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HALTON HILLS, ONTARIO

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Standard Products strike Settlement is reached

Standard Products employees have gone back to work.

The seven-week long strike ended April 26 when the two sides got together for only the second time since the 150 members of the CAW local 876 walked off the job March 13. Employees returned to work Monday.

At issue during the negotiations were pensions, wages, sick and accident pay and long term disability.

The strike appeared to be over March 30 when a bargaining session solved every issue except the cost of living allowance (COLA). But there was a 40-cent difference in the COLA between the two sides. That issue was settled when both sides moved in the April 26 bargaining session, said CAW local 876 President Jerry Klatt.

The walkout was the first strike at Standard Products in the 28-year history of the union.

Mr. Klatt admitted that workers became frustrated at times in the strike. Workers were charged with various offences, including throwing eggs, seven times, he said.

The union voted 87 per cent in favor of accepting the contract offer on April 28, said Mr. Klatt.

The three year contract gives the workers better vacation benefits, increased wages, new long term

disability benefits and a major increase in sick and accident pay.

Workers also won a major increase in pension benefits.

A 30-year employee can now pick up \$540 a month plus Canada Pension Plan and old age security benefits.

Mr. Klatt thinks labor relations at Standard Products have been permanently altered.

"For many years we had a good relationship with management here in Georgetown. Better than in any Standard Products division," he said.

"I do not think that it will be the same when we return to work."

Standard Products Personnel Manager Juanita Harren said the company is pleased with the deal.

She thinks good labor relations can be restored. "I hope that we can put it behind us," she said.

The firm is now trying to catch up on seven weeks of orders which were put "on hold," said Ms. Harren.

Standard Products did lose some customers during the strike but hopes are high that they can be picked up again, she said.

Only 92 of the workers returned to work Monday. The remaining workers, about 50, will likely be recalled as business picks up near the end of May, said Ms. Harren.



Nicholas Antoni (5) pulls on his boots just in case Sandra Darcy should reel in a big one at the Old Mill Dam on Sunday. Behind them Pauline Kelly fashioned a fishing rod out of a stick, but it did the trick. Fishing season opened at 12:01 a.m. Saturday. (Herald photo)

Region likes review plan

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Staff

The province is going to review Ontario's environmental assessment process.

The Environmental Assessment Act, which was first introduced in 1976, has been the subject of intense criticism by Halton Region, among others, because of its sometimes unclear requirements.

Halton Region is now in the middle of environmental assessment hearings, necessary to establish a new landfill site.

The Region expects to spend a total of \$29 million fulfilling the requirements of the EAA, once the dump site is identified.

The provincial review will seek public comment and make recommendations to improve both the process and the Act itself.

Halton recently asked its lawyer, Thomas Lederer, of the law firm Osler Hoskin and Harcourt, to analyze the EAA and come up with some suggestions to improve it.

Mr. Lederer came up with six recommendations, mainly dealing with clarifying authority and requirements of the act.

The act, which is directed at public organizations rather than private applications, is subject to significant political judgements, said Mr. Lederer.

"Until this confusion between politics, value judgements and science can be put in proper perspective, the responsibilities defined by the Act cannot be clearly understood and the process it represents will remain confused," he said.

The Region's Planning and Public Works Committee recently endorsed the recommendations and sent them off to Environment Minister James Bradley.

Halton Hills Coun. Pam Sheldon agreed with the provisions in the Lederer report, but she criticized the province for waiting so long to conduct the review.

"I am very clearly convinced that the only reason this review is being done is because Toronto is in a (garbage) crisis," said Coun. Sheldon.

"People in Limehouse have reason to be fearful of that (Toronto's crisis)," she said, referring to a proposal to put a dump in a quarry there.

But one paragraph in Mr. Lederer's report sparked an angry reaction from Burlington Coun. Joan

Little.

The current legislation "falls to clearly delegate responsibility and authority" for providing landfill facilities, said Mr. Lederer.

