

Abitibi returns to normal after disastrous year

As a result of a nation-wide strike among pulp and paper workers that affected every one of its plants, with the exceptions of Georgetown and Pine Falls, Abitibi Paper Company in its annual report for 1975 summed up the past year as a "disaster".

T.J. Bell, chairman and chief executive officer of Abitibi, stated in the report "The year 1975 was a disaster for the pulp and paper industry in general throughout Canada and Abitibi was no exception. From the early months it became apparent that economic conditions in Canada, the United States and

in other parts of the world where Canada sells the output of her forest industry, were deteriorating quickly. Only 12 months previously demand was at an all-time peak and showed every evidence of continuing unabated for a long period."

However the nation-wide strike by the Canadian Paperworkers Union, in support of demands for a 41 percent pay increase and full cost-of-living protection, forced the closure of all Abitibi Mills in Canada by August 12, with the exception of the Georgetown and Pine Falls mills where the company's

contract is with the United Paperworkers International Union. CPU workers returned to work in BC in early October as a result of government intervention but it was not until February of this year that the CPU workers finally agreed to a new three-year contract. Plants began to return to normal operations after the seven-month shutdown.

The results were a catastrophe for (Abitibi) and for our employees," said Mr. Bell. "It is almost impossible to estimate the full cost and, while we are not unmindful of the effect on our shareholders,

the hardship for our employees has been dreadful. Our company has a long history of good relations with our employees but it is the whole Canadian industry, not just Abitibi, that is involved."

Looking towards 1976 Mr. Bell warned that "We have a serious problem in the fine paper industry. When our labour contract expired we already suffered from a competitive disadvantage. Our lease labour rate was some \$1.50 per hour higher than comparable mills in the northeast and midwest sections of the United States."

"Over the past seven years the Canadian industry has seen a steady erosion of its share of the fine paper business in the Canadian market. In 1968 imports accounted for 7.2 percent and, in 1974, 16.3 percent. For the year 1975, it is estimated that imports will account for approximately 40 percent. During the last half of the year, when our mills were on strike, imports from the United States had risen to a 50 percent level."

"The Canadian fine paper industry faces a herculean task in regaining the domestic market with US mills still operating below capacity. It is obvious that when the work stoppage ceases we will be resuming operations at a much reduced level with resultant lower employment."

The Georgetown plant is one of five paper plants operating under the fine and printing papers division of Abitibi.

Net sales by Abitibi in 1975 amounted to \$764 million compared with sales of the previous year of \$552 million. However net earnings were seriously reduced to \$3.3 million for the year which compares with \$45.9 million in 1974.

The fine paper division of Abitibi which includes merchant and converting operations experienced sales of \$126 million in 1975 compared with \$157 million last year.

The sale of newsprint and groundwood specialty papers by Abitibi formed the lion's share of the company's sales amounting to \$426 million in 1975 compared to 1974's sales of the \$252 million.



THE KINSMEN CLUB'S fertilizer fund raising project was termed a success following Saturday's distribution of hundreds of bags of fertilizer by club members throughout Georgetown. Here Barry Hayward and Gary Alton help Colin Turner and Bruce Cook (in the truck) unload some of the bags for delivery.

MPP Reed tells Timbrell Inconsistency made hearings a sham

Julian Reed, MPP for Halton-Burlington, has accused the provincial government of total inconsistency with regard to the Bradley-Georgetown corridor between November 14, 1974 and June, 1975. Between those dates, notes Reed, "the ministers of the day each presented statements that appeared to totally contradict one another."

Reed noted, "Mr. McKeough, on November 14, 1974 said in the House that no route could be adequately justified unless the whole area was studied and documented, taking into account all environmental and other factors involving the public in addition to undertaking public participation."

"In 1975 the government directed the environmental hearing board to review information pertaining to a portion of the Bradley-Georgetown transmission line and has not, to this day, undertaken proper study of the whole line."

