



Three Cubs and three Scouts received their Heligton in Life Awards over Scout and Guide week. Front row l. to r. Jerry Van der Eyken, Sean McVeigh, Bill Ingles, back row, Ken McKee, Ted Moyle and Jim McVeigh.



Acton High School students took the opportunity on Monday to watch the eclipse on a television that had been set up in the school's bear pit. Students gathered in the area between 11 a.m. and 12 noon to watch the event.

Students watch eclipse

Most of Acton's youngsters ate their lunch in school Monday to avoid possible eye contact with the partial eclipse of the sun.

The eclipse was at its peak close to noon, when most children would be on their way home from school for lunch. All Acton school's except the high school asked the students to stay in the building during the phenomenon.

Robert Little school, according to secretary Betty Ashley, dismissed the kindergarten students after the heavy cloud cover eliminated any danger of eye damage. Parents were notified before the children were released and, the secretary said, only one or two children were kept. All other grades stayed the entire lunch hour in the school, watching the eclipse on television.

M.Z. Bennett school kept everyone in also. Kindergartners were allowed to go home at 1:15 p.m., principal Doug

Magwood told The Acton Free Press. Televisions were also set up throughout the school for the students to watch the eclipse and films were shown for the remainder of the lunch period after the event was over.

St. Joseph's separate school gathered their students in two classrooms where the entire school watched the happening on television during the lunch hour.

Parents were left to decide if they wanted their children from McKenzie-Smith middle school to remain indoors during the noon hour eclipse, according to vice principal Carl Hymers.

Most students, he explained, stayed in the school, but those who wanted to leave were not stopped or discouraged in any way. As in the other schools, televisions were set up throughout the building.

"The students were curious," Mr. Hymers noted. Some were intrigued, and some were disappointed, he observed, while some expected it to get darker here than it did.

At the high school, a television was set up in the Bear Pit and students were left to make their own decisions whether or not to go outside.

All schools held lessons in each grade on the eclipse explaining to them how the moon was directly in line with the sun, blocking the Earth's view. All schools also sent home letters reminding parents of the dangers of looking directly into the sun.

Cloud cover and snowfall in the area during the time of the eclipse greatly hampered any sight of the sun and moon, but also eliminated any danger.

Meanwhile, with the school children kept indoors, Acton took on an almost deserted look at lunch time. Whether it was the eclipse or the cold snowy weather, Mill St. looked like a ghost town. Only a handful of adults walked the street, unusual for that time of day.

This area witnessed only a partial eclipse, with Brandon, Manitoba having the best view of the total eclipse. It was the last eclipse in North America until August 21, 2017. This area witnessed a total eclipse 15 years ago and will not see another one for 345 years.

Employees claim Unrest at Superior Glove

Alleged threats of violence, silent telephone calls and accusing letters are flying around Superior Glove factory since talk of unionization came about more than one month ago, according to employees of the plant.

Employees unsatisfied with working conditions have approached Bill Rannachan, central region director for the Canadian Union of United Brewery, Flour, Cereal, Soft Drink and Distillery Workers to help them set up a union.

Upon speaking to some of the employees, allegations of poor working conditions, poor facilities, toxic fumes, interrogations, and attempts to stop the union were heard by Mr. Rannachan.

No lunch room facilities, only one fan, which is broken, and extreme temperatures in winter and summer, asbestos particles on work benches, later used to eat off of, and boiling glue pots were all told to the regional director.

Employees also told Mr. Rannachan that co-owner Frank Geng fired employees who have been let go in the past few weeks of labor organization, and that he locked some employees in a room for up to two hours, asking them questions about the union and interrogating them, threatening lay offs or firings if he was not told what he wanted to know.

Mr. Rannachan said charges against Mr. Geng and his company could be laid under the Labour Relations Act. This Act stipulates no employer can interfere in the organization or administration of a union.

Mr. Geng told the Acton Free Press that Superior Glove was the cleanest plant in Acton, and the Department of Labor, Safety and Health had visited as recently as yesterday (Tuesday), giving them a clean bill of health.

