Ontario Court of Justice in Burlington, Justice Allan Cooper sentenced her to an 18-month conditional sentence, with six months' house arrest.

Pickering will be permitted to leave her home only for employment and for a few hours every Monday to shop for necessities. After the 18 months, she'll be on probation for a year.

For those two-and-a-half years, Pickering won't be permitted to serve in a position of trust for any not-for-

profit organization.

At the time of the thefts, Pickering lived in Halton Hills. She now resides in Milton.

The sentencing had been delayed numerous times, with Pickering waiting for a tax return that would allow her to pay the balance of her restitution.

She was still waiting Friday, and has almost \$8,000 left to pay. Cooper gave her until October 15.

The court heard earlier in the proceedings that Pickering used the stolen money — about \$10,000 from J.M. Denyes' council, \$5,500 from W.I. Dick and \$9,000 from Stewarttown — to pay off credit cards and property taxes.

She has two children, aged 15 and 17, for whom she's the sole provider.

Cooper's sentence was in accordance with a joint submission made by Crown attorney Grace Romano and defence lawyer Thomas Hicks.

There for the sentencing was Debra Jolivet, who was vice-chair of the J.M. Denyes school council when the theft occurred. She told the *Champion* she's happy it's all over.

"I've been anxious to see a resolution for a long time," she said.

When the theft was discovered, Jolivet said she felt "really betrayed" by Pickering.

Pickering declined comment.

Stephanie Hounsell can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Halton Hills Hydro Municipal Transformer Station (MTS) No. 1 Class Environmental Assessment

NOTICE OF STUDY COMPLETION

Project

An Environmental Study Report (ESR) has been completed by Halton Hills Hydro Inc. for the construction and operation of a 230/28 kV 125 MVA DESN municipal transformer station (MTS) along the Steeles Avenue corridor between Trafalgar Road and James Snow Parkway in the Town of Halton Hills, Ontario. The proposed undertaking would connect to the existing distribution network at 27.6 kV to provide a reliable source of power to address increased electricity demand as a result of new residential, commercial, and industrial development in the Town of Halton Hills.

Study Process

The Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) study for this MTS is conducted in accordance with "Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities" under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. The required consultation process was initiated for this study with the publication and notification of Study Commencement in the *New Tanner* (March 27, 2008), *Georgetown Independent* (April 2, 2008), and *Free Press* (April 2, 2008). Additionally, a Public Information Centre (PIC) was held on May 29, 2008 to provide opportunities for review and comment on the Project.

An ESR, prepared in accordance with the Class EA document, is submitted for information purposes to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and is also available for a 30-day public review commencing on September 3, 2008 and concluding on October 15, 2008. The ESR will be available for review on the Halton Hills Hydro website at www.Haltonhillshydro.com and at the following locations:

Halton Hills Hydro Inc. 43 Alice Street Acton, ON L7J 2A9	Town of Halton Hills 1 Halton Hills Drive Halton Hills, ON L7G 5G2
Regional Municipality of Halton 1151 Bronte Road Oakville, ON L6M 3L1	Halton Hills Library Acton Branch 17 River St. Acton, ON L7J 1C2
Milton Public Library 45 Bruce Street Milton, Ontario L9T 2L5	Halton Hills Library Georgetown Branch 9 Church St., Georgetown, ON L7G 2A3

Written questions or comments on the ESR must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 15, 2008.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

Ms. Kathryn Wherry
SENEC Consultations Limited
121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4B 2n4
Phone: 905-764-9380 Ext. 435
E-mail: kwherry@senec.ca
Facsimile: 905-764-9386

Ms. Natasha Roknic
Halton Hills Hydro Inc.
43 Alice Street
Acton, ON
L7J 2A9
Phone: 519-853-3700 Ext. 216
E-mail: Natashar@haltonhillshydro.com
Facsimile: 519-853-5168

If no concerns are expressed, the project will be considered acceptable and will proceed as outlined in the ESR.

If questions or comments on the project cannot be resolved by Halton Hills Hydro Inc. during the 30-day review period, the concerned stakeholder(s) may make a written request to the Minister of Environment to "bump-up" the project to an Individual EA as outlined in the Part II of the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. Written requests must be received by the Minister no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 15, 2008 at the following address.

Ministry of the Environment
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 12th Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

Please note that a duplicate copy of the request must also be sent to Halton Hills Hydro Inc. at the address noted above.

This Notice of Completion is issued on Wednesday, August 27, 2008.

Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. All comments will become part of the public record with the exception of personal information.

