

SPORTA SALES LTD.
853-2030
Check out our free Lifetime Service Guarantee
Lifetime Service Guarantee

the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills — Established 1866

HALTON HILLS, ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1988

3 SECTIONS, 28 PAGES, FREE DISTRIBUTION

"Canada's Largest Leather Store"
the olde Hide House
OPEN SUNDAYS
1518 853-1931
"It's Worth The Drive To Acton"

HALTON HILLS NEEDS ...

Affordable homes for 51 households

The newly created Halton Non-Profit Housing Corporation is going to take aim at low vacancy rate throughout Halton - including the 0.0 per cent vacancy rate in Halton Hills.

Quoting from the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation's bi-yearly statistics, Halton Non-Profit Housing Corporation President Walter Mulkewich claimed the vacancy rate in Halton Hills is similar to the trend throughout the Region.

The Corporation was formed in November as a separate entity from the Region to help establish affordable housing in Halton.

Georgetown and Acton together have 51 households waiting for affordable housing in Halton Hills as of December, said Mr. Mulkewich, who is also a Burlington councillor.

Halton will have to produce between 2,400 and 2,600 housing units a year until 1991 just to keep up with

the demand for houses, said Mr. Mulkewich. Of that total, between 150 and 200 units will have to be built on a rent geared-to-income basis, he added.

The new corporation, which consists of nine regional councillors, including Pam Sheldon as the lone representative from Halton Hills, intends to tackle the subsidized housing market at the political level for the first time in Halton.

Halton's Housing Coordinator Stan Barakovich said the province, which allocates the non-profit housing units, can only allocate just over 6,000 a year so Halton will have to fight to get its share.

He figures Halton Hills needs about ten per cent of the subsidized housing units in Halton.

Regional Planner Raah Mohammed urged the town to look for places which would suite low cost housing. Georgetown West is one area under development which could be suitable for affordable homes, he said.

He warned councillors that getting into the subsidized housing market is "going to be an extremely hard and difficult road."

The Corporation wants to mix the housing units with subsidized housing and regular rental units. The idea is to create a cross section of

people with different financial status.

The search for affordable housing can take many different routes, including converting an old school property.

Burlington attempted to use a closed-down school for townhouses but a provincial policy of selling educational institutions to other educational bodies meant Sheridan College got the school, said Mr. Mulkewich.

Coun. Al Cook said Speyside school, which is currently home to Bishop Reding High School, might make a good site.

If the local council liked the idea, using old school properties may be a good start in the subsidized housing market, said Coun. Cook.

Coun. Pam Sheldon said the town has to start planning ahead. When new lands become available council should cast an eye towards a possible location for subsidized housing, she said.

The Corporation will apply for subsidized housing in each of the Region's four municipalities this year for 1989.

In Georgetown, the Corporation is hoping to get financial assistance to build the co-operative on Carruthers Road, said Coun. Mulkewich.



Standard Products on Guelph Street became the second major firm in Georgetown to be hit by a CAW strike better sick and accident pay, long term disability in a week when they walked off the job Sunday. Smith benefits and better pensions. Workers on the picket lines and Stone's 270 workers went on strike a week earlier, seemed jovial on the first day of the strike Monday.

Standard Products on strike, pensions, sick leave issues

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Staff

For the second time in a week the Canadian Auto Workers union has set up picket lines at a major Georgetown company.

About 150 workers at Standard Products on Guelph Street are guarding the entrance for the first time in the 28 year history of Local 876.

Last week more than 270 workers walked off the job at Smith and Stone demanding better pensions, wages and benefits.

Pensions are one of the major issues at Standard Products as well.

But workers are also looking for improvements in sick and accident pay and long term disability benefits, said CAW chief negotiator Mike McKinnon.

Neither Standard Products President Udo Fiebach nor Personnel Manager Juanita Harren would comment on the state of the negotiations.

The two sides are not talking now and there is no plans to get back to the bargaining table, said Mr. McKinnon.

The workers walked out at midnight Sunday after talks had broken off the week before, he said.

A strike vote March 11 gave the union a 83 per cent mandate in favor of a strike, said Mr. McKinnon.

