

'Ceud Mile Failte'--A hundred thousand welcomes

If you haven't begun to practice your Scottish burr yet you'd better start practicing now. The first annual Speyside Highland Games are only days away and you'll definitely feel at a disadvantage if you can't pronounce "Tossin' the caber" properly this Saturday in the Georgetown Fairgrounds.

With an ever vigilant eye on the sky, members of the Games' organizing committee, will proudly tell you that they have got one heckuva day planned for the debut of the Games here in Halton Hills.

As in any Game's Scottish dancing and pipe band competitions will be the centre of attention. The Speyside Games organizers presently expect close to 500 entrants in the dance competitions and some 20 bands in the piping and drumming competitions.

As well there'll be tug-of-war competitions including a match which has been dubbed the "Wind Versus the Sawbones" contest pitting the might and muscle of our local councillors against a team of local doctors.

early the official opening ceremonies will take place at 12:45 following a small parade from Remembrance Park to the Fairgrounds. The Games' "Chieftain", MPP Jim Snow, minister of transportation and communications, will officially open the first Speyside Games.

Programs, on sale on the grounds, will not only provide notes of local interest plus history of the Scottish Games but will also offer three lucky holders opportunities to win some nice prizes.

To help as many people as possible see the Games the organizers have distributed free tickets to all senior citizens on record in Georgetown and area as well as all elementary school-age children in Georgetown, Acton and area.

