



Among those attending the 55th annual conference of the Western Counties Telephone Association in London yesterday were, from left, Ray Wightman, Clifford; George Naldrett and Bernel Reeb, Essex; Donald Young, Blyth, president of the association; and Graydon Baines, Corunna.

Hope Ontario Association Will Unify Independent Telephone Companies

The Ontario Telephone Association was formed yesterday as the first step toward the unification of all the province's independent telephone companies.

The new association is the former Western Counties Telephone Association which held its 55th annual conference at the Hotel London.

The Southwestern Counties Telephone Association, formerly based in Chatham, dissolved this spring and is now part of the newly-formed Ontario

group. The only other group in the district now is the Georgian Bay Telephone Association, which will hold its convention in the fall.

There are about 200 independent telephone companies in Ontario, and approximately 100 are in the southern part of the province. Many of the larger companies are located in the north. The Northern Telephone Company, operating out of New Liskeard, is one of the largest.

The Canadian Independent

Telephone Association is the national body.

The new association's executive is: President, Donald Young, Blyth; first vice-president, Graydon Baines, Corunna; second vice-president, Harold Zehr, Zurich; executive member, Ray Whiteman, Clifford; secretary - treasurer, H. J. Schmidt, Baden; auditor, George Naldrett, Kincardine.

When the Southern counties group dissolved Bernel Reeb, of Essex, was appointed to the executive of the new group.

Robert Nixon, MPP (Lib.-Brant), was guest speaker during the noon luncheon of the group. Mr. Nixon spoke on the changing role of government today.

A. C. Stewart, of Toronto, manager, Industrial division, Automatic Electric Company Ltd., spoke about closed circuit television and its growing importance today.

S. C. Bird, vice-president and general manager, of the Toronto firm, spoke on management development.