

# Disston deal soon says province, region

by Gord Murray  
Officials from Halton Region and the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Tourism predicted this week a firm will be moving into the almost completely closed Disston plant in the near future.

Provincial spokesman Bob Planck said in an interview this week, "I think someone will be occupying Disston soon."

Halton Business Development officer William Marshall was also quite optimistic. "There is a strong likelihood positive action will be taken

soon on the Disston facility," he said, adding "definitely" it will be filled this year.

Rumors have been rife around Acton this week that a firm is ready to sign a deal for the Disston plant, however, the Free Press couldn't confirm the reports.

Marshall said there have been "quite a few inquiries" about Disston and his department has referred them to the Ministry of Industry and Tourism office in Hamilton, which takes care of Halton. He said he was sure a deal would be made soon since Disston is a "very attractive"

proposition, both in terms of price and availability.

Planck praised Disston's attitude of making every effort to get a job providing firm into the plant. He said Sandvik, Disston's parent company, has never been interested in just selling the empty building but is concerned with getting a firm in there which will provide many jobs. A warehouse, for which the building is suitable would have meant three jobs, Planck noted.

"The land and building is worth a lot, but price

has not been the primary objective," Planck declared.

Three or four firms have taken serious looks at the Disston facility and "one particular firm, which wants to expand, has been negotiating since November," Planck added, an offer has been made but a deal has not been finalized.

A decision to close the industry was made jointly by Disston and R. Hoe and Co., in July. Hoe had only recently purchased the wood working portion of the business when the an-

ouncement came that 125 people would be out of work by September 29.

As the closure date loomed the firm decided to extend the termination into November.

Disston officially closed November 25 but there are about 25 office and production workers, former Disston employees, working there now for Do-Tan, a Dundas firm, which purchased part of the manufacturing lines. Do-Tan took over November 26, a spokesperson at the plant stated.

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## Perras heads Halton Liberals

A 30-year-old Oakville lawyer is the Halton Liberal Party candidate in the Feb. 18 federal election.

Bill Perras defeated Alan Wilson of Milton, a long-time Liberal worker and the 1979 campaign manager of Dr. Frank Philbrook, before a crowd of more than 800 Liberal supporters.

Mr. Perras was born in Oakville and attended Oakville-Trafalgar High School. He was involved in high school sports and played on the Oakville Blades Junior Hockey

club where he was top scorer in 1966-67.

He attended Cornell



Bill Perras

University on a hockey scholarship and graduated in 1971 with a B.Sc.

Mr. Perras attended law school at Ottawa University and was called to the Ontario Bar in 1978.

He is married with two children and makes his law practice in Oakville.

He was elected to Oakville Council in 1978 and is a member of several committees. Mr. Perras is a past secretary of the Halton Liberal Executive and a director of the Halton-Federal Liberal Association.

Mr. Wilson, who was

nominated by Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed, was visibly shaken after losing the nomination but took the microphone to ask everyone to unite under Mr. Perras in the coming election.

In his nomination speech, Mr. Perras stressed two themes - the Crosbie budget and the need to have Pierre Trudeau back as head of a Liberal government.

"The budget is what wasn't promised in the last campaign but it's what you got," he said.

He said the Crosbie

budget would be the ruination of the Canadian economy, stating a Liberal budget decision would "be the right one."

In asking for a return of Mr. Trudeau, Mr. Perras said the former leader "is one of the greatest Canadians of all time."

In a brief press conference following his win, Mr. Perras stressed he would be a "team player" following the present Liberal party game plan.

Asked about the Liberal policy platform and what his knowledge of it was, Mr. Perras said he would

be prepared to answer all questions at a press conference to be held later this week.

He said the federal government must have an energy policy which allows some form of financial rebate for people who have to drive long distances, particularly from the rural areas of Halton.

Mr. Perras, asked if Mr. Trudeau should be allowed to be consulted about current Canadian moves on Afghanistan, said "most definitely."

## 'Flip-flop' policies assailed by Black

"Flip-flop" policies and the "quick-sand" mentality on the part of the Liberal and Progressive Conservative Parties will be the main campaign targets of Halton NDP federal candidate Doug Black.