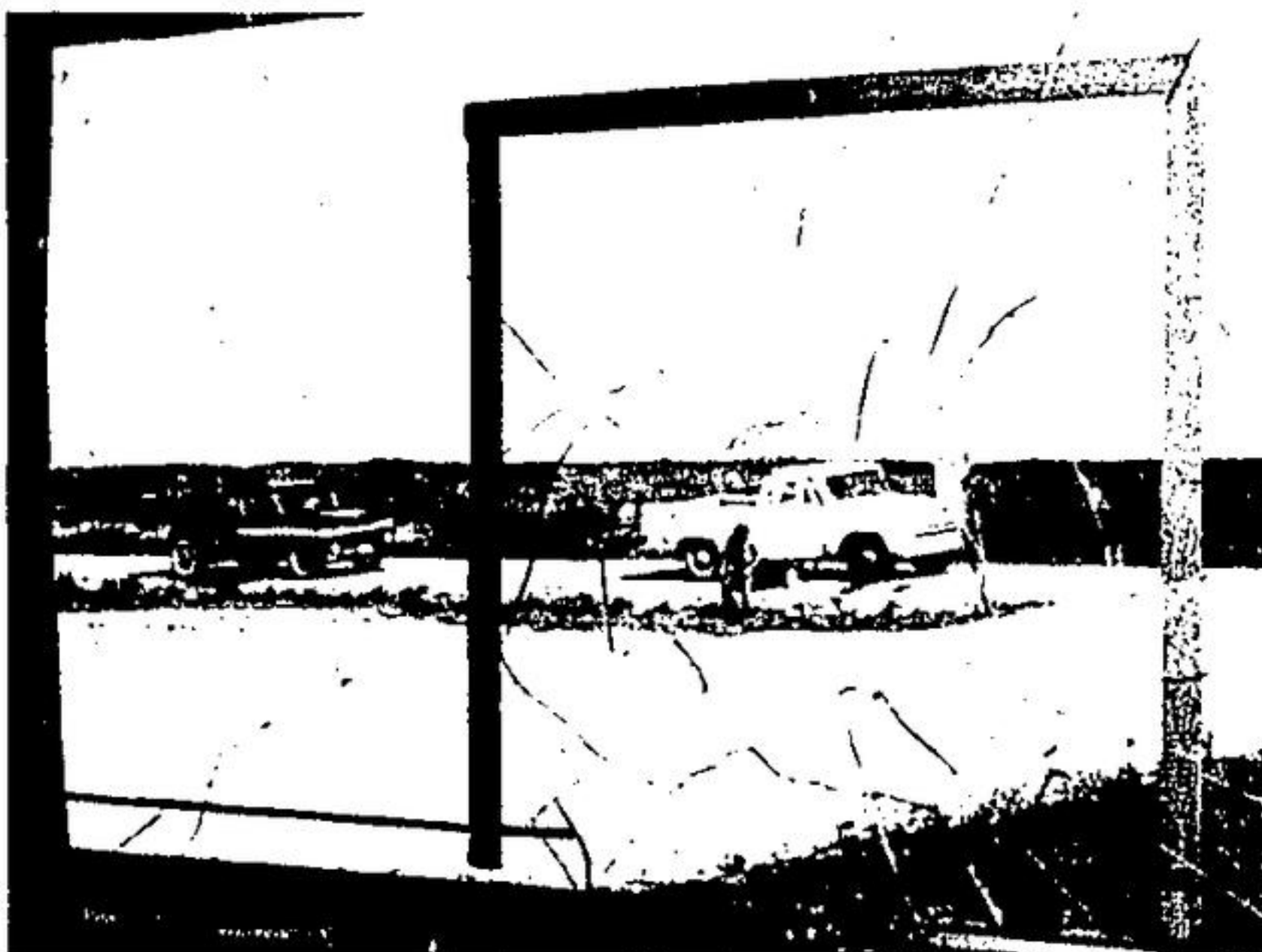
the HERALD

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Vandals hit EFCO as strike enters its 13th week



VANDALS SMASHED \$2,000 worth of plate glass windows at strikebound Economy Forms Company last Thursday. This scene is

from the interior of the plant looking out to Todd Road.

For the second time since local 7337 of the United Steel Workers walked off the job at Economy Forms Corporation in Georgetown, March 12, to back contract demands, vandals have struck the plant.

Following talks which broke down last Thursday, nine plate glass windows were discovered smashed Friday morning. As well, black paint or tar was splattered on two windows.

Plant manager Tom Brotherton estimated the damage at "about \$2,000", he said in an interview.

"I don't think strangers broke the windows nor do I think the action represents the majority opinions of union people," he said. The vandalism "represents a small minority with malicious intelligence," he added.

Local 7337 president Reg Benoit said in an interview that the broken windows were "malicious damage."

"I hope it's not any of our group," he said, "but the blame will fall, of course, on the strikers."

"I don't like seeing any of it," he added. The first incident of vandalism occurred at the strikebound plant March 26 when vandals broke into the plant and caused \$1,000 in damages.

According to Benoit, three issues are at the heart of the inability of the union and management to come to an acceptable agreement: wages, length of the contract and foremen working.

The union is sticking to its demands for a dollar an hour, across the board increase in 1976 wages of a two-year contract it is seeking. The average wage at the time of the strike was \$3.80 per hour.

"The morale of the men is extremely high," Benoit said. "They don't want to bend to a three-year programme."

"I don't care what Des Moines wants," Benoit said, referring to the head office of EFCO in the United States, "we're staying firm on a two year programme."

"But we are always open to proposals by the company," he went on. "We're looking for

some agreement."

As for the issue of foremen working, Benoit said that the old contract allowed foremen to spend only five percent of their time doing work which could be done by union workers. It works out to two hours per week.

The article in the former contract "has been abused," Benoit said. The foremen were working four-or-five-hour shifts two or three times a week, "taking the place of a labourer or machine operator's job," he said.

"Talks are at a stalemate now," Benoit said. "There's no future unless they are prepared to meet our demands."

However, "in my opinion, said Tom Brotherton, "we're not that far apart."

"We've actually offered more than they've asked for," he said.

"They want their worst fears taken care of and we've tried to give them a guarantee for their worst fears."

He said that a month ago the union wanted wage increases of 20-10-10 percent respectively in a three-year agreement. The company's offer was a 20 percent increase in the first year and 7.3 percent in the second and third years with a guaranteed 100 percent cost-of-living increase if the COLA exceeded 7.3 percent.

Brotherton said, "under a given set of circumstances our offer equals or exceeds their demands."

"They're afraid the cost of living won't go high enough," he said.

As for foremen doing work which could be done by union men, "an absolute prohibition opens a Pandora's box," Brotherton said.

"We don't want foremen working nor a bunch of arbitration problems," Brotherton said.

Contract negotiations began in September, 1975, Brotherton said, but after nine months, "the positions taken are harder and harder to sustain," he said.

"It's harder to get together after you separate," he said, although "no one has said to the other side that we have reached the end of the line."

Meanwhile, 25 men are still on the picket line, drawing \$75 a week in strike pay. Benoit said U.S.W. locals in Milton, Orangeville, Pickering and Oshawa have offered to man the picket line in lieu of financial support although financial support is coming to the local, even from inside workers at the plant, Benoit added.

No date has been set yet for a resumption of negotiations.

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Smith and Stone inside workers ratify contract

Office workers represented by local 1421 of the United Auto Workers ratified, by a 24-10 vote, a three-year contract with Smith and Stone Ltd. last Friday.

The biggest breakthrough in the contract, the union negotiating team told the bargaining unit, was the elimination of merit increases in wages, based on management's decisions.