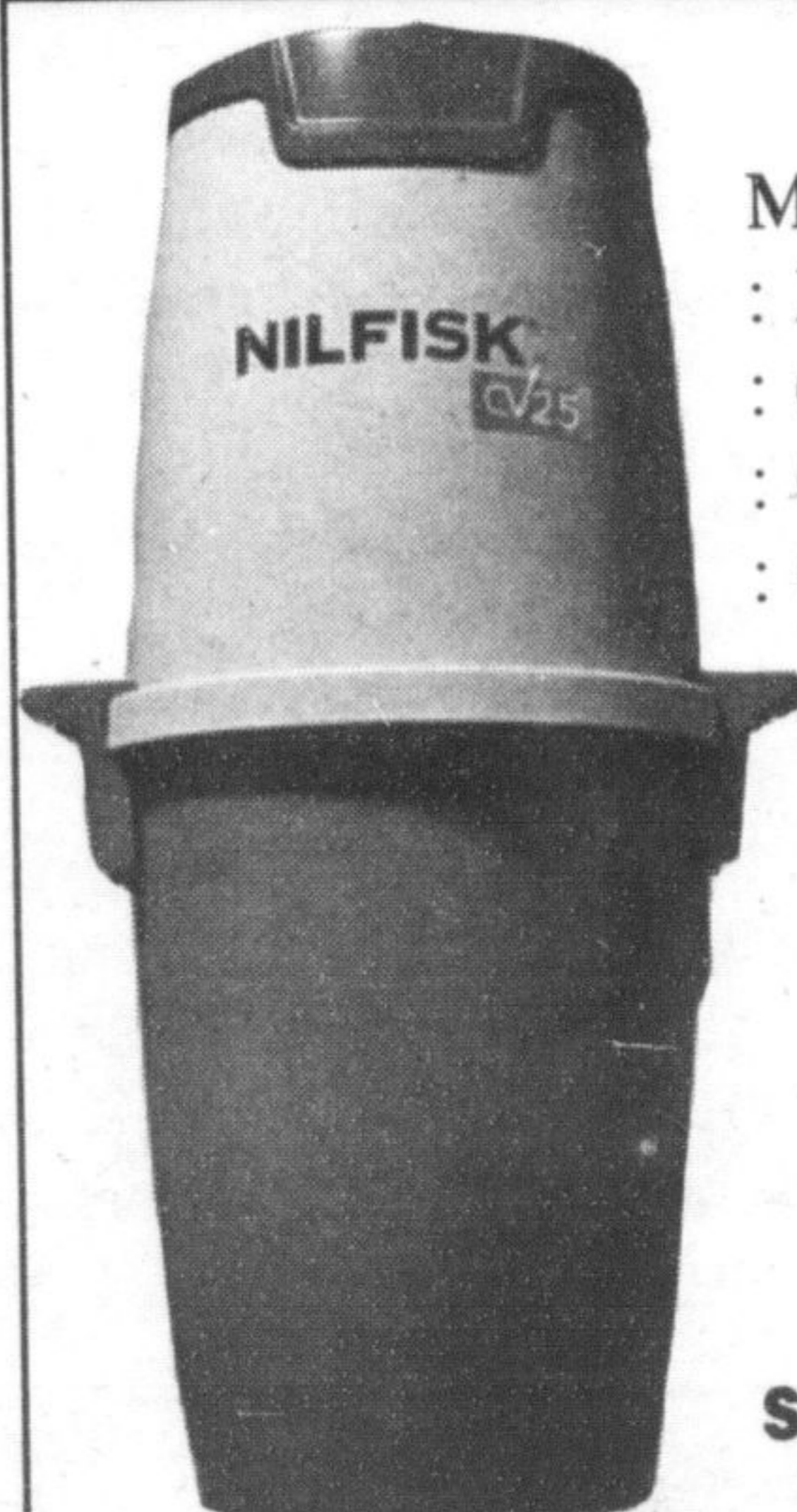
NILFISK FUN FACT #12

Metric has better reach than standard!
Nilfisk's standard 10 metre hose is 2.8 feet longer
than the competition's standard 30 foot hose!

The Attention to Detail Continues...

Designed by Swedish engineers, this motor is manufactured to provide 1,500 hours of run time on its first set of brushes.

EUROPEAN MANUFACTURED
"SURPRISING AFFORDABLE"



Model CV25

- : 25 Litre dirt capacity
- : 640 Air Watts
- : Quiet 70.5 db
- : Guarantees

- Control Systems: 10 years
- Motor: 15 years
- Primary Filter and Body: Lifetime



NILFISK
WORKS FOR GENERATIONS

See the difference European quality makes at



"Milton's Vacuum Specialists Since 1988"

785 Main St. E.
(across from the GO station)

Miele
Anything else is a compromise

905-876-3394

TEST DRIVE A MIELE EVENT ENDS SEPT. 30TH!