As far as the other allegations are concerned, however, Mr. Geng explained he could not speak publicly on the matter until it is settled. He says he has left it up to the employees to be the judge of whether or not they need a union. "They are the ones who have to work there."

Employees against the union are outraged at the accusations and claim threats of violence have been made by pro-union employees. They deny most of what the other employees told Mr. Rannachan and are fighting against the union.

"We were like a big family until they tried to get the union in," one man complained.

He approximated 100 workers in the plant where the trouble is, and noted 18 were laid off about a month ago. Of the 100 left, he said, 56 signed a petition yesterday against the union in just a few hours.

June Reitz was laid off but is satisfied with the reason for the move. "Frank (Mr. Geng) told me it was because business is down due to imports. It had nothing to do with the union," she said. "I have no hard feelings whatsoever, and feel it was the best place I have ever worked."

Employees denied all allegations made by the pro-union people, and accuse one or two people of having "sour grapes" and "starting the whole thing".

"The plant is split now because of a few people's dissatisfaction with their jobs," one woman told this newspaper.

Present employees agreed with Ms Reitz that the washroom facilities were very clean and always had plenty of towels, and paper. They said the charge of poor ventilation, one broken fan and extreme temperatures was "totally untrue" and pointed out there were several air conditioners in addition to numerous ceiling fans. Also, one woman said, the employees were allowed to bring their own fans into work in the

summer. The building was cold in the winter only until the furnace heated the place up after being shut off overnight.

Asbestos particles on the work benches and boiling glue pots also upset some of the employees. According to employees, neither exists. "We do not use asbestos, and the glue we use comes in pails. Boiling it is not necessary and has never been done," they say. Ms Reitz said the poor lunch room facilities, and employees having to eat off work-benches was "ridiculous." A picnic table was supplied and anything from the plant was not allowed near the table. If employees are not satisfied with the facilities, they could walk into an adjoining building and eat in the modern cafeteria in Superior Tannery.

Some employees allege they have been threatened with violence, some have received silent phone calls, several in one evening, and letters, accusing the receiver of terrible personal actions, have been just part of the flak the employees claim they are suffering through.

Some employees feel they have been treated fairly by the owners of Superior Glove. "We were just like a big family," Ms Reitz said.

Now that Ms Reitz is unemployed, in a tight job market, she would love to have her old job back. However, she says, if the plant is unionized, she will not return to work there. "It won't be the same place," she said.

Employees claim no one is speaking to each other in the plant and tension is high. A union meeting on the weekend gave each side a chance to speak.

If a union at Superior Glove is inevitable, it could still take months before it is formed. The charges which could be laid against the company do not come before the Ontario Labour Board until late March. After that a vote will be taken within the plant.

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Investigation of Halton force to be released

A report on the investigation of Halton's police force by Ontario Police Commission is expected to be made public tomorrow (Thursday) at a meeting in Burlington of Halton police commission.

Halton's police commissioners requested the investigation last September after a number of complaints from the crown attorney had been lodged.

OPC chairman Judge Tom Graham said at the time the investigation was requested that there would be a thorough look at all areas of police administration in Halton region.

Halton police commission chairman, Mayor Harry Barrett, said copies of the 42 page report, complete with charts, diagrams and graphs will be made public tomorrow.

Cable 4 this week

Watch for Program Listings on Cable 4 for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Note: Time and program changes will be posted on Cable 4. Call now for the Cable Connection 877-0181.

ANNOUNCEMENT



MARIE LAWSON

Mr. and Mrs. David Swetman of SWETMAN'S SHOES, 19 Mill Street, East, Acton are pleased to announce the appointment of **MARIE LAWSON** as store manager effective March 1, 1979.

Marie has 8 1/2 years experience in all aspects of the footwear trade and a graduate of the Footwear Institute of Canada. At present she is attending a product knowledge and shoe fitting seminar at Savage Shoes.

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