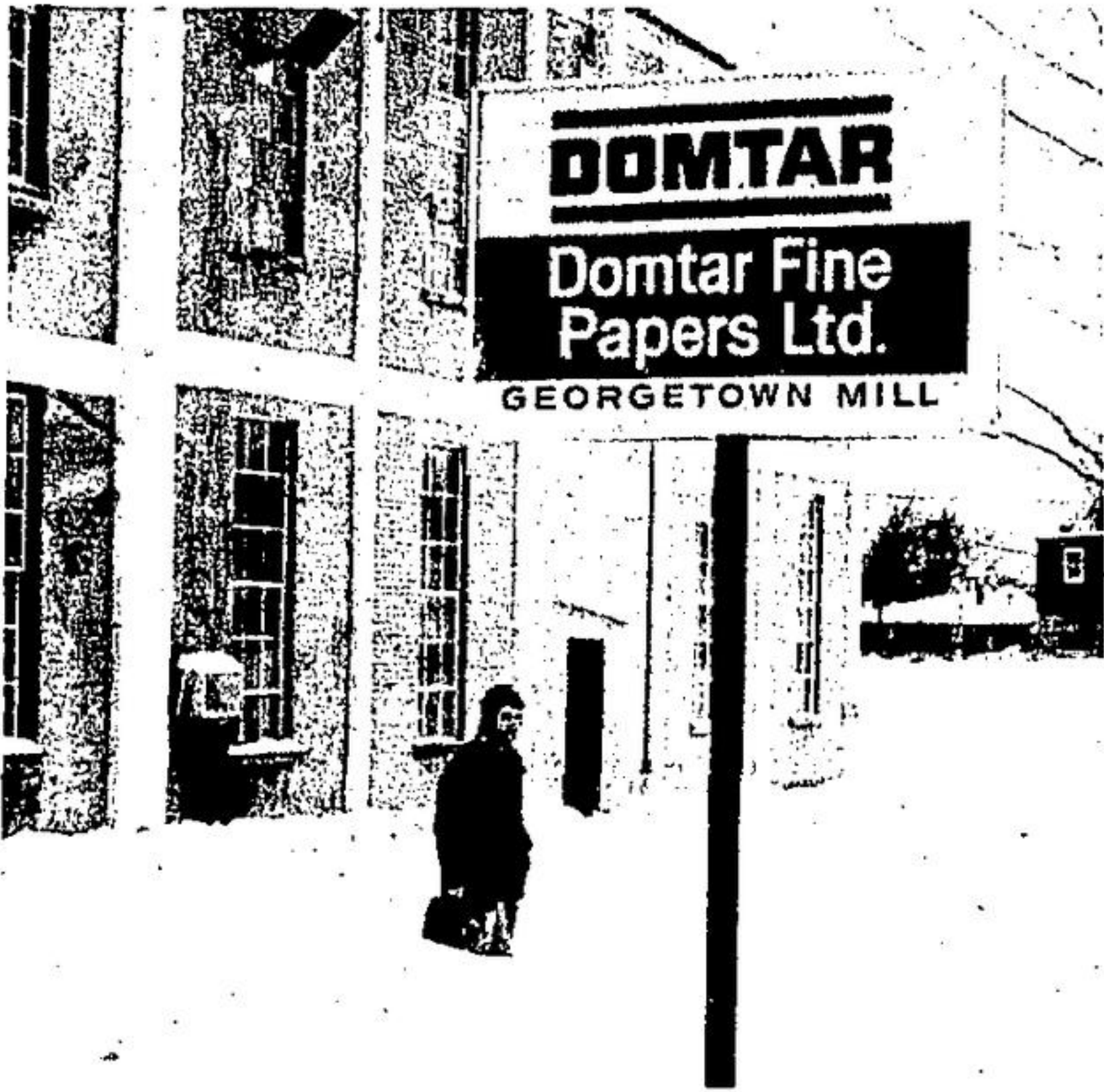


400 jobs on the line if paper tariff passes



THIS PAPER MILL may be forced to close if the federal government accepts a recommendation to remove a protective tariff on fine papers.

by George Evashok
Staff Reporter

Two Georgetown paper companies, the town's two major employers, may be forced to fold if the federal government follows a recommendation of the Economic Council of Canada.

