



## Hydro begin Big Chute expansion

Ontario Hydro is looking at the feasibility of a \$25 million facelift for the Big Chute Generating Station on the Severn River.

According to Ontario Hydro's Georgian Bay Regional Director Al Perttula, Hydro will be preparing all the necessary studies on the 77-year-old hydraulic generator in order to come up with possible designs for a new plant.

Perttula said Ontario Hydro will be examining a total of 37 other hydraulic generators across the province as part of their redevelopment.

"It is part of Ontario Hydro's plans to look at older hydraulic plants," said Perttula, adding this will be the first one completed.

The work on the redevelopment, which is to begin in the early part of next year, is expected to be completed and operational by 1991.

Although all of the design plans have yet to be completed, Perttula said Hydro is looking at a station with three times the capacity of the existing station.

"The Big Chute Station has been generating four megawatts of electricity for 75 years. With the

redevelopment and expansion we are considering, the station could more fully use the site's potential for at least another 75 years," he said.

"A lot has happened to the Muskoka Watershed since that was built 77 years ago," Perttula explained. "It is not using all the water possible and a

new system would involve twice as much water being used.

At the present time, annually, the station produces the equivalent of one-twenty-fifth of the energy used in the City of Barrie.

Perttula said the new power house would produce the energy equivalent

to one-eighth of the power used annually by Barrie.

The Regional Director added if Ontario Hydro had not decided to redevelop the generating station, Orillia Water Light and Power Commission have expressed interest in purchasing the station and refurbish and expanding it themselves.

## Township strike committees

Officials from Tay Township have established the chairmanship for the various subcommittees of council for the up coming year.

At their last session, Tay Township Council passed the necessary bylaws to set up the committees.

Councillor Kay Chambers will head both the General Government Committee and the Finance Committee.

Councillor Doug Rose is the Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee.

The Transportation and Environmental Committees will be chaired by township Deputy-reeve Tom O'Hara.

Councillor Lynn Morton will chair the Protection to Persons and Property,

Health Services, Social and Family Services and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committees.

As ex-officio Tay Reeve Bruce Tinney holds a position on all standing committees.

## And the winner is...

Winnie Ballam (right) of Penetanguishene had the honours of pulling the final number in the Penetanguishene Lions' Club's Annual 200 Club Draw at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 68 on Fri-

day. After all 200 numbers were drawn from the drum, the winner of \$1,000 is Mrs. Irene Pilon of Penetanguishene. Lions Club member Art Lizotte was also on hand to help with the draw.

## French programs grow, but not here

To further its commitment of French language services, the provincial government launched a marketing program aimed at Ontario's Francophones.

According to Robert Keir, an information officer with the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, the program in Ontario is an extension of the province's marketing program aimed at Quebec francophones.

However, Penetanguishene likely will not feel the impact as much as Ottawa and French communities in Northern Ontario, he admitted.

Francophones here will not see the jazzy commercials that promote "Ontario Irresistible". Keir said his ministry is well aware of the culture in Penetanguishene and

Lafontaine, but he said, John Eakins, the Ontario Minister of Tourism and Recreation, wanted to start the program in an area with a large French community and with French-language media.

Keir added this is the first time the provincial government has tried this.

"We're trying to reach a segment of the market we haven't reached before. This is the first time we've advertised in French in Ontario," he said.

The French-language services will be increasing once more, when a French version of the Traveller's Encyclopedia, the ministry's main publicity tool, is released in March.

Currently, "Francophones across Ontario are being served and provided information through

the Ministry's French telephone inquiry service and our bilingual travel counsellors," said Eakins. "We are directly encouraging all Ontarians to see and visit more of Ontario Irresistible."

The toll-free number to reach a bilingual tourism counsellor is 1-800-268-3736.

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