

Local chain stores ban exploding bottle

By MICHAEL HOLLETT
Herald editor

A recent accident in a Waterloo supermarket in which a female shopper's jugular vein was cut by glass from an exploding 1.5-litre soft drink bottle has prompted many national food stores, including Halton Hills outlets, to ban the controversial bottle.

Despite the growing furor surrounding the 1.5-litre bottle, the majority of small r, variety stores in Halton Hills are still carrying the item.

Exploding soft drink bottle incidents have been reported for years but the recently introduced 1.5-litre size has been involved in an increasing number of accidents. Forty-five incidents of injuries caused by exploding soft drink bottles were reported to the federal government in the last month.

Although the federal government

issued a warning last month that the 1.5-litre bottles are potentially dangerous, it is still legal to sell them. The bottles were banned Monday in Israel after a woman was reported killed from glass from an exploding 1.5-litre bottle.

An engineer researching the danger of the eight pound bottles say they can explode with a force of 60 pounds of pressure.

CHAIN STORES

The most dangerous 1.5-litre bottles are said to be the "torpedo shaped" bottles used by Pepsi, Seven-Up and Canada Dry. The bottles' thin neck and smooth surfaces make them difficult to hold. As a result, all Halton Hills Becker's and Mac's Milk stores, in keeping with company policies, are removing the torpedo shaped bottles from their shelves.

Coca-Cola's 1.5-litre bottles continue to be sold by both chains because of their thicker necks which, according to company spokesman, make them easier to

grip and safer.

NO FOODSTORE

No major foodstore in Georgetown carries the bottles while Acton's large foodstores still carry some of the bottles.

Dave Mains, owner of the Acton IGA said his store will continue to sell the thinner-necked Coke bottles but has taken the other 1.5-litre bottles off the shelf. Mr. Mains said some 1.5-litre bottles have exploded in his store once during the evening when no one was present, however, there have never been any injuries caused by the bottles.

Acton's A and B Foodland is still carrying the controversial bottles but manager Don Lindsay says they will not be re-ordered after the present stock runs out.

"Shoppers are backing off the bottles, I'd say sales of the 1.5-litre bottles are probably down 40 per cent," Mr. Lindsay said.

The bottles will remain off the shelves until a clear cut policy is presented from the government.

HIG SELLERS

Representatives of all major foodstores say the 1.5-litre bottles were big sellers.

John Hannan, assistant-manager of Georgetown's Miracle Mart who have dropped the bottles, said the bottle seemed so popular with some shoppers he expects they will go to other stores, where the bottles are available to buy them.

"But that won't solve the problem," he said.

Mr. Harris, owner of Georgetown's Delrex Smokehop said, "We decided not to carry them right from the beginning," Mr. Harris said introducing the new size

in his store because they were "too big". The largest size Delrex carries is the 26-ounce bottle which Mr. Harris says is a big seller.

POTENTIAL DANGER

Young Kim, owner of Georgetown's Quik-Pik variety store on Guelph St. acknowledged the potential danger of the 1.5-litre bottles.

"As long as the bottles are not safe they should eventually be banned."

However, Mr. Kim said he cannot afford to take the bottles off shelves while his competitors continue to sell them.

He will re-evaluate his policy on the 1.5-litre bottles at the end of two weeks when he hopes recommendations from the federal government and the soft drink companies themselves will be available.

Mr. Kim he sells about as many 26-ounce bottles of pop as the larger size and doubts that a universal ban on the bottles would adversely hurt any merchants' business.

in Acton says the 1.5-litre bottles are big sellers and he's in no hurry to remove them from the shelves.

SELL A LOT

"We won't stop selling them until we're forced to take them off the shelves. We sell a lot of them."

Mr. Gray said of the recent revelations about potential explosion of the bottles "it hasn't stopped the public from buying them, we're selling as many as ever."

A bottle exploded on the store's shelves, two years ago however, it was a 26-ounce container.

Federal Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Allan Lawrence said a ban off the bottles is likely by the end of the summer. Although Canada Dry has announced plans to discontinue distributing the bottles, the other soft drink companies are still distributing them.

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Elementary level

Halton, teachers' negotiations stall



\$5,000 DAMAGE IN BARN FIRE

Damage was estimated at \$5,000 in a barn fire Thursday afternoon on 10 Slideroad, east of the 9th Line. The barn is on property belonging to S.B. McLaughlin Associates, and was almost empty, except for some hay and some equipment belonging to the farm's previous owner. The cause of the fire was

attributed to children playing in the barn. The fire department was called out at 3:46 p.m., and was on the scene for about six hours, putting out the blaze and cleaning up afterwards.

(Herald photo by Tony Panacchi)

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer

Contract negotiations between the Halton board of education and its elementary and secondary school teachers have been broken off.

The secondary school teachers, represented by District 9 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) had requested the assistance of a mediator in talks with the board, and the Education Relations Commission had appointed a mediator. However, the board has withdrawn from the talks with OSSTF representatives, and is requesting they continue without mediation. In response, the teacher negotiators have requested the appointment of a fact-finder.

The elementary teachers, who are represented by the Halton Elementary Teachers' Association, requested the appointment of a mediator following a meeting with the board two weeks ago, when the teachers' chief negotiator walked out of the meeting. The board is requesting the appointment of a fact-finder, but

says it is willing to continue negotiations without a third party involved.

The elementary school teachers are negotiating the wage and salary package for the second year of a two-year contract. This is the only item in the contract open for negotiation. The secondary teachers are negotiating an entire contract, the length of which is a subject for negotiation. The secondary teachers' contract expires August 31, and the elementary teachers wage clause expires at the same time.