He called the company's last offer "an insult."

Wages are also an issue in the strike. The average worker at Standard Products makes just under \$13 an hour.

Workers at Standard Products have become increasingly unhappy with the pensions and sick pay benefits in light of recent three long term sickness cases at the firm, said Local 876 President Gerry Klatt.

In the past three years one employee suffered a heart attack, one suffered a nervous breakdown and another employee had cancer.

The cases have accentuated Standard Products' low sick pay and long term disability (LTD) payments, said Mr. Klatt.

Workers now receive \$155 a week for 28 weeks on sick and accident pay. The union wants to increase that to the maximum subsidy under the unemployment insurance benefits to \$253 a week, said Mr. Klatt.

Currently, a worker collecting sick or accident pay can apply for an unemployment insurance subsidy but that only runs for 15 weeks to a maximum of \$293 a week, he said.

And that decreases a worker's unemployment benefits should they be laid off in the future, he said.

Long term disability pay at Standard Products is also a new issue. Right now there isn't any, said Mr. Klatt.

The company has offered a \$250 a month long term disability payment but the union wants \$850 a month for the first year, \$700 a month for the second year and \$750 for the third year of LTD, said Mr. Klatt.

The company's offer on the sick pay issue is a "step in the face," said Local 876 Vice-President Dave Thompson.

Management has offered to up the sick and accident pay by \$15 a week to \$200, he said.

Pensions, the third major issue, must also increase before the union settles, said Mr. Klatt.

Currently, the company pays \$13 a month times years of service for pensioners, he said. The union wants \$20 a month for each year of service by the end of the three year contract period.

The firm has agreed to the \$20 figure but only on future years of service, he said. The union wants past and current service included.

But the company's offer will be withdrawn as of March 31, said Mr. Klatt.

He believes Standard Products has built up an inventory capable of taking them past that date.

Management staff are attempting to keep the plant running, said Mr. Klatt.

That may spoil the "family relationship" the union has had with the company, added Mr. Thompson.

"With management doing our job that's not helping us," Mr. Klatt said.

"The longer we're out the more ugly it's going to get."

Smith and Stone pickets still manning their posts

There is still no end in sight to the strike by 270 employees of Smith and Stone in Georgetown.

Local 121 walked off the job March 8 after negotiations had broken off three days earlier.

Workers had given their bargaining committee a 90 per cent vote in favor of a strike.

The key issues at Smith and Stone are pensions, cost of living allowance and wages.

Both sides agreed that pensions are the biggest issue in the negotiations but there is still no plans to resume negotiations.

Union negotiators said last week that resolving the pension issue could lead to a settlement.

Local 121 chief negotiator Bruce Davidson said even appointing a mediator wouldn't be of any help at this stage. They met once with a mediator before talks were called off.

"We don't have anything to talk about," he said.

Smith and Stone President Dr. Stan Tooke agreed that no talks have been scheduled.

Dr. Tooke said he doesn't know if the strike is likely to go on for a long time.

The walkout marked the first time in 18 years the workers at Smith and Stone have gone on strike, said Dr. Tooke.

The union is still waiting for an offer from the company, said Mr. Davidson.

"There's not a whole lot we can do but sit and wait."

IN THE HILLS

Senior awards

As part of Senior Citizens' Month celebrations, Ontario will be awarding a number of achievement awards to seniors in June who have made contributions to their communities and to the quality of life in Ontario.

Walt Elliot, MPP for Halton North is inviting interested citizens to provide him with names of individuals in the area who could be considered as possible recipients of the award. Nominations should be forwarded to Judith Walker at 878-1729 before April 15.

A selection committee will review all the nominations and select the award winners.

Out of Africa

What's it like for a nurse in Africa? You can find out March 16 when the Newcomers Club of Georgetown host Anne Sippell, R.N. The meeting is held at St. Andrew's United Church beginning at 7:30 p.m. Ms. Sippell spent 1983 in Africa and will share her experience with members and guests.

For more information call Pat at 873-0277.

Y hits jackpot

The Acton YMCA has just been awarded a grant for \$6,138, Halton North MPP Walt Elliot announced recently on behalf of the Hon. Hugh O'Neill, Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

The money was provided through the Wintario Development Program and is designed to help the YMCA fulfill its goal of increasing participation and developing youth programs. The money will be used in a joint venture project between the Acton YMCA, and the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department.

Highland ball

The Georgetown Highland Games will present its annual spring ball March 26 from 8 p.m. - 1 a.m. at the Holy Cross Church Hall in Georgetown.

The featured band is Nicol Brown and the cost per person is \$16. A buffet will be served. For more information call 877-5595 or 877-9822.

Gift of life

Give the gift of life and support the Acton Red Cross blood donor clinic March 22. The blood clinic is sponsored by the Acton IGA and will be held at the Acton Royal Canadian Legion from 5 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

March into spring

March into spring with a fashion show. Cameron's Fashions is presenting her spring fashions March 23 at the Knox Presbyterian Church in Georgetown beginning at 7 p.m. Dessert and coffee begin the program with the show at 8 p.m. Admission is \$6. Up, Up and Away Ballrooms will be giving a demonstration. Tickets are available by calling 877-4518.

Optimist trip

A Georgetown resident won the consolation prize of \$120 in the Optimist Club Trip of the Month raffle.

Allan Walker picked up the prize after ticket number 233 was drawn March 8.

The first prize winner was Carol Brown of Dundalk, Ontario. She gets to choose a trip worth \$1,500 from TWG Travel in Georgetown.

Tickets are on sale now for the next series of draws on April 12. Call Alan Farmer, 877-0267, for details.

Arts Alive serves up entertainment all week long

By DAVE ROWNEY
Herald Staff

The arts is more than just alive and kicking in Halton Hills - it's kicking up a storm of entertainment during the Arts Alive festival May 1-7.

Seven days of theatre, music, art, a seniors tea and a children's show fill out a well-rounded roster of events sure to please a variety of tastes.

Arts Alive is a continuation of the Festival Five held last fall to celebrate five years of entertainment at the cultural centre.

It was decided to change the fall format to spring to allow the theatre and music groups more time to prepare for the show. The name Arts Alive was chosen through a contest.

A week-long festival each year under the same name is the goal of a committee established for this year's program.

"We want more community involvement," said Arts Alive chairman Hank Huhtanen. There are 14 members on the committee, including two from the Halton Hills Libraries and two from the recreation department. Currently there are members from the community representing The Georgetown Little Theatre, Georgetown Globe Productions, Credit Valley Artisans, Jaycettes and the Board of Education are also represented on the committee.

Hopefully, next year there will be even greater community involvement and an expanded program, said Mr. Huhtanen. Last year Festival Five raised \$4,500 from ticket sales and the money was put to use in purchasing five items:

- added gallery lights
- lights for existing display case
- stage manager's desk
- three new display cases
- coming events sign

One of the projects, which could be financed by this year's Arts Alive festival, includes removing the fibre glass on the outside of the cultural centre's stain glass windows.

"Whatever we do, we'll do it in this building," said committee member

Lois Fraser. Another idea that has been suggested is to purchase a wheelchair for the cultural centre.

The committee is looking for input from cultural groups about how they would like to see the 1988 proceeds spent.

The format has expanded and changed from the Festival Five Celebration. Arts Alive will have two full nights of youth entertainment, organized by Paul Brialley of Centennial Public School. Five schools are confirmed, but many more are planning to put their drama, dance, choral and instrumental performance skills to work May 4-5.

Arts Alive '88

The scope of the week-long extravaganza has been broadened by inviting two artists-in-residence to represent the graphic arts. Lyn Barrett-Cowan and Gerard Brender Brandis will be at the cultural centre gallery May 7 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The watercolor artist and bookwright, papermaker will be on hand to discuss their work and offer demonstrations.

A dinner has been added to the Jazz night May 7 for the grand finale. The major event missing from Festival Five is the local talent night which will be left for the annual cultural anniversary week in the fall.

Last year about 3,000 people were involved in Festival Five, as either spectators or performers.

The Arts Alive committee is an independent arts group with involvement from Town of Halton Hills staff.

For a story on the coming events at Arts Alive, see this week's Entertainment Page in Section B.

DRG Stationery considers move to a smaller facility

Rumors that DRG Stationery is closing its doors for good are unfounded but the firm is scaling down its operation and considering moving to a smaller site facility.

Reading from a letter written by DRG President John Stanford March 5, Corporate Controller Ivan Hooker said Monday that DRG will be making "critical changes" to its Georgetown operation by dropping a number of product lines, mainly associated with seasonal production.

Blister refills and stitched books are among the product lines being dropped and the machinery which produces them will be sold off, Mr. Stanford said in the letter.

But the company will definitely operate in a nearby community if it does decide to move to a smaller building, said Mr. Hooker.

Georgetown, Acton, Milton and Brampton are all possible areas to relocate but it definitely will not

move as far as Toronto, said Mr. Hooker.

The company is doing its best to keep employees informed of corporate decisions, said Mr. Hooker.

He referred to an inaccurate report in the Jan. 27 Georgetown Independent which said the company had been sold to a New York investment group.

Employees who thought they'd been kept in the dark were anxious about their future, he said.

But the negotiations fell through and the deal was called off about three weeks ago, said Mr. Hooker.

He wants to avoid a repetition of the incident which created "a lot of red faces."

The paper jumped the gun... misreading an announcement given to employees," said Mr. Hooker.

There have been no final decisions on the future of DRG in Georgetown other than the discontinued product

LIMEHOUSE

Goodbyes to postmistress

Limehouse residents want their postal service to stay the same in their tiny community. A meeting March 8 outlined how Canada Post Corporation wants to make changes now that postmistress Shirley Yates is retiring.

The future is still up in the air on the fate of the Limehouse postal

operation. In the meantime, residents are concerned about the outcome.

Inez Crichton of Limehouse was born in the village 65 years ago. She feels if people are getting the same service the new postal operator should get the same money. Under the new Canada Post agreement, a contract would be given to a person on a commission basis.

"They're (Canada Post) not really taking anything away from us, it's the money," she said. I think it's a cheap shot by the government."

Yvonne Cunningham lives on a rural route so her service should not be affected. However, she says if she is forced to drive into Acton for postal services she'd be mad. Ms. Cunningham works in Oakville and lives on the Fifth Line.

Joe Duggan took over as the postmaster of the general store in 1987 and has recently moved back to Limehouse. He said the new owner "will be caught between the devil and the deep blue sea" in trying to reach an agreement with Canada Post.

Mr. Duggan said a contract operator couldn't make a profit and Limehouse isn't a growth area where more residents would be moving into the area in great numbers.

"If you have to go that way (contracts and commissions) you might as well go to a courier service. It's a considerable amount of work and more than you realize," he said.

"You can't expect people to work for nothing," he added.

Gord Inglis has lived in the Halton Hills area for 40 years. He believes there are few options left for the peo-

ple of Limehouse. Scotts, who sell wood stoves is about the only other retail business in Limehouse that could take the mail, he said.

Bill Sanford remembers when the mail used to be picked up in Limehouse off the train. The 45-year-old has lived in Limehouse all his life, he said. The meeting showed that this is an emotional issue and despite the 6:30 p.m. starting time, which was difficult for farmers, there was a good turnout, he said.

The postal issue tends to unite the community the way a quarry dump proposal near Limehouse has united people, he said. A plan for community members to build their own postal building is only a last resort idea but it shows community spirit, he said.

"I think it's obvious everyone wants it (postal service) to stay" in the Limehouse store, said Kathy Sanford.

"I'd hate to see the person (who takes over) lose financially. These people won't tell us so we don't know."

Jessie Glynn said it was a good idea to bring the people together to show "we need to support the new postmaster and postmistress." She said she was surprised at the turnout of residents.

For Canada Post's part, community relations manager Connie Read said she now has a better feeling about the community. The meeting seemed to indicate people would prefer the new owners of the store to be the contract operators, she said.

The contract guarantees a minimum amount, but the service will still be based on a commission system, said Ms. Read.