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Trees trimmed to keep hydro lines safe

Hydro One is trimming or cutting down thousands of trees in Sutton and Stouffville to keep its lines safe.

More than 9,000 trees are too close to wires and must be removed, says the utility that operates Ontario's power transmission network.

Power will be briefly cut to some Stouffville homes this month to protect some of the 30 workers involved, Joe Mitchell, Hydro One's forestry first line manager said this week.

"We really only take out what we absolutely have to," he added, estimating fewer than 2,000 trees will be removed along 165 kilometres of line.

Hydro One says the trees pose a threat to the lines, especially in high winds or freezing rain, so cutting them "should significantly reduce unplanned outages and improve supply reliability".

The operation, however, will require two brief power cuts, perhaps starting at 8 or 9 a.m., for a small area of Stouffville. The

crews don't know yet how many households will be inconvenienced but all will be notified beforehand, Mr. Mitchell said.

Cutting the power is necessary because some trees are too close to the lines for crews to use their heavy equipment.

"The men will have to physically climb them," Mr. Mitchell said.

No power cuts are expected in Sutton, where work should finish this month.

—Mike Adler

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APPLICATIONS NOW BEING RECEIVED

Application forms available at:

- The Era-Banner, 580b Steven Court, Newmarket
- The Economist & Sun, 9 Heritage Road, Markham
- The Liberal & Vaughan Citizen, 1550 16th Ave, Richmond Hill
- or on-line at www.yorkregion.com

A limited number of live audition opportunities will be held at the Vaughan City Playhouse on Wednesday, March 30 (application deadline March 4) and at the Stephen Leacock Theatre in Georgina on Saturday, April 23 (application deadline March 30). All other applications are due by Thursday, April 28, 2005.

All entries must be accompanied by a \$15.00 non-refundable entry fee either by cheque or credit card. Elimination judging begins in July & runs through August. The Finals will be held in Sept. at the York Region Celebration of the Arts Gala.



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CELEBRATION

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CITY PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

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MARQUEE Theatrical Productions

This contest is open to York Region residents of all ages wishing to submit an entry of their performance.