

**Hydro**

# Massive pole replacement project begins in Stouffville

Stouffville's hydro commission began work last week on a massive \$100,000 pole replacement program, to rid the community of deteriorating hydro poles which are "past their useful lifetime."

The local commission, which is tightly regulated by both the town and York Region, received approval last year to begin the capital project.

Ward 4 councillor Cliff Dunkeld, a member of the

hydro board, told officials last week that the commission has already started to replace 45-year-old poles in the east end of town, expected to be complete early next year.

"Some of these poles are so old

it's only the wires that holding them together," Dunkeld said.

Commission engineer Walter Metcalfe had told politicians last June that some of the town's hydro poles have rotted so badly that they could cause a

"major catastrophe" and possibly fall over if not replaced.

The pole replacement project is one of two major capital works programs planned for next year, and part of a \$250,000 debenture request from the commission to undertake the work.

While \$100,000 will be used to replace poles, the remaining funds will go to build a \$110,000 transformer station at its existing 10th Line location.

The remaining \$45,000 will be used to pay back the town for a PCB decontamination project in the west end of town last year.

Metcalfe said hydro usage this year had registered 10 per cent higher than last year for the first four months of 1993 and is "higher than it's ever been" in the commission's history.

*Tracy Kibble*

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