"This inconsistency," claimed Reed, "underlines the hollowness of public participation in discussion on this corridor. The ministry, by its actions of constraining the terms of reference of the environmental hearing board,

has made these hearings nothing but a sham. Fortunately the case is currently in the hands of the Ombudsman and it is hoped that he will be allowed by the government to proceed with the case."

"The minister's personal accusation that I have been

Goodman presented Xerox Award

A Terra Cotta student at Sheridan College has received a \$250 award from Xerox of Canada. Michael Goodman has received the award for his work in year two of the Electrical-Electronic Technology course at Sheridan.

He was one of seven students receiving special awards totalling \$1,055 for outstanding academic achievements in one and two-year technology courses.

silent on this issue for the last six months is completely unjustified. I suggest he study the transcripts of the Hydro Select Committee in which the subject was raised by me five times at least."

"He might also take the trouble to read my reply to the Speech to the Throne last January in which I devoted a rather substantial portion to the Bradley-Georgetown corridor."

"The minister has conveniently ignored these presentations."

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Cancer Society sets target

April is the traditional month for the Canadian Cancer Society to raise the bulk of its money for the year's work.

This year is no exception, and during the next few weeks canvassers will be calling on local business firms and households, asking for Halton Hills' usual fine support.

The Halton Hills unit includes Georgetown, Acton and the portion of Esqueping Township now included in the new municipality.

Last year, the campaign raised a touch over \$22,000. This year, an objective of \$23,000 has been set.

Campaign leaders are confident that this can be raised, and more, but it will

require a good response from the public.

Mrs. Barbara Skinner, 12 Queen Street, is campaign chairman for a second year, with Mr. Artie White, 52 Church Street East, handling the Acton campaign, as he did last year.

Almost 600 men and women have volunteered to canvass.

Mrs. Evelyn Holmes, 62A Main St., is in charge of commercial canvassing. Mrs. Judy Gehbell, Edith St., industrial, and Mrs. Jean Chapnel, 2 Temple Rd., rural.

The campaign in Georgetown headed by Mrs. Norma Wilson, 14 Chelvin Dr.; Mrs. Verna Grozelle, 70 Maple Ave. and Mrs. Margaret Hillier, 71 Windsor Rd.



AS CUTE AS A DAFFODIL—Little Faith Richardson accepts her daffodil from Karen Morris of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority during Daffodil Day, Saturday. The Flowers of Hope

campaign by Beta Sigma Phi kicked off the fund raising drive of the local chapter of the Canadian Cancer Society.

Daffodil Day kicks off Cancer campaign

Saturday, April 3 proved to be a perfect day for selling daffodils. Members of the four Beta Sigma Phi sororities in Georgetown were out this weekend throughout Georgetown selling the daffodils in aid of the Canadian Cancer Society.

But selling the flowers is only a small part of the work that takes place. In order to

achieve the success of receiving over \$2,000 for the 1,700 bunches of flowers sold much advance preparation is required.

A request for permission to sell the flowers must be received from town council, storage facilities must be found and industries are canvassed for advance sales. When the flowers arrive

from Ontario B.C. they must then be transported to the various depots for counting and wrapping into bunches for delivery on the Friday.

And then everyone prays for fine weather.

Daffodil Day marks the beginning of the Cancer Society's fund-raising drive and Beta Sigma Phi shares a large role in its initial success.

Animal control service praised after incident

The Halton Hills Animal Control Services received some praise following an incident last Friday afternoon which saw a 14-year-old boxer receive immediate attention following an apparent stroke.

Mrs. Marjorie Cook of Irwin Crescent, reports that a call to the animal control services resulted in assistance within five minutes for her dog, which had been missing from her

home since early that morning.

Arriving on the scene quickly, the HHACS personnel immediately rushed the dog to a nearby veterinarian, for treatment.

"I just wanted to tell people that they (the animal control service) aren't just out trying to pick up stray dogs," explained Mrs. Cook. "They're there to help."

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