At stake are almost 400 paycheques that add about \$4 million annually to the local economy from the payrolls of Abitibi Provincial Paper Ltd. and Domtar Fine Papers, companies that began operations in Georgetown in 1906 and 1910 respectively.

The threatening recommendation is a proposed removal of a protective tariff on fine papers, products the two plants produce exclusively. The tariff puts a duty of 12 1/2 to 15 percent on paper imported from the United States whose markets on the average are 10 times the size of Canadian ones.

Says Jack Crichton, manager of the Domtar plant, "It just allows us to be competitive."

Across the street at Abitibi, plant manager George Lockwood says, "Even with the tariff, we still have to work our tail off to compete."

The two men, each of whom can look out his office window and see the other's are facing the same problem. They have been watching imports of American paper rise to 15 percent from 5 percent of the total Canadian market in fine papers since 1967. In 1974 the chunk U.S. imports tore out of the Canadian market was worth \$2,837,000.

A strike that has closed paper mills across the country for up to six months has not put local workers on picket lines because employees of the two mills belong to another union which is not on strike.

In such a situation business ought to be booming. The mills should be going 24 hours a day, seven days a week to supply strike-starved consumers. Lockwood and Crichton both reported that they were on a regular five day week.

"Today, considerable tonnage is imported from the States," says Lockwood. Echoing him, Crichton says he has noticed "increased activity in mills in the Northern States."

Both men said the same thing but in different words when asked, "How come?" American mills have "faster, wider machines" in a market where each machine would run one of 200 different grades of paper for as long as a week or more. Mills here sometimes change the grade a machine runs three times a day.

The second item Lockwood and Crichton each mentioned was the cost of labour. Statistics released by the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association state that the wage rate received by a labourer in a Canadian mill ranges from \$4.67 to \$4.84 an hour. In the United States the range is from \$3.68 to \$4.53 an hour.

The machines, which put a gloss on paper destined to become beer labels, company reports, etc., must themselves be imported from the United States and are subject to import duties collected by the Canadian government.

"Duty must be paid on each nut and bolt we import to maintain the equipment," says Crichton.

To combat the situation each mill has made certain the different levels of government are aware. Letters have been sent to MP Dr. Frank Philbrook, MPP Julian Reed, and Mayor Tom Hill of Halton Hills.

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce has also registered its objection to the removal of the tariff by notifying the different levels of government.

Should any "significant across-the-board reduction" of the tariff occur, the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association estimates that 23 or 39 mills in Canada would shut down, eliminating about 3,400 jobs.

"It would cause great disruption in the

lives our employees," says Crichton, adding that with their specialized jobs, they "would find difficulty getting other employment."

"We're definitely concerned," says Lockwood, pointing out that the closest mill which could take workers is in St. Catharines.

"But if the tariff is reduced, who knows how many of their people will be laid off? American imports are huge even with the

strikers," Lockwood said. "It's tough, we've got to try every avenue we can think of—just to keep pecking away."

"We certainly need all the pressure we can put on," says Crichton.

Each man realizes that, should the tariff be removed, there would be only 16 mills left, none of which could look forward to clear sailing.

Domtar, Abitibi situation 'potentially' serious: MP Philbrook

Dr. Frank Philbrook, MP for Halton, described the removal of the protective tariff on fine papers as "potentially serious."

In a telephone interview with the Herald, Philbrook said that the Economic Council of Canada's recommendation was not official government

policy yet, and that the report was not binding on the government.

He said the finance committee of which he is a member had scheduled public hearings on the proposed removal of the tariff before last Christmas but that they had been indefinitely postponed.

He could not say when the matter would be brought up again.