Mr. Black, an Oakville lawyer, was acclaimed before a meeting of the Halton NDP Federal Association in the 707 Galaxy Club in Oakville Thursday.

It will be his second attempt at federal politics, having lost in his first bid on May 22, 1979, which saw Progressive Conservative Otto Jelinek unseat former Liberal Halton MP Dr. Frank Philbrook.

Mr. Black was the first candidate to be nominated in Halton Riding and he started off with a stinging attack on Mr. Jelinek, including Mr. Philbrook - although he will not be contesting the election.

The University of Toronto graduate and member of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, opened his address holding up a letter he had received from Mr. Jelinek.

The letter was sent and postmarked December

20, two days after the election was called.

In the letter Mr. Jelinek said the Liberal and NDP opposition had combined to shoot down many Progressive Conservative programs and Mr. Jelinek went on to say that he was sorry the country had been forced into an election.

Mr. Black castigated the letter as it was sent out in House of Commons stationery and "disguised as a piece of election literature, which we will all be paying for at our expense."

Saying "you cannot



Doug Black

trust the policies the Liberals and the Tories put forward to us," Mr. Black concentrated on interest rates, oil, and taxes.

He said Mr. Jelinek had berated Mr. Philbrook on high interest rates but since his election, Mr. Jelinek has watched as the interest rate has climbed four

times in six months.

Mr. Black said increased interest means the owner of a \$50,000 home in Halton will be paying \$1,000 more per year on the mortgage.

"Let's talk about tax cuts for a moment."

"I remember sitting up on a platform as Mr. Jelinek attacked the

Liberals for not making tax cuts.

"The Tories, if you will remember, promised to cut \$2 billion for our taxes."

...well after "Cruncher" Crosbie's budget... we didn't see any tax cut but an increase.

"That was flip-floppy

if I ever saw it," he said.

In terms of an oil policy, Mr. Black said the Progressive Conservative Liberals for increasing the cost of fuel and urged conservation.

"But now we see the Tories wanting us to suddenly go up to world prices," he said.

## Mother, daughter die in crash

An Acton Mother and her six-year old daughter died following a tragic automobile accident in Wabash County, Indiana, early Thursday morning. Their deaths shocked and saddened the community.

Jackeline Yaworsky, age 28, and Jennifer Yaworsky, both of 59 Kingham Road, died in Wabash County Hospital, following the accident on US 24. Captain Larry Rice, of the Wabash County Sheriff's Office, told The Acton Free Press.

Captain Rice explained there were really two accidents.

Mrs. Yaworsky's husband Eugene, age 32, was driving the car and at about 6:40 a.m. swerved to try and avoid hitting a

deer which darted into his vehicle's path from woods along the side of the highway.

Mr. Yaworski hit the deer and continued on into the opposite lane where his car was broadsided by a step-van.

Captain Rice said Mr. Yaworsky, Mrs. Yaworsky and Jennifer Yaworsky, age five, were all taken to hospital as well as Mrs. Yaworsky's brother, John Castle of LaFayette, Indiana, a former resident of Stouffville.

Mr. Castle also died, Rice stated. The driver of the truck was hospitalized.

Wabash County is in the north-central area of Indiana, about 45 miles from Fort Wayne.

Mr. Yaworsky suffered cuts and bruises and Angela broke her leg.

Captain Rice reported the car they were riding in was totally destroyed, "all torn up."

A friend of the family, Gayle Jarrett, 158 Tyler Avenue, Acton, has opened a trust fund at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, 31 Mill Street East, P.O. Box 239, to help cover the cost of family medical expenses in Indiana. Cheques should be made payable to Gayle Jarrett in trust and the fund will be open until January 31.

Funeral service for Mrs. Yaworsky and her daughter was held yesterday afternoon (Tuesday) at the Shoe

maker Funeral Home, Interment at Fairview Cemetery.

