

# Jobs galore - Hill, Gray

In a joint statement from the Progressive Conservative head quarters in Georgetown, Tuesday morning, PC candidate George Gray and Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill announced that purchase of the shut down Domtar paper mill is imminent by a firm which will manufacture paper products.

Mayor Hill said the two gentlemen negotiating for purchase of the mill from Domtar are recommending the purchase to a board of directors' meeting in Vancouver today. He said there are no concessions from the town and the mill will use lots of water.

The mayor said he expected to hear later this week from a Mr. Goulet when the industry would start working on converting the plant to their use. It is another paper industry, he said, and when the present plant is expanded it will take up five-eighths of the property.

The mill would run around the clock seven days a week and expect to be a full capacity in five years with 850 jobs involved.

Hill said the company is prepared to spend up to \$35 million to get the mill in shape for their manufacturing process. The four paper machines in the mill now will be expanded if the deal goes through. Options on the plant has been extended till the end of June.

PC candidate George Gray said he had been involved in the transaction despite what his opponents claimed and that Domtar had been a key factor in the negotiations.

Mr. Gray took the opportunity of the joint release to also justify his forecast of jobs for Halton Hills and a nursing home adjacent to Georgetown Hospital for 100 patients, as well as expanding on his role in the now promised additions to Milton schools which amount to \$1,300,000.

Gray took credit for instigating moves to get money for the Milton school additions, claiming the incumbent MPP Julian Reed had been negligent in co-operating with the board of education. However, Mr. Reed told this newspaper Tuesday after Mr. Gray's announcement that he had made three attempts to help their cause beginning with a ratepayer's meeting in Burlington in February, a subsequent offer to Trustee Bill Lawson and a third offer to the board.

"At no time did the board see fit to come to me

for aid," Reed declared. He said the Milton addition was a tribute to Gerry McAuliffe and the people who worked with it taking advantage of the pork barrel politics. "It is our money in the first place," he said, "and Gray is trying to bribe us with it."

Gray outlined his meeting with Education Minister Wells noting there had been complaints from the two other candidates that they should be invited. They were not, although NDP hopeful Bill Johnson stayed outside while Liberal candidate Julian Reed waited for the others at a radiostation's all-candidates' meeting.

Gray said the \$1,300,000 school addition would consist of 35 per cent labour, and supply much needed jobs for the area.

Gray also produced a letter from Smith and Stone president Tom Creaghan confirming the PC candidate and Georgetown Chamber of Commerce president Gray had toured his plant in March of this year and he was shown an empty factory building on the premises consisting of 28,000 square feet which the company was willing to lease or sell. "Six weeks ago Gray informed me he had a light steel manufacturing company interested in expanding business requiring about 20,000 square feet. George has continued negotiations since then," Creaghan wrote.

"This company is very interested in locating in our building and is interested in purchasing it for long term operations. They indicate they will employ approximately 50 people," Creaghan wrote. "Until the transaction is complete, we have agreed not to release the name of the company involved. To the best of my knowledge, George Gray is the only local man aware of, or who worked on these negotiations."

Gray said the company concerned was American-owned, had a large federal order and the document from Creaghan was merely to show his job forecasts were not built on election promises.

He also said the Proform Furniture Industries

of Toronto was interested in locating in Halton Hills in either Georgetown or Acton. He said the company has an order of \$1.1 million for office equipment and expected to get more contracts in the U.S. They would employ 50 and up, Gray said and the company head was a friend of his. He said he had been in touch with Gino Civiero and Paul Nielsen of Acton who own the industrial park. Another client was also talking with the manufacturer.

Gray also said another company which was interested in industrial property north of Milton had tuned its attention to Acton for plant location. Hold-ups on zoning in Milton hydro line troubles soured the plant officials on Milton because they hoped to get going soon. It would mean 700 more jobs, said Gray.

Both Hill and Gray emphasized they had to keep the names of the companies secret because so many municipalities were after industry.

Gray also paid tribute to his part in the negotiations for the proposed new nursing home which would release 17 per cent of active treatment beds in Georgetown hospital as well as providing more jobs for the town.

Gray emphasized he did not call the election and when his opponents called him to account he had evidence to back up his claims.

Mayor Hill, asked if he was supporting Mr. Gray in his effort, to get elected, since the press conference was in Tory headquarters, replied, he would do the same thing at Liberal headquarters after he was finished there.

Contacted after the conference incumbent Julian Reed said it was obvious Mr. Gray was taking credit for everything from rainfall to the sunrise until election day. In all fairness he thought the credit for the negotiation for the Domtar plant should go to Mayor Hill and his hard working committee. He said Hill was aware of his co-operation in the ventures.

Reed said he thought the pork barrel politics proves the value of a member of the opposition in a "hot riding."

## Credit to Gray

Co-owner of property in the industrial park north of town, Paul Nielsen says this week he feels George Gray is not getting enough credit for the work he does in contacting possible new industries to Halton Hills.

Mr. Gray is the president of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and presently the Progressive-Conservative candidate in Halton-Burlington.

Last week, Julian Reed and Bill Johnson criticized Mr. Gray for revealing information on a possible new industry in town. Mr. Nielsen says Mr. Gray has been involved just this week in the negotiations for a fair sized industry for Acton. He has also been involved in other contacts.

Mr. Nielsen also points out that if a large new industry

locates in Georgetown, the assessment will help us all and there will be jobs there for Acton people.

## Renovations underway

Renovations to the arena are underway. The project includes an extension to the north-west corner which will hold the new washrooms on the top storey and the storage rooms in the lower level.

The AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP meets at The Acton "Y" on Mondays at 8 p.m. Information 853 3310 After Hours 853 2504

## Furniture company consider move here

Contacted by the Free Press, D. A. Romanetti of Proform Furniture Industries Limited confirmed the company is considering a move to Acton. His is a rapidly expanding company which needs more space, he said.

The announcement was made Tuesday by PC candidate and Georgetown C. of C. president George Gray.

They have just received a million dollar order for furniture from the federal government and they are also taking over another company at this time.

They have temporary

arrangements in Toronto and have been searching widely for more space.

Just talking George Gray, who is a friend, brought the local situation to their attention, Mr. Romanetti said. As far as acquiring space here, he says "we are still talking."

The company would start with about a dozen or 20 in this area and then expand as they extended into the U.S. markets.

The company manufactures office furniture products, acoustic office dividers and a broad range of wood

office furniture. Mr. Gray has been very helpful, he said.

Steel work is up this week for a new building in the industrial park which is for rent. It contains 20,000 square feet for industrial purposes.

It is not confirmed that this is the site in question, however.

## Equipment is stolen

A Mill St. W. man reported the theft of approximately \$725 worth of photographic equipment from his car to Halton Regional Police. The location of the car at the time of the theft is unknown.

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RURAL GARBAGE collector A. Leferink discovered his load was on fire, and dumped it out onto the road so his truck wouldn't take fire, too. Firefighters doused the garbage blaze last Thursday.

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