The 27-member unit will get wage increases on a regular schedule beginning with three months seniority and ending at 24 months in their three year contract.

There are nine pay classifications which will be raised 9.4 percent in the first year, 4.4 percent in the second year and 3.9 percent in the third year plus a cost of living allowance.

In dollars that translates to between \$48 to \$80 per month increase the first year, \$28 to \$45 the second and \$24 to \$42 the third year. The old pay rate went from a minimum of \$467 to a maximum of \$926 per month, covering positions from clerk typist to draftsman and industrial engineering technician.

The cost-of-living clause is based on a \$5 per quarter increase on each 45 rise in the Consumer Price Index starting with the CPI for May, 1976 and following the previous quarter's CPI to the term of the settlement.

According to the settlement, Smith and Stone will incorporate \$60 per month into the monthly salary cost-of-living paid quarterly. In the first year the cap will be \$65 per

quarter. In the second and third years of the contract the cap will be \$75 per quarter and not to exceed \$200 by the end of the agreement.

Other highlights of the contract, which was worked out in eight meetings beginning May 7 and ending at 2 a.m. Friday morning, are:

-Doubletime on Saturdays in excess of four and a half hours which brings office workers in line with plant workers.

-Bereavement allowance to include the death of a grandparent and the death of a spouse's grandparent.

-Shift premiums increased 14 cents and 17 cents for day and night shifts respectively.

-Recognized holidays to include Dominion Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving, Good Friday, Victoria Day and Christmas week.

-Weekly indemnity for sickness and accident to be \$80 the same as plant workers.

-Pension plans to be \$6 per month of service times the years of service.

Negotiating for the union were Harry Dewhurst, local president; Mark Hewitt, office unit chairman; Wilma Scott and Mike McCrea, committee members and "Buzz" Hargrave, international representative of the U.A.W.

Negotiating for the company were W.B. Ashford, E.W. SeySmith and W.G. Stephens. The contract was the fourth negotiated in the past ten years.

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TWO ACTON CUBS, Andrew Lambden and Gordon Goulding, were presented with the special District Commissioner's Award by retiring DC Gord Douglas at last Thursday night's North Halton Awards Night held in

Georgetown. Andrew and Gordon, who are both members of the 1st Acton Cub Pack, were acknowledged by Mr. Douglas to lead very involved lives in their family, community and Scouting activities.

Interested Citizens hire lawyer to fight Hydro

After being served expropriation notices last week from Ontario Hydro and hearing from a local councillor and a lawyer, who represents a similar group of expropriated landowners, what to expect in their dealings with Hydro, affected property owners proposed 500KV along the strip in Halton Hills pledged financial support to hire a lawyer to represent them.

The action took place last Wednesday, the second day Ontario Hydro had published expropriation notices in local papers, at a meeting held by the Interested Citizen Group of Halton Hills at the community centre in Stewarttown. About 75 were present.

Councillor Dick Howitt, who lives near the strip, told residents it was no use in refusing to accept the notices of expropriation because they could be sent by registered letter and deemed to have been served two days after date of mailing.

He said that landowners served with expropriation notices had 30 days in which to request a hearing to determine if the taking of the land was fair, sound and reasonably necessary.

"Whether you send it in or not is up to you," Mr. Howitt said.

However, the ministry of energy, which is Ontario Hydro's authority to expropriate, is not bound to follow the recommendation of the hearing officer, he added.

Support for the demand of the Interested Citizens Group that there be an independent study of the 500 KV line from Bradley to Georgetown is increasing, William Mann, chairman of the ICG, told the

Halton Hills chapter.

Last Wednesday he said that the Ontario Liberals and the New Democratic Party had "pledged their support" for an independent study of the line.

Residents along the affected

strip of land Hydro is expropriating in Halton Hills heard Mr. Mann list the growing number of organizations supporting the ICG, among them: Central Esqueving Ratepayers, Federation of Agriculture, Energy Probe, the University Women's Club, agricultural trade associations and some municipalities.

He said the ICG was keeping pressure on Dennis Timbrell, minister of energy, and Ontario Hydro.

The ICG questioned the legality of the Cabinet decision which allowed Ontario Hydro to proceed in the construction of the line and caused the expropriation notices to be delivered to area residents along the strip.

It may be the first time people along the route here have been exposed to a "large, forceful group" such as Ontario Hydro, he said.

"Hydro people are running up and down the corridor,"

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10 children poisoned

In the past two months, ten local toddlers have had close calls. They were referred to the emergency departments of area hospitals for ingesting poisons including motorcycle oil, varnish, paint thinner, prescription drugs, aspirins, and the like.