Since the area municipalities within a Region want to keep the dump out of their areas, they tend to fight a decision made by the Region, he said.

Then the EAA hearing can degenerate into "a fight between the Regional municipality and one or more of its own area municipalities."

Since Regional councillors also sit on town council, "hardly anyone considers the issue from the Regional perspective," said Mr. Lederer.

That results in the two sides hiring consultants to back up their cases which "greatly increases the cost and length of the process," he said.

Mr. Lederer wants area municipalities prevented from appearing before EAA hearings.

Currently, that exact situation is happening in Halton where Burlington is supplying its citizens groups with money to fight that city's case, against the Region's preferred dump site in Aldershot.

"You can't just take away any municipality's right of presenting something to the presiding tribunal," said Coun. Little.

She suggested that municipalities should have the right to appear before the hearings but not to appeal their decision to the courts.

Halton Hills Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson agreed.

"The municipality should have the right to make some form of representation. The (hearing) should have the opportunity to hear one dissenting voice," she said.

But Coun. Sheldon said debate at the Region should be the forum for a municipality to fight its case.

"From the Regional point of view it's right on," she said.

"We've been spending money to argue against ourselves."

Chairman Pete Pomeroy said no power is being taken away from the municipalities.

"They're fully entitled to take part in the process right up to the hearing," he said.

He warned that changes in the EAA might not come easy.

Groups like Pollution Probe "can hardly wait to get this opened up to make it (the EAA) more difficult," he said.

BIG on entertainment

When a town puts on a BIG celebration, you can bet everything will be done on a grandiose scale.

And when the community celebrates their BIG (Business in Georgetown) event June 3-5, there won't be anything small about the entertainment.

At the Gordon Alcott Arena, along with over 150 displays depicting local businesses and services, there will be a wide range of entertainment to delight visitors.

Continuous entertainment will be featured on an elevated stage, situated in the midst of the many displays. And who better than "The Wilkie Ranger", better known as Fred Wilkens, to serve as Master of

Ceremonies, and keep the ball rolling.

The Ranger will keep the enthusiasm at a high pitch with contests, lucky draws, and his own special brand of humor.

Fred will also serve as the catalyst in organizing the wide variety of acts performing during the weekend, which will include the Iva-tones, a band well known to Georgetown audiences for a number of years.

Iva Davidson is the "Iva" of the Iva-tones, and plays piano with the group. She is accompanied by Bob Armstrong on banjo, Scotty McHardy on violin, and Lorne Cunningham on guitar.

The Iva-tones will perform all the favorites, and singing along is strictly encouraged.

Also performing will be the Centennial Alumni Choir under the direction of Paul Brisley. This dedicated group includes high school and university students who formerly attended Centennial Middle School.

But this is no ordinary choir, and visitors to the BIG celebration will be greatly impressed by their professional presentations.

Patrons of the BIG celebration shouldn't be too surprised if they find themselves strolling up next to a 10-ft. tall man. This is simply Daddy Long Legs, who will delight old and young alike, with his adept skills on stilts.

Fashion conscious show-goers won't want to miss the fashion shows which will be staged during the festivities. A number of local merchants will be showing the latest in fashions for the entire family.

Tied in with the BIG show will be a dance to the unmistakable sounds of Lowdown at Memorial Arena on the Saturday night.

This three-man band gets the audience rocking with their energy, and takes everyone back to the rock 'n' roll era of the '50s, '60s, and '70s.

The weekend promises to be a great one for all those who attend, and the slate of entertainment will cater to the entire family.

For further information on renting booth space, or to sign your group up to participate in the BIG festivities, contact the Chamber Office, at 877-7119.

Acton Seniors

Input called for on proposed centre

Seniors in Acton are going to be asked exactly what kind of services they would like to see in town.

The Acton Seniors Community Centre Committee has prepared a survey for the estimated 1,200 seniors in town asking them what kind of seniors recreational community centre they would like to see in Acton.

