

# Hydro forecasts will come under close scrutiny

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At the request of the Minister of Energy, Ontario Hydro will soon be presenting the government with an important document. It will contain Hydro's forecasts of electricity demand and its plans for meeting Ontario's electricity needs over the next 25 years.

The government has given assurances that these plans will be subjected to thorough and comprehensive public review before any approval is given. The review will provide all interested parties with an opportunity to study and assess Hydro's plans and forecasts. It will also provide an opportunity to weigh the en-

vironmental implications of any proposed option or mix of options for meeting electricity needs.

Ontario Hydro's and the Ministry of Energy's load forecasts indicate that new supplies may be needed by the year 2000. However, not all interested parties agree on this.

Large electricity users

represented by organizations such as the Association of Major Power Consumers of Ontario point to growing demand and contend that new generating facilities will be needed as early as the mid-1990s. On the other hand, some consumer groups, and groups such as Energy Probe argue that conservation and energy efficiency measures can reduce the growth in demand and defer the need for new facilities until well after the turn of the century.

During the 1970s, forecasts of high growth rates for electricity demand led to greatly increased construction of generating plants. When the predicted growth rates failed to materialize, Hydro began to mothball plants in order to reduce costs. The utility also launched major marketing programs aimed at increasing sales and gaining maximum value from its surplus capacity.

More recently Hydro has responded to an upturn in the growth in electricity use, and government policies which place increasing emphasis on the need for conservation, and is launching a major conservation campaign.

The government has asked Hydro to make electricity conservation its first priority in planning to meet the future needs of the province. In response, Hydro has set itself the goal of saving 5,500 mw by the year 2000 from electricity conservation, energy efficiency and parallel generation measures, which I have talked about in earlier columns.

The government introduced amendments to the Power Corporation Act empowering Hydro

to intensify its efforts in electricity conservation and efficiency.

The amendments were also designed to make Hydro more responsive to government policies and public concerns.

The government also introduced the Energy Efficiency Act, which sets minimum standards for energy efficiency of household appliances and energy-consuming products.

We have also launched a number of energy conservation programs.

The government recognizes that Ontario Hydro faces a complex and difficult set of choices in developing its plans, for all available demand and supply options have environmental, economic and social impacts.

The task facing the people of this province is to ensure that the electrical power system develops to meet their needs in a manner compatible with Ontario's environmental goals and objectives.

A comprehensive public review will take place. Given the importance of the decisions being made, public discussion is crucial. It will help to ensure that the decisions on Ontario's electricity future are both timely and sound.

#### Local update:

I would like to congratulate the towns of Ajax and Pickering which will each receive a municipal recreation grant of \$5,820 to provide assistance in supporting recreation programs in both communities.

I would like to remind my constituents that if they have any questions they should contact my office at 2 Randall Dr. Pickering Village, Ajax 683-6707, anytime.



Photo/RICK MADONIK

## Officially open

Mayor Fran Sainsbury cuts the ribbon to officially open the new Imperial Centre, located at Sandiford Dr. and Stouffville Rd. last Thursday. The new four-storey office building was

developed by BJS Investments Ltd. Joining Mayor Sainsbury for the opening were Peter Headecker (BJS project manager), at left, and Louis Kocjancic (BJS president).

# RECYCLING WEEK CONTEST



Share your success stories on reducing and recycling. The Township of Uxbridge is awarding Soilsaver home composters as prizes for the best stories, which will also be published the week of November 27 for all to use.



**Contest Theme:** "How I Make A Difference"

**Categories:** REDUCE - less waste through use of less materials  
REUSE - use an item again for the same or different purpose  
RECYCLE - at home or at work

**Objective:** Describe in 100 words or less what you do to protect your environment. This should be a personal testimony as to how you use the three "R's" of Waste Management.

**Prizes:** 1 Soilsaver composter in each category

**Deadline:** 12:00 noon Friday, November 24, 1989

**Eligibility:** Open to all residents of Uxbridge Township

**Submission:** Mail to "Recycle"  
Township of Uxbridge  
P.O. Box 190  
Uxbridge, Ont. L0C 1K0  
or leave at Township Office, 20 Bascom St.