Hydro rates going up

By Tim Foran CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Think of it like daylight savings time — except instead of adjusting the time, you need to adjust behav-

Starting today, the seasonal peak times for electricity pricing set by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) changes days remain off-peak all year to the summer schedule long, the May 1 to October from the winter one.

The bi-annual change is accompanied with a rate hike that will likely cost the average Milton Hydro urban customer an extra few bucks on their monthly electricity

retailer.

Hydro, about 85 per cent of its customers — urban residents — are charged based using 1,000 kWh, though it on time-of-use pricing while the remainder in the rural uses less electricity. area still pay according to the OEB's regulated price plan.

In the time-of-use plan, each day is split into three

Day of the Week	Time	Time-of-Use	Price (cents/kWh)
Weekends & holidays	All day	Off-peak	4.2
Summer Weekdays	7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Mid-pcak	7.6
(May 1st Oct 31st)	11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	On peak	9.1
	5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	Mid-peak	7.6
	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.		4.2

different periods - on-peak, mid-peak, and off-peak with corresponding differences in electricity prices. While weekends and holi-31 period's weekday on-peak period is from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. In the winter period just winding up, the peak times are in the early mornings and afternoons.

The on-peak prices for the upcoming summer sea-The rate hike and the son will rise to 9.1 cents per schedule change affect kilowatt hour (kWh) from Milton Hydro customers, but 8.8 cents, while the midnot those who have a con- peak goes to 7.6 from 7.2 tract with an electricity and the off-peak to 4.2 from 4 cents. The OEB estimates According to Milton the increase will result in an extra \$2.70 in monthly electricity charges for a resident said the typical customer

> For Milton Hydro's rural customers, the OEB's regulated price plan (RPP) operates differently, with one rate

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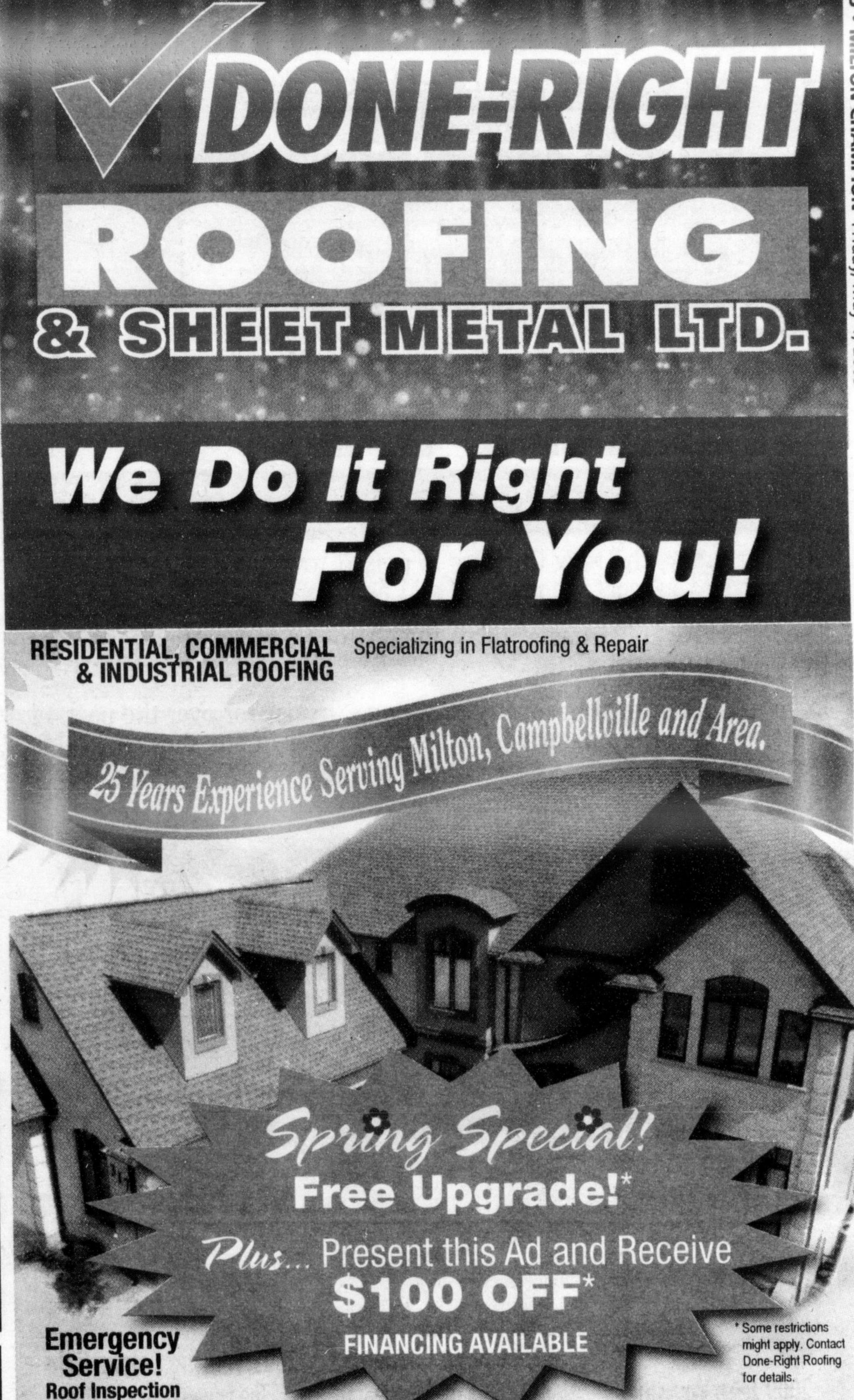
charged up to a threshold and a higher price charged for usage beyond that limit. That means those RPP customers, which make up the vast majority of provincial electricity users, will pay 5.7 cents per kWh for the first 600 kWh used and 6.6 cents above that usage limit. The winter season threshold is 1,000 kWh.