The committee, chaired by Councillor Gerald Rennie, is targeting people over the age of 54.

For several years seniors in Acton have recognized the need for a seniors recreation centre for social, cultural and recreational pursuits, the survey says.

The boy scouts delivered about 800 surveys yesterday (Tuesday) and the girl guides and pathfinders will collect them on Saturday, May 7, said Coun. Rennie.

Once the survey is complete the results will be compiled and presented to council. If the town en-

dorses a proposal for a seniors recreational centre in Acton then the proposal will go to the province, said Coun. Rennie.

Typically, the province funds 50 per cent, the town pays 20 per cent and the community must raise 30 per cent of the cost of such a centre, he said.

Georgetown is going through much the same process but the seniors advisory committee is not as far along in the process, said Coun. Rennie.

But Georgetown has identified Howard Wrigglesworth School as the location for such a centre while Acton must look for a location, he said.

Coun. Rennie is asking any senior who did not get a survey yesterday to pick one up at the Acton Social Services Centre.

The committee will meet towards the end of May to discuss the results before going to council, he said.

Smith and Stone no closer to making agreement

There appears to be no end in sight to the eight-week old strike at Smith and Stone in Georgetown.

About 270 employees of the Canadian Auto Workers Union walked off the job March 7 demanding better pensions, increased cost of living allowance and better wages and vacation benefits.

Union Chief Negotiator Bruce Davidson said there are no negotiations planned for the future.

Mr. Davidson feels the settlement at Standard Products, where about 150 fellow CAW workers went back to work Monday, will not affect the Smith and Stone strike.

If anything, the better pension benefits will increase the workers'

resolve to stay on strike, said Mr. Davidson.

He said the Standard Products settlement gives employees \$18 a month times the number of years worked for pension benefits.

But Smith and Stone employees only get \$8.50 a month times the number of years worked.

The company has offered another \$2.50 a month bringing the total to \$11, said Mr. Davidson.

Union officials speculated the pension issue would be the major issue at the beginning of the strike.

Mr. Davidson said he has contacted Smith and Stone officials in the past two weeks but negotiations are still stalled.

In the hills

Keep it in mind

Mental Health - Keep it in mind is the theme of Mental Health Week, May 1-7. The Oakville branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association invites everyone to its Official Opening at noon on May 4. Open House is from noon - 6 p.m. Call CMHA at 845-5044 for details.

Board meeting

An open meeting of the Georgetown and District Hospital Board of Directors will be held on May 26, at 4:15 p.m., in the board room.

The agenda will be posted by 9 a.m., the day of the meeting in the administration offices.

Those wishing to address the board must forward a request in writing to: The Chairman, Board of Directors, Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, Princess Anne Drive, Georgetown, Ont., L7G 2B8, by May 12, 1988.

Blood donors

The Georgetown and District Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society will hold a blood donors' clinic at Holy Cross Auditorium on Monday, May 9.

The clinic will operate from 1:30 - 8:30 p.m., and is sponsored by the Kinsmen Club.

Correction

A front page story in the April 13 edition of the Herald incorrectly identified the amount of money spent by the three political candidates in Halton North on last summer's election campaign.

The Herald reported that the Liberals in Halton North spent \$48,000, the Conservatives spent \$22,000 and the New Democratic Party spent \$18,000.

But the Commission on Election Finances said the riding associations had already folded in their expenses to the candidates' expense sheets.

In fact, Halton North Liberal Wall Elliot spent only \$33,474, PC candidate Dave Whiting spent \$22,221, and NDP candidate Fern Wolf spent \$9,983.

There was a \$44,000 spending limit on the campaign in Halton North for the provincial election.

A friendly place to visit, says architect

New Halton Hills civic centre will exude warmth

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Staff

The atmosphere in the town's new civic centre will be so friendly that residents will be able to tie the knot in the council chambers, according to the building's architect.

Carlos Ventin explained the virtues of the new building Friday.

