

# End of postal strike too late for 43 jobs

Many businesses will try to salvage what they can of the Christmas trade since the return of national mail service, but at least one local company will have to wait two years to recoup losses.

"It will take at least two good seasons to make up our loss," Don Tomlinson of Rockwood Gardens said. Mr. Tomlinson estimated

\$55,000 worth of plants at retail price will have to be destroyed. "Bulbs such as daffodils and tulips have to be in the ground each year," Mr. Tomlinson said. Rose bushes can only stay out of the ground for so long, and then it's too late to replant them, he said.

Potential "In the mail order business, you pretty well know

your potential through advertising," Mr. Tomlinson said. Of the 50,000 orders anticipated, Rockwood Gardens received 37,000. There are 13,000 orders sitting in the office which can't be processed.

"We don't know how many plants were caught in the mail," Mr. Tomlinson said.

Rockwood Gardens, which advertises across North

America, depends on the mails to receive orders and to ship plants and bushes.

The strike by inside postal workers hit the mail-order flora business at the mid-shipment season, between Sept. 15 and Nov. 15.

Shipped here Mr. Tomlinson stopped transporting stock from growers to his Harris Street, Rockwood farm. None of the stock is grown there, Mr. Tomlinson said.

Plants and bushes are transported to Rockwood from across the continent and assembled into packages for postal shipping.

The interview on the effects of the strike on the mail order business took place Saturday, approximately seven hours prior to the announced tentative settlement of the nation's longest mail strike.

To the dump In addition to boxes of plants which will be carted this week to a dump, 43 seasonal workers also were casualties. "We had 43 people working here in the fall," Mr. Tomlinson said. "We've had to let all but two go, two days after the start of the strike, because there was nothing to ship," he said.

Most of the employees were housewives from Acton, Rockwood, Erin, Hillsburgh and Guelph.

Rockwood Gardens has a permanent staff of six, Mr. Tomlinson said.

Nine other jobs have also disappeared for a year because a catalogue for house plants could not be mailed, Mr. Tomlinson said.

Not all of Rockwood Gardens' stock is heading for the dump. Trees and some plants can be kept until the spring, Mr. Tomlinson said.

Will survive

Mr. Tomlinson, 52, is sure the business will survive but the resumption of mail service, six weeks after the strike started, is too late for him, he said after the announcement of a settlement.

Mr. Tomlinson, who was a shipper for Michigan Bulb for 27 years, started the mailing operation for other businesses four years ago before starting Rockwood Gardens in 1972.

# Road to new high school delayed by Halton Hills

Students are looking forward to the Christmas holiday break.

Halton Hills council Monday held back on a by-law which would give Halton Board of Education permission to go ahead with plans for a road from the site of the new Acton High School to Churchill Road North.

Only two readings of the by-law were given to allow council time to consult with the solicitor to make sure a strip of land between the road and developed lands couldn't be turned into houses without the town's permission.

Councillor Roy Booth noted on one side of the new road would be the new high school and on the other enough land to develop 10 housing lots. He said he was worried land separations for the lots would permit the builders of the road, Cobblehill Developments, to go in and construct houses and the town couldn't stop them.

Grants

Councillor Pat McKenzie said it was important the by-law is passed quickly so the board can receive its provincial grant money. He noted the road wouldn't be built until it met with engineer Robert Austin's specifications.

Mayor Tom Hill pointed out the by-law only was an indi-

cation on the town's part to enter into an agreement so the road can be built.

Councillor Ern Hyde suggested the town check with the solicitor to see if a one foot municipal reserve could be put on the undeveloped side of the road to prevent development of the lots unless the town approved a house project.

Clerk-administrator Doug Pritchard said the by-law doesn't allow the land to be developed unless a plan of subdivision is approved by the municipality.

Council decided to delay third reading of the by-law until the solicitor is consulted about providing more protection for the town in the legislation.

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COUNT'EM, 13,000 ORDERS FOR plants and bushes from Rockwood Gardens which Don Tomlinson could not fill because he depends on the mails to receive orders and send products across the continent.

## Four teachers leaving Acton, area schools

Two teachers, Debbie Boycott and Donna Manes, are leaving M. Z. Bennett School at the end of this year. Their resignations were accepted by Halton Board of Education Thursday.

