

# University NEWSBEAT

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Let's hear it for...

## ENERGY CONSERVATION WEEK

Next week is Energy Conservation Week in Ontario. The week, proclaimed by Energy Minister Denis Timbrell as part of the province's energy management program, is intended to stimulate public awareness of the need to practice conservation.

The energy management program (EMP) was established in 1975 with the target of saving \$1 billion on energy bills throughout the province by 1980.

The government itself has set a savings target of \$500,000 a year on its own energy costs. To date, it has succeeded in reducing costs by 15 to 40 per cent in several buildings.

A series of EMP-sponsored projects in a wide variety of fields are aimed at identifying more energy-efficient methods.

In agriculture, for example, it has been found that it takes one gallon of heating oil to grow two pounds of vegetables in a greenhouse. One EMP project

involves the use of soil warming techniques to reduce fuel consumption.

In the industrial sector, which uses 37 per cent of all energy consumed in Ontario, savings averaging 17 per cent have been achieved through plant energy audits conducted by the Ministry of Industry and Tourism.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has begun to investigate aerial infrared sensing to detect heat loss from buildings. (On a trial run of the system, the home of the Minister of Natural Resources was one of those identified as losing heat through inadequate insulation. The Minister, Leo Bernier, has vowed to correct the deficiency.)

Here at York, an ongoing programme in energy management has been in operation since late 1971.

Energy cost savings (cost avoidance) of approximately \$600,000 dollars were realized

during the first three years.

Much of this cost reduction was achieved by converting the University's boilers from Bunker oil to natural gas.

Other innovations, most of which required little or no capital expenditure, accounted for about one third of the cost avoidance.

These included:

- the removal of fluorescent tubes in areas where lighting exceeded the amount required;
- reduction of building heating and ventilation consistent with space use and minimum standards;
- refinement of fan operating schedules co-ordinated with space use;
- and other, more technical, innovations.

This year, a "fine tuning" of heating systems for the Scott library resulted in an estimated saving of \$15,000 in gas consumption in a single month, according to D.A. Dawson. Mr.

Dawson is the Associate Director of the Department of Physical Plant in charge of Maintenance Operations and Engineering.

John Armour, Director of the Department, stresses that initiative by the individuals on campus is also important. Beyond the 'technological fixes' initiated and proposed by his department, there must be an increase, he says, in "public awareness of the nature of our energy situation. It's a real problem, and it's going to be with us for a long time."

Seemingly unimportant actions can have significant effects. For example, he explains, "someone who fills an electric kettle to make a single cup of coffee is using about four times as much electricity as is necessary. When you consider the vast number of kettles in use on campus each day, that's a lot of wasted energy."

More waste is caused by the practice of wedging doors open, exposing campus buildings to the outer, cool air and increasing the load on the heating system.

"No matter how often we remove the wedges," says Mr. Dawson, "they reappear almost instantly. If we could find the campus wedge-maker, we could save a mint."

Further savings could be realized, Mr. Armour added, if people would turn out the lights whenever they leave their offices.

York is cooperating with the other universities of Ontario in a series of energy management

studies. To date, the universities have achieved average reductions in energy use of 25 to 30 per cent (York, 27 per cent).

But Mr. Armour and Mr. Dawson are confident that greater savings are possible.

During the summer, they point out, it costs the University about 20 cents per square foot for air conditioning. With more than three million square feet of air conditioned buildings on campus, that's a hefty sum.

"One of the things we're considering is asking people to move during the summer to concentrate building use," Mr. Armour said. "Then we could close down the buildings that aren't in use."

The campus buildings were well designed for the early 60s, said Mr. Dawson, but conditions have changed so much that some of the architecture is now inefficient.

When the campus was in the early stages of construction, he conducted a study to determine the feasibility of double-glazed windows (windows with two panes of glass and a vacuum or partial vacuum between to act as insulation).

"The feedback was that you couldn't justify the expense," he said. The energy saved by double-glazing would have taken 25 years to pay back the extra cost.

"Now the pay back period is down to something like ten years, and one could consider triple-glazing."



### The Return of the Blob?

No, it's Moonball, a rare form of temporary insanity.

The object of the Moonball game is to force the ball across the opposing team's goal line, and to stay alive in the process. The game was featured last Saturday as part of the festivities during Vanier College's ten year reunion and homecoming, "Vanier Revisited".

The game came to its traditional end when one of the surviving players alluded to the closing ceremony.

"Beer", he said.



### Footnotes

#### UFOs: fact or fantasy

Dr. Allen Hynek, Director of the Centre for UFO Studies in California, and Dr. Frank Drake, Director of the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Centre at Cornell University, will present a lecture-discussion on Unidentified Flying Objects next Thursday, November 4 at 8 p.m.

Dr. Drake believes that all so-called UFOs may be explained with reference to natural, terrestrial phenomena. Dr. Hynek doesn't.

The lecture is the third in The Human Kaleidoscope, a joint educational venture of York University, Seneca College, and the North York Board of Education.

All lectures in the series are held at Seneca's Minkler Auditorium, 1750 Finch Avenue West. Tickets for each lecture are available from the Communications Department, S802 Ross Building, at a cost of \$3.50 per person.

#### Graduate fellowship available

Applications are now being accepted for the 1977 Sir John A. Macdonald Graduate Fellowship in Canadian History. The Ministry of Colleges and Universities has announced.

One Fellowship valued at \$6,000 is awarded each year. The award is tenable for three years.

The Fellowship normally will be awarded to a candidate preparing to enter a Ph.D. programme, but, in exceptional circumstances, may be awarded to a candidate preparing to enter a Master's programme. Such a programme must be full time, with a major emphasis on Canadian history, in the graduate school of an Ontario university.

The deadline for completed applications is February 14, 1977. Further information and application forms may be obtained from: The Secretary, Committee of Selection, Sir John A. Macdonald Graduate Fellowship in Canadian History, Ministry of Colleges and Universities, Mowat Block, Queen's Park, Toronto M7A 2B4.

#### Seminar series studies Poles

Generational Differences in the Social Participation of Poles in Toronto is the second in a series of seminars sponsored by the Ethnic Research Programme at York University.

The Seminar will be presented by Professor Henry Radecki, Department of Sociology, Scarborough College, University of Toronto, on Monday at 4 p.m., in N601, Ross Building.

All interested persons are invited to attend.