LETTER SENT

Following the board meeting Thursday, copies of a letter from Halton Elementary Teachers' Association president Bill Watt were released to members of the press. The letter addressed to board chairman Bill Herd, was critical of the board's efforts at negotiations. Mr. Herd announced while the board was dealing with the correspondence that he intended to make the letter public, and also to respond to it in public.

In the letter, Mr. Watt attributed the breakdown in nego-

tiations with the elementary teachers to the board's reorganization of its salary committee and the appointment of a new chief table spokesperson to speak for the board at a point when, he said, the two parties appeared to be on the verge of a settlement.

Mr. Watt went on to criticize the new spokesperson, who was Penny Dutton, a board employee. He described her attitude as "patronizing" and said the board at the first meeting following the reorganization of its committee, appeared to have retreated from its previously stated position.

Mr. Herd denied that the board has changed its position, and said the letter is "incorrect, inaccurate and questionable in its responsibility". It impunes the character of the board's representative and has hindered the negotiations.

Trustee Bill Lawson, chairman of the board's salary committee, said in the opinion of the board, the negotiations have just begun, and there is no need in either case for intervention by a third party. He described the role of a mediator as being responsible for facilitating a settlement, while a fact-finder, investigates the position of both sides and makes the positions public.

DISCOURAGING REQUEST

"As chairman of the committee I would have to say that we are discouraged by the request of the teachers for third party intervention so early in the process," Mr. Lawson said.

Both the board and the teachers say they would prefer to wait for the decisions of the Education Relations Committee regarding the mediator.

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WOMEN SUSPECTED IN HOME ROBBERY

The third break-in in three weeks attributed to a group of women occurred at a residence in Norval June 23.

Two gold rings are missing and a desk and strong boxes have been damaged in the home on Guelph Street in Norval. Value of the missing items and the damage is estimated at a total of \$300.

The suspects in this burglary are described as three Italian women.

Two weeks ago, the Canadian Tire stores in Acton and Georgetown were both robbed at about the same time, by groups of women. Both groups were described as speaking a foreign language, one possibly French, and one possibly Italian.

This Week

Summer fun

The Halton Hills recreation department thinks they have come up with a winning combination of summer fun which will provide something for everyone. Activities include music, art, drama and a wide range in sports, from swimming to horse and tick riding.

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Provincial judge

Ker Langdon, this week's Halton's People, is one-half of the only father-son team of judges in Ontario. His father, Ken M. Langdon, was a family court judge in Halton until he retired in 1975, and his son followed in his footsteps, becoming a provincial court judge in Peel, after practicing law in Georgetown for eight years.

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Proposed federal legislation may eliminate Milton dump

By PAUL DORSEY
Herald staff writer

Halton region may be prevented from using Site "F" in rural Milton for landfilling by new legislation proposed by the federal government, Halton MP Otto Jelinek has warned.

The recently-elected Conservative MP told the region's solid waste management com-

mittee Thursday his government is "seriously considering" a bill which would see general guidelines governing the location of landfill sites become law.

The law would directly affect Halton, he said, by stipulating that new landfill sites cannot be situated within five miles of any airstrips. The 246-acre agricultural site at

the intersection of Tremaine and Britannia Roads chosen by the region for landfilling and approved two weeks ago by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) is in close proximity to the Burlington Air Park.

SAFETY HAZARDS

Safety hazards posed to aircraft by birds that are attracted to landfill sites prompted Canada's Liberal government

to close three major dumps before they were filled to capacity, Mr. Jelinek recalled, and "the new administration is even more concerned about the potential hazards".

"There won't be any specific decisions for quite some time," he said. "It'll probably be late this year before changes are made, but I'd hate like hell to see you go ahead with Site 'F', and then see the federal government make the five-mile guidelines law. There's a realistic possibility Site 'F' will begin to be developed and then in a year or two be closed down."

Mr. Jelinek's discussion with the committee preceded a decision to contact area consulting firms for bids on a solid waste management study which will examine Halton's current situation and assess the feasibility of establishing resource recovery facilities.

If a committee recommendation is accepted this week by council, several firms will be invited to submit bids prior to July 24 on the \$10,000 study project.

While stressing that he is "not for or against" the region's controversial plans to bury garbage in an area of

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Anti-corridor group's Hydro appeal date set

Interested Citizens Group (ICG) lawyers return to the Ontario supreme Court July 9 to debate the confusion over conflicting Ontario planning legislation.

John Schneider, chairman of the group opposing Ontario Hydro's construction of the Bruce to Milton 500 kilovolt power transmission corridor, said Tuesday the court hearing in Toronto will clarify the conflicting statements of priority of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) Act and the

Power Corporation Act.

The Power Corporation Act, the enabling legislation for Ontario Hydro, states it has precedence over all other planning controls for the development of utility facilities while the Ontario government says the OMB Act has precedence, Mr. Schneider said.

"This is about as farcical as a final hurrah in this damnable event," he said of the group's six-year fight.

ICG is being opposed by the Ontario government which supports the OMB Act.

Mr. Schneider said a court decision overturning the OMB Act precedence would also overturn a recent decision of the board to approve the construction of the final leg of the Bruce to Milton corridor through Halton Hills.

Such a decision would force the Ontario government to make a decision on the corridor, an action it has resisted despite repeated attempts by the ICG requesting independent government study of the hydro transmission corridor.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Ron Hunt of the Georgetown Little Theatre was on hand Saturday at Glen Williams' Canada Day celebrations to join in waving the flag and

having some fun. For more photos, see page nine.

(Herald photo by Michael Hollett)