"There were no fatalities," reports public health nurse Loveday Tuck, "but there could have been."

She has observed that incidents of accidental child poisoning seem to "run in a pattern" because there are more in the spring and fall, and warns parents to keep toxics and drugs away from children, before it's too late.

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We all like ice cream

You scream. We scream. We all scream for ice cream.

During Pioneer Days kids of all ages may be screaming about and for ice cream as a good old fashioned Ice Cream Eating Contest is on the agenda. Sponsors of the event--a first for Pioneer Days--are Kentners Dairy Bar, Steen's Dairy up in Erin and the Herald.

Here's how it works.

Eliminations will take place over the next couple of weeks at Kentners on Mill Street. The official times are Sunday, June 13 from 1 to 4 p.m.; Sunday, June 20, again from 1 to 4 p.m.; and Wednesday, June 23 from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

The elimination times shall be the elapsed time from the starter's signal until the contestant has swallowed a three-scoop vanilla ice cream cone, including the cone.

For fairness contestants will be divided into six categories depending upon their age

and sex. The categories are: Female under 10, 10 to 18 and over 18; and males under 10, 10 to 18 and over 18.

The holders of the best times in the eliminations will then get down to some serious ice cream eating on Saturday, June 26 as part of the downtown Pioneer Days.

This time they'll face the challenge of gobbling down one of Dave Kentner's sundae delights in as quick a time as possible.

Adding a little excitement to the event will be a special "Invitational Ice Cream Eating Contest," details of which will be revealed later.

Besides a lot of fun the event is also going to be a fund raising event as there will be a 25 cent charge to enter the eliminations which will go to a local charity.

Oh, in case of a tie there'll be a further "Eat Off."

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\$4,500 fire at Domtar

Damage in a fire Sunday afternoon at Domtar Fine Papers in Georgetown is estimated at \$4,500 reports Fire Chief Ken Bulkema.

The police and the Ontario Fire Marshal are investigating the cause of the 5 p.m. blaze, said the Chief.

Three-quarters of the damage was to a pile of lumber and the balance was to the building, he said.

Volunteer firemen also fought two other

blazes this past week.

On June 1 firemen were called at 11 a.m. to Waterfalls Trailers Park on the Sixth Line near Limehouse to put out a tractor fire, said Chief Bulkema. Damage was \$100.

One June 3 at 2 a.m. firemen put out a fire in an old school bus which had been converted to a camper and was being used for storage. Damages in the fire, which occurred at 40 Main St. N. were estimated by Chief Bulkema at \$300.

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Ouch! Taxes are up

The final word is out and that word is "Ouch!"

Despite concerted efforts at cutting back costs by the town, the region and the boards of education, Halton Hills' tax rates are going to pinch a lot of pockets this year.

At Monday night's town council meeting Ray King, town treasurer, presented the final report on the town's 1976 budget and in it were sharp mill rate increases for all areas of Halton Hills.

For an average home assessed at \$7,500 in Wards 3 and 4 (Georgetown) that increase will mean a jump of \$109.80 over last year's tax bill to a total of \$679.66. That's a 14.64 mill increase and should cause Georgetown homeowners to look back fondly at last year's small 1.13 mill increase.

For an average home in Ward 1 (Acton) assessed at \$5,794 the mill rate increase will be \$94.54 or 15.60 mills. That average homeowner in Acton will thus pay \$680.55. Last year he paid \$586.01 which was up \$33.94.

One of the surprising figures in this year's tax comparisons shows Esqueving homeowners having a higher mill rate than their counterparts in the urban areas of Halton Hills for the first time although they won't actually be paying more in taxes.

The mill rate on the average home in Ward 2 (Esqueving) assessed at \$6,170 will be a \$567.94 or an increase of 110.61. That 17.93 mill increase is the sharpest jump experienced anywhere in town. Last year Esqueving homeowners saw their tax bills go up 5.51 mills.

For those folks who live in the part of Oakville that is now in Halton Hills their average mill rate increase will be \$92.53 to a new total of \$594.72. That's an increase of 17.14 mills.

One of the few bright spots in the budget is that residents of Glen Williams, Norval, Stewarttown and Ballinafad who are located in "special lighting areas" will see a drop in their additional charges for street lighting ranging from a \$11.20 decrease for Ballinafad's residents to 51 cents for Norval's citizens.

The mill rates on commercial properties located everywhere in the town will jump by relatively the same ratio as the residential increases.

In breaking down the reasons for the increase King noted that town council had held