"The removal of the protective tariff won't happen overnight," Halton's MP said. "A decision on the matter would be several years away at least. It's a little premature."

Bill Hunter elected to Caledon Council

William Hunter, a Terra Cotta area farmer, whose father is a former Halton County Warden, was chosen by Caledon council this morning to sit on Caledon town council and Peel regional council to replace John Clarkson, who was recently named mayor of the municipality.

Mr. Clarkson, was chosen mayor on Jan. 5 to replace Ivor McMullin who resigned with a year left in his term, to accept the appointment as chairman of the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

The newly-appointed councillor, William Hunter has been involved in farm

organizations and activities and is a former Junior Farmer president. He will serve the remainder of 1974. Municipal elections are scheduled for December of this year.

Defeated in their bid for the vacant council seat were James Bannister, a Bolton lawyer who lives in the town's Caledon ward and owns land in Chinguacousy, and Frances Brown, a Terra Cotta resident who has been active in community volunteer work. Both Mrs. Brown and Mr. Bannister stood unsuccessfully for council seats in the 1973 municipal election.

'I don't know where I'd go' Workers fear for jobs

Workers at the Abitibi and Domtar mills were unanimous in condemning the removal or reduction of the tariff which is safeguarding their jobs. When apprised of what removal of the tariff might mean to their livelihood, this is what some of them said:

Isabel Beaumont has worked 18 years at Domtar: "I don't like the idea."

Jack Kensthead has worked at Abitibi for 27 years. He said,

"Do I like the idea? Not too much. I like to work."

Ron Corbett has "Never worked anywhere else." Corbett has spent 20 years at Abitibi.

Bryn Chadwick has worked two years at Domtar. "It would be a big disappointment, a big let down."

Robert Clark has worked at Domtar for three years. "I don't know where I'd go."

Myra Peasey has worked 18 years at Abitibi and said "It doesn't sound very good. The mill's been good to me."

John Inglis has worked 31 years at Abitibi. "It's not too good. I would not like it, not really."

Gail Hayes has worked at Domtar 14 years and she summed it up in one word: "Awful."

Heavy container breaks loose, crashes into cab



TRAFFIC ON GUELPH STREET was diverted for two hours Thursday evening while tow trucks attempted to un snag a container that slipped its moorings on a tractor trailer flatbed. The accident occurred on Guelph Street just east of the Mill Street lights.

Driver of the truck, Cor Groenendyk of Acton told the Herald that he was not travelling more than 25 mph when the light changed to red forcing him to come to a stop.

The next thing he knew the container which contained a load weighing many thousands of pounds had moved from the back of the flatbed, approximately 20 feet forward, and into the back of the cab. Mr. Groenendyk, a driver with Tyler Transport, was not injured but the cab was damaged to the extent of several thousands of dollars.

Three tow trucks were needed to pull the container back. Police meanwhile were diverting westbound traffic on Guelph down Maple Avenue to Main Street.

Work crews are handling heavy snow within budget

Although Halton Hills is not through its budget for snow this winter, under what some are claiming is the heaviest snowfall in decades, town engineer Robert Austin anticipates no increase in the budget for snow removal next winter.

"The new year budget is not set yet," he told the Herald last week, "and I'm not anticipating increasing the snow budget."

The budget for removal this year is \$46,000.

Under the onslaught of snow storms battering Halton Hills and putting a heavy load on snow crews, engineer Austin says crews "have worked normal days and nights as needed. The snow's not hampering the works department. We're here to plow the snow and we're doing it."

Carnegie Class almost filled, will begin soon

A date and time have been set for the Preview Night for the Dale Carnegie Course. The date's Monday, February 2 and the time's 8:02.

Teresa Holland, who is organizing this second Dale Carnegie training course in Halton Hills presented, in conjunction with the Herald, notes that there are still a few openings remaining for the course preview but they're going quickly.

"We'd certainly encourage anyone who is interested at all to call us for more in-

formation as soon as possible because, unfortunately, there are only a limited number of seats available."