Jackeline and Jennifer Yaworsky are mourned by husband and father Eugene, daughter and sister Angela, Mrs. Yaworsky's parents Helene and Ralph Johnson of Agincourt, sisters Rosemary Thorne of Stouffville, Carolyn Scanlon of Oshawa, Kathleen Shaw of Tottenham, and brothers Robert Johnson and Mike Castle, both of Toronto. Jennifer Yaworsky is also survived by her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Metro Yaworsky, of Port Dover.

The Yaworsky family moved to Acton about seven years ago.



Rev. Das Sydney, of Acton Baptist Church and Jan Haverty, church organist, admire the new organ recently donated to the parish by the Landsborough

family in memory of their husband and father, Charles, who was organist for many years, and who died last year.

Photo by HELEN MURRAY

### Policeman charged

## Racial slur aggravates assault charges dismissed by judge

Assault charges laid against a Halton Regional Police officer resulting from a complaint by an Acton man were heard in Milton Provincial court last Wednesday, January 2.

Police Constable Ayodhya Prasad pleaded guilty to the charge of common assault against Acton resident Donald Gordon Harding. The

charges stemmed from a September 25 incident in which the officer slapped Harding across the face after a derogatory racial slur came from the Harding vehicle when the two passed on Mill Street, Acton.

Crown Attorney Owen Haw explained to Judge G. Young of the sequence of events and how the officer "overcome with

emotion" from the racial slur turned his vehicle around, stopped Harding and slapped him.

Following the complaint, the charge of assault was laid by the Halton Regional Police. "The police force laid the charge because the danger of the general public assuming that police are treated dif-

ferent than the public is likely," Crown Attorney Owen Haw told the court.

Haw said certain behavior of police officers is expected as responsible members of the community. The charge of assault reflects upon the entire force, not just one member, therefore it cannot go ignored," he said.

Defence attorney Jack BeHehgem said the 36-year old officer during his 14 years as a policeman has never been involved in a similar incident and five years ago voted the most popular policeman in Halton Hills during a public opinion poll.

BeHehgem pointed out the racial slur "Pakie" was not even accurate as Prasad is a native of South America. "This is not the first time Prasad has had a racial slur cast against himself, his wife and children and unfortunately probably not the last time," he said.

BeHehgem pointed out that regardless of the aggravation no man, (Continued on page 3)

## Mercuri, Cripps out on bail

Two men accused of second degree murder in connection with the Dominion Hotel fire are out of jail on bail while a third accused remains behind bars.

Hotel owner Cosimo Mercuri, 41, and Leonard Cripps, 54, were released from Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre about 9:30 p.m. Monday.

No application for bail was brought forth on behalf of the third accused,

Michael McCristall.

Ontario Supreme Court Justice Edward Saunders set bail at \$50,000 for Mr. Mercuri and \$3,500 for Mr. Cripps during a hearing at the University Ave. Court House in Toronto Monday.

All three men are to appear before provincial court at Milton Monday for remand.

Mr. Mercuri was represented by two lawyers at last Monday's

bail hearing. Mory Gula, lawyer, appeared before Mr. Justice Saunders as did Glenn Hainey, an assistant to former Ontario Ombudsman Arthur Maloney.

Mr. Maloney, who has a home on the Guelph Line, was at court at Kitchener when Mr. Mercuri's bail hearing was heard.

Three sureties for the amount of \$50,000 were raised for Mr. Mercuri's

release.

Other conditions attached to Mr. Mercuri's release are that he is required to report once a week to police, surrender his passport, maintain employment, keep his home address and not leave Ontario.

A hotel resident Howard Gibbons died in the August 19 fire which gutted the century old structure on Main St. N.



Rockwood artist David Charles Grainger will be exhibiting a number of his watercolors at a special showing of his works this weekend at Mohawk Inn. Mr. Grainger, right, is shown with

Maxine Sumner-Smith, advertising manager of Mohawk Inn, hanging some of his works. Turn to page 9 for a story of how whales have inspired the area artist. See story on page 9.



### inside

The old Pro Hardware Store downtown will be reborn as a five-shop mall by Merve Pryhltka. Turn to B4 for details.

Four veteran Acton Firefighters are retiring. Their reminiscence on page 3.

Profiles ..... 2

Editorials ..... 4

On the Leavell ..... 5

Rockwood Digest ..... 9