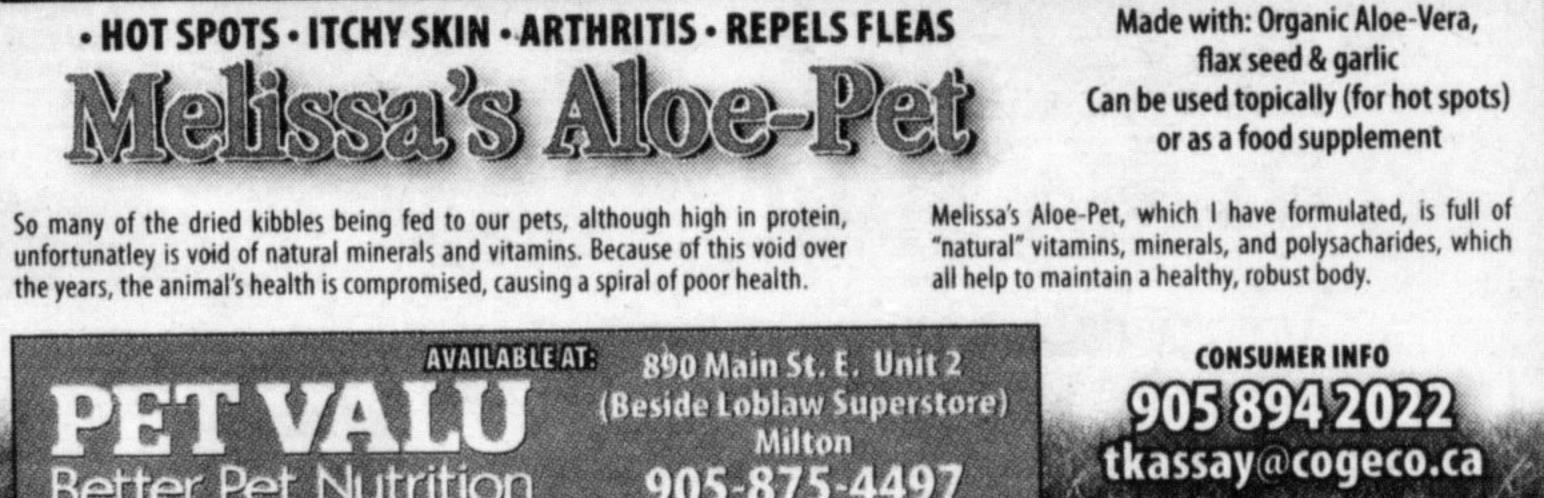
Though the price hike is only .1 cents extra per kWh, the OEB said the increase combined with the normal threshold change means the average resident using 1,000 kWh will pay \$4.60 more on their monthly bills.

Milton Hydro said its rural customers would be switched over to time-of-use pricing by the end of the summer. The utility is currently the only one in Ontario that has mandatory time-of-use pricing.

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