Response to the course has been good, Mrs. Holland commented, but anyone interested would be well advised to give her a call at 877-2201.

The Preview Night will be held at the Lions Club hall. The evening will feature a memory training presentation, refreshments and a door prize. There is no charge.

Chief asks you to clear snow away from hydrants

If you happen to have a fire hydrant close to your home or property Fire Chief Ken Buikema is asking that you take a few extra swings with a shovel and clear the snow away from it.

After all, the house you save may be your own.

The large amount of snow these past two weeks has definitely presented a problem to Georgetown's volunteer firefighters in finding the hydrants in a hurry. Thus far it hasn't resulted in a serious situation but Chief Buikema warns that the time it could take firemen to find and then clear away a buried hydrant could be the critical minutes in their fight to save a home.

Barber and Fletcher capture Canadian Novice Championships

Kris Barber of Glen Williams and his skating partner Patty Fletcher of Scarborough last week captured the Novice Dance Pairs crown at the Canadian Figure Skating Championships held in London, Ontario.

Kris is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Barber, Park Street, Glen Williams.

The young pair performed so well in the Canadian championships all seven of the judges viewing the 12 competing pairs from across Canada, judged Kris and Patty first. Their average mark, Kris recalls, was about 4.3, a high mark for Novice skaters.

Kris and Patty, who skate out of the Upper Canada Figure Skating Club in Toronto under the coaching of professionals Roy and Sue Bradshaw, had to skate three compulsory dance programs during competition.

"We were more confident than last year," commented Kris, "but it's going to be a lot harder next year."

Last year they finished sixth in Novice competitions. But next year they graduate to the Junior level which provides a much stiffer brand of competition.

While the Junior and Senior skaters progress on to international competitions the Canadians round out a very successful season of competition for the Novice pair, which began with the sectionals held in Georgetown last month.

Although the competitions are completed they are, however, slated by the Canadian Figure Skating Association to present a few exhibition performances including one this weekend in Quebec City.

petitions and were judged on their performances in each.



JEAN CURRIE, seen here wielding a snow shovel, says snow shovelling is "very good exercise." She got an hour's exercise last week getting her car out of a snow drift.

Council wants study before allowing 500kV line here

Halton Hills council has added its voice to the growing chorus of protestors objecting to the construction of the Bradley-Georgetown 500 kV Hydro transmission line.

After hearing a presentation made to them Monday night by Walter Scott, RR3 Georgetown, town council supported a resolution which will be forwarded to the provincial minister of energy, Dennis Timbrell, objecting to any further work on the section of the line that cuts through Halton Hills until an independent study of all the possible alternatives for transmission routes has been carried out.

Mr. Scott told the councillors that, contrary to Ontario Hydro's statements, hydro lines over farm property have many detrimental affects both for the nearby residents and, perhaps for all of Halton Hills.

The transmission lines, he said, could affect the operations of the new Halton Cable Systems TV tower under construction in Speyside. "How much affect it will have is proportionate to where the towers are located in relation to the pickup point for the TV signals," Mr. Scott said.

Interference to AM and FM radios in a broad area around the hydro corridor would

be significantly increased he continued. HAM radios located within the immediate area would not work at all. Police radios would also be totally cut off within a close radius of the towerline.

Mr. Scott, who was representing the Concerned Citizens Group, who have been leading the fight against the 500kV line's construction, continued that the line definitely can throw off an electrical discharge.

He told of visiting an area in Kleinberg where the only present 500kV line in Ontario is located. Getting out of his car he touched a

piece of metal and received a tremendous shock which left his arm numb for a number of days.

Anyone who has a heart pacer, he claimed, could be in serious trouble should he stop beneath a 500kV line. "If they're just passing under it I don't imagine it would have that much of an affect but if they stopped beneath it they could be in serious trouble."

Besides the problems created by the electrical discharge Mr. Scott also pointed out that the towers would have a great impact on the Niagara Escarpment visually. "After all it's as high as a six-storey building."