In addition Marion Radford and Susan Gilmour, two teachers at Speyside School, are also leaving Halton at the end of this month.

One new teacher, Anne Armstrong, has been hired for Speyside School.

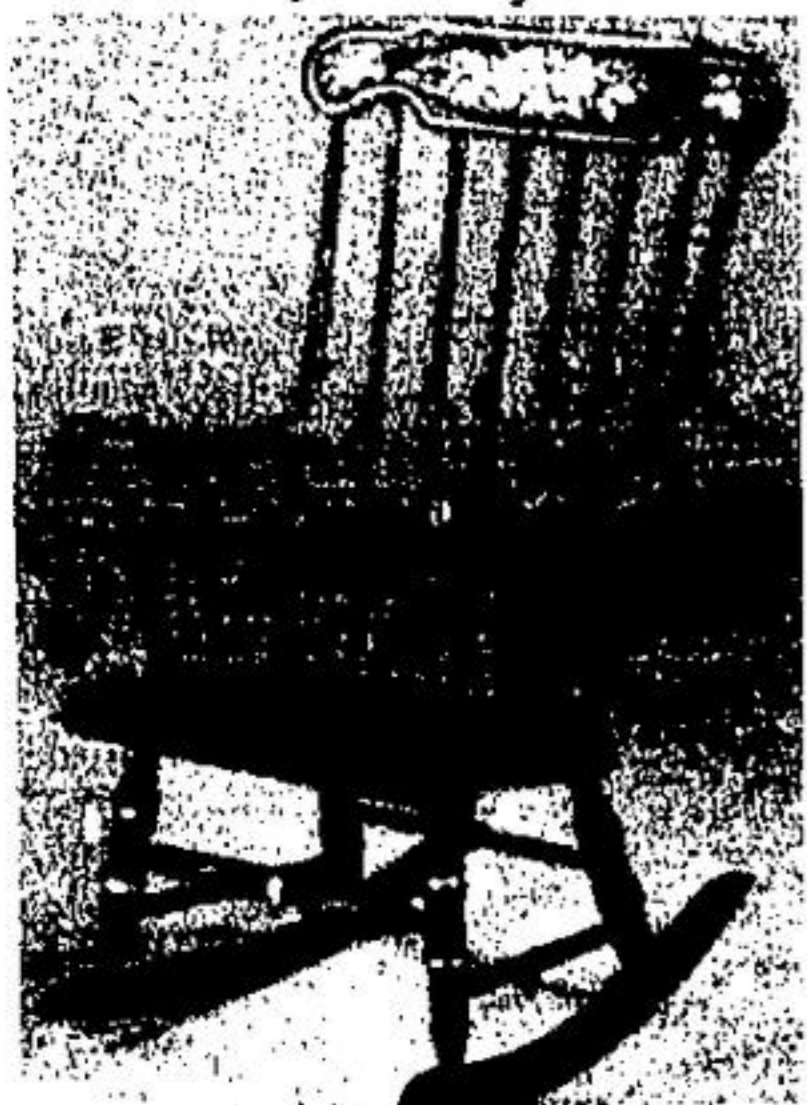
## No council for 20 days

Halton Hills councillors will get a nice long break from municipal business during the holiday season.

After the December 15 council meeting they won't get together until January 5.

Monday council decided to cancel committee meetings slated for December 22 and 23.

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<b>Side Spare Ribs</b> <b>\$1.29</b> LB.			<b>IGA Ketchup</b> 59c
English Style Sausage \$1.25	Wieners 89c		
<b>Apples</b> <b>75c</b> 5 LB BAG	<b>Brussels Sprouts</b> <b>39c</b> LB	<b>B.C. Anjou Pears</b> <b>3...\$1</b>	<b>Choice Mushrooms</b> <b>45c</b> 10 LB BAG
<b>Cello</b> <b>39c</b> 7.5 LB BAG	<b>Cooking Onions</b> <b>39c</b> BAG		
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- ✓ CHECK-A-UNIT PRICING
- ✓ TABLETTE QUALITY MEATS
- ✓ GARDEN FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES