The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

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Does board want strike?

Is Halton Board of Education trying to provoke a strike by its over 1,600 high school teachers?

Certain aspects of the board's final offer to the teachers, which will be voted on by the members of Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) District Nine (Halton) tomorrow (Thursday) indicates the board may just want a strike.

For the second year in a row bargaining has limped along and in contrast to other years professional negotiators have been brought onto the scene.

Teacher negotiators are recommending the membership reject the board's offer.

They would appear to have good reason.

The teachers claim the board's six per cent wage hike, plus increment, doesn't add up to six per cent since the contract won't be retroactive. The offer would amount to six per cent if it was spread over the entire 10 month school year, from September 1979 to the end of June, 1980.

Chairman of the board's negotiating committee, Bill Lawson of Milton says the offer becomes effective on the day it is ratified and is not retroactive. "One assumption that seems to prevail. . . (is that) rectroactivity is automatic. It's purely that; an assumption," Lawson declared recently.

It may be an assumption, but it is a pretty normal one. Just about all labor agreements are retroactive to the time the last pact expired. Also previous boardteacher contracts have been

retroactive.

Teacher negotiator's assessment that the six per cent raise spread over just March, April, May and June would amount to 2.4 per cent wage hike would appear accurate.

Another major issue would seem to be retirement gratuity.

The board wants to get rid of the clause and Lawson says in exchange the trustees are willing to hire 15 more teachers. Funny thing though, say the teachers, they can't find any mention of the 15 new teacher hirings anywhere in the 60 page proposed pact.

Halton trustees have been talking tough the past few years about protecting their management

Judging by the board's actions in this year"s contract talks, it would appear they may want to demonstrate their management rights by forcing the teachers to

Looking at what has happened elsewhere the board probably realises it won't bear the brunt of public wrath. After the kids have been home for a few days because of a strike parents will start to blame "greedy teachers."

But, if the facts of the offer given to the press are correct, it would appear this time teachers aren't at fault. A six per cent raise, considering the state of the economy, seems fair. An actual 2.4 per cent raise because the pact won't be retroactive isn't fair.

Support refuse recycling

support the Divide and Conquer program when it arrives here this paper which the town is able to spring.

The source separation recycling program makes a lot of sense.

Divide and Conquer means be open just that much longer. residents must spend a little more time each week preparing their refuse for disposal by the municipality, but the benefits for everyone are well worth the extra time and effort.

The program began as a provincially funded pilot project in Georgetown in the spring of 1978. While Queen's Park has pulled the financial plug on the project as of the end of 1978, engineer Robert Austin has been able to persuade council to support the program's continuation in Georgetown and expansion into Acton.

Halton has serious garbage problems. Any project which reduces the amount of garbage going into the landfill sites is worthy of strong support.

With the only dumps in Halton still open located in Oakville and Burlington, Halton Hills is faced with the enormous cost of trucking refuse to the south.

Acton and Georgetown landfill effort.

Acton should welcome and sites in the not too distant future. Each piece of glass, tin or newscollect and sell to recycling firms and not dispose of in the dump means the dumps in the south will

> From an environmental standpoint recycling is obviously preferable.

> Last year Divide and Conquer produced a deficit of about \$20,000, despite its popularity in Georgetown.

> If more residents in Georgetown supported it and participation was high in Acton too, the deficit could be trimmed, possibly eliminated and maybe the program could eventually be put in the black.

A recycling program in the black would be a big plus for all Halton Hills taxpayers. The profits from Divide and Conquer could be used to reduce the costs of trucking garbage that can't be recylced, to dumps in the south. A tax saving would be worth the time spent on separating glass, tin

and papers. Garbage disposal, so far, has been strictly a losing proposition. The dumps are rapidly filling up Any method that will change that and will be closed like the old situation is worth a little extra

Thanks, Acton Hydro

On March 31 Acton Hydro Com mission will disappear and the next day the new Halton Hills Hydro Commission will be born.

Acton Hydro Commission has been serving and helping this community progress and grow since 1912.

At their recent dinner to mark the commission's 68th birthday and reminisce about the great years gone by, Mayor Peter Pomeroy spoke of the sincerity of the commission.

Pomeroy was a member of the commission less than two years, but quickly grasped one of the

reasons it was able to provide Acton with such an economical and efficient service was the sincerity of the members.

Acton Hydro commissioners and staff never forgot they were running an essential service for the public. They provided the best possible service for the lowest possible cost because they had a deep commitment to the people of Acton.

Sincerity and commitment to doing an essential job, those are the qualities that made Acton Hydro one of the best around.



"I tell ya it's simple—we give the car to the town . . . they fix it . . . pay insurance and licence . . . we drive it and maybe they even name a street afta us!"

Smiley's view of the world cynical

For the first time in a couple of decades, young Canadians are taking more than a casual interest in world affairs. Young male teachers are asking us old veterans what we think about the invasion of Afghanistan, of boycotting the Olympics, whether the situation is like that when Hitler was on the march.

We don't have the answers, of course, but it's rather interesting to notice the sudden interest of these guys, who are usually talking about their boats, or their snowmobiles, or their last victory at racquet ball, or their mortgages.

And they're not the only ones. Just the other day, I was discussing with a Grade 11 class George Orwell's "Animal Farm" that incisive allegory of revolution and totalitarianism.

At least I had planned to discuss it. Instead we talked about Russia, which led to Afghanistan, which led to NATO, to China, to Hitler's waltz into various vacuums while Britain, France and the U.S. stood back and tuttutted, to a possible invasion of Canada, to our pitiful armed forces, and a lot of other things.

The kids were serious, concerned, and cager to learn more. They reminded me of the young people of the early Sixties, who were deadly in earnest about the cold war and a possible nuclear holocaust.

But they retained their sense of humor. I wound up by asking jokingly, which of the services they would be joining. "Will you go into the amy, the navy or the air for-

One boy riposted, "I'll be going into the woods."

For what they are worth, I do have some opinions on the world situation. Even Joe Clark's terrifying threat that Canada

Smiley would boycott the Olympics will not make

them pull out of Afghanistan until they are good and ready-probably after they have set up a puppet government ruthlessly ruled from Moscow.

Why not? Because the hard-liners have taken over in Russia, and they don't give a diddle for world opinion, at the same time keeping their own people in the dark.

Secondly, nobody has the guts, or the stupidity, to take them on, eyeball to eyeball, in Afghanistan, any more than anyone did when the Russians crushed the liberating climate of Czechoslovakia, or steamrollered into the ground the Hungarian revolution.

Oh, there were cries of dismay from everywhere on those occasions, but nobody did anything, except wring hands and take in refugees.

On only two occasions since World War II has anyone stood up to Russia. On both occasions, the Russians cooled it. One was when Russia cut off Berlin from

the West. The western countries responded with the Berlin Airlift, in the face of Russian threats that the mercy planes would be shot down. They were not, and the very tense situation resolved itself.

Another was the Cuban crisis. President Kennedy laid it on the line. If Russian ships carrying missiles and other obnoxious items to Cuba did not turn around

and go home, they would be attacked. The Russians went right to the brink, then backed down.

But those were the days when NATO had some teeth, and the Americans probably had an edge in nuclear hardware. Things are different today. In Europe, the NATO forces are no

match for those of the Warsaw Pact, in men or machinery. About five years ago, an American general, now head of the U.S. chiefs of staff, told me personally that NATO could hold the Russians for only about two weeks. The situation today is worse.

On the world scene, the U.S. has received one black eye after another. A stalemated war in Korea. A disaster in Viet Nam. The propping up of petty dictators around the world. The machinations of the CIA. A lot of prestige and a lot of clout has gone down the drain.

Britain is a third-rate power, as is France. The Scandinavians are wary of disturbing the bear. Germany west is tough and wealthy, but vulnerable from within and without. Japan sits on its can, making money, while protected by the American military. China is a big question mark, India the same. The Moslem world is not going to take on Russia.

So who's to stop them? I predict that they will consolidate in Afghanistan, with little opposition, then cool things down for a few years, though keeping brush-fires going in Africa and elsewhere before making their next move, possibly to squash Yugoslavia.

As for Canada pulling out of the Olympics, unless the great majority of nations outside the Soviet bloc follow suit, it would make as much difference, one way or the other, as a flea biting an clephant.

member signed up to the heart fund. Your

weight loss is cardiovascular patient's

Last year Weight Watchers contributed

\$8,137.12 to the heart fund. In past years

the money was donated on the basis of 10

cents for every shed pound by Weight

Watchers members in February. The new

program of \$1 donated on behalf of each

Back **Issues**

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press

Wednesday, February 25, 1970 Acton's two banks will soon be joined by two new ones. But it is the new Toronto-Dominion bank at the corner of Mill and Willow that will change the town's fact most. Wolfond Wreckers are well on the way to demolishing the old post office. A lew yards east the Bank of Nova Scotia is undergoing a face lifting, with bright new windows. Almost directly across the street in the former Morris Pharmacy, workmen have started on a \$55,000 reconstruction program for the Imperial Bank of Commerce. Plans are also being made for an addition to the Bank of Montreal. Further down the street Hinton's store is getting a new front. Near the railway track a new Foodway store is under construction. The Dominion Hotel is also undergoing alterations. Builders soon hope to remove the large house at the corner of Main and Church streets to make way for five new stores and apartments. There is much speculation that something big is in the offing for Acton or the district which would require the presence of much money, hence the banks.

Acton may soon have its first industry in the industrial park if the final agreement is signed with Acton Wood Products.

A presentation was made to Orwell Johnson who has resigned as clerk of session of the United church. He has held office in the church since the age of 14.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press Thursday, January 25, 1960

Mayor W. H. Cook tendered his resignation as mayor, after five years. His new position with the government does not allow him to take an elected position. He and his wife and two daughters moved to Acton in 1955. Reeve J. H. Goy assumes duties of the head of the municipality until an appointment is made.

"Alice in Wonderland" was staged by the pupils of the M. Z. Bennett school. Marie Huisman acted as commentator and those with lead roles included Linda Braida, Philip Sargent, Christine Lawrence, Ann Bennnett, Billy Semenec, Lynda Varey, David Sproston, John Dowding, Ralph Matthews, John Dunn, Julie O'Brien, Raymond Saitz, Christine Lawrence, Beverley Seynuck, Donna Sterritt, John Beerman, Jim Ware, Brian Scutt, Lynne Masters, Gerald Dick, David Lidkea.

Open House was held in the new Acton Free Press building. Correspondents who attended were Mrs. E. McEnery, Mrs. Art Benton, Mrs. H. Marchington, Mrs. D. G. Robertson, Mrs. W. Thompson, Mrs. Harvey Jestin and Richard Harris. (Absent were Mrs. K. C. Neville, Mrs. E. Lowrie and Mrs. Grover Mack.) The Hi-Y club's weekly dance was again

a success, with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kirkness chaperones.

50 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Acton Free Press Thursday, February 20, 1930.

It was with righteous indignation surging in them that a special train carrying 400 supporters and the band went to Galt on Monday night to see the final game between Acton and Paris OHA teams. Before the game John Nicol, J. W. Jones and Dr. E. J. Nelson presented the Acton team with a huge floral horseshoe. But Paris won and Acton was eliminated. Oh well! Pretty fair for the first year, anyway.

A delegation of businessmen were present at the council meeting to discuss the advisability of engaging a night watchman to patrol the streets in Acton.

Council passed a hearty vote of thanks to Beardmore and Co. and Acton Tanning Co. for their considerable assistance and cooperation in the building of the arena. They allowed their engineer Mr. Hansen and their superintendent Mr. McDonald to draft the plans and supervise all work, and helped secure a very favorable contract.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the

Acton Free Press Thursday, February 25, 1880 A grand concert will be given in the Town Hall, Brookville, on Monday, in ald of the

singing class of that place. Ellen Pierce, the crazy woman who was brought from Georgetown to Milton Jail, died on Tuesday. The cooroner decided her death was due to typhoid fever, brought on

by starvation and previous exposure. A barber named W. J. Wilson, from Baltimore U.S. came to town last week to purchase the business of Mr. John Worden. He worked one day, and having made three or four dollars, concluded to visit some friends in Kentucky or Tennessee, and left during the night, forgetting to settle his board and printing bills, as well as several others. We are informed he was arrested at Georgetown and taken to the Central Prison, Toronto.

by Gord Murray

Last year a proposed plaza east of Acton was a big issue. It's still a subject of debate and will undoubtedly be raised again in the

Well, according to W. Roger Worth, director of Public Affairs for the Canadian Federation of Independent Business shopping centres is a subject of considerable discussion right across the country.

He says "governments in several provinces are taking a second look at the economic and social impact of the massive shopping centre developments that have permanently changed the face of the Canadian landscape.'

Worth notes Prince Edward Island. which doesn't have all that much room to waste on plazas anyway, has passed legislation placing a moratorium on new mall developments. Another eastern province, Nova Scotla, has tightened up regulations governing plaza development and Quebec and our western provinces are considering

taking the same steps. He says overbullding has resulted from the proliferation of plazas and malls. Even small communities have plazas.

"Traditional independent businesses in downtown cores of Canada's communities are caught in the middle of the shopping centre fray," Worth says.

He complains that mall owners aren't really interested in having small independent businesses as tenants, more than 80 per cent of businesses in shopping centres are owned by major national companies. The odds are stacked against smaller downtown retailers.

"It's time every provincial government in the country reassessed policies on such developments. Canada's traditional independent merchants deserve to be treated fairly," Worth declared in a recent article he penned.

Actonians can help their heart in two

ways this month. It's an established fact that lugging around excess weight all day puts a strain on the heart. February is also heart month in Acton

and there is a campaign on to raise funds for cardiovascular research. Well, during heart month, Weight Watchers will donate \$1 for each new new member de-emphasizes the "lose-athen" aspect of raising money for the heart fund.

Divide and Conquer, a voluntary source separation recycling garbage program in operation in Georgetown since 1978 will expand to Acton this April. But, should it be mandatory?

Kilborn, a consulting company, has urged Halton region sponsor a mandatory source separation program in all four municipalities in marketing the separated

materials. The idea behind the report on solid and waste management is to move Halton, which has severe garbage problems, away from landfill and sludge operations to a point where waste recovery will eventually pay for itself and dumps are used for only a small percentage of the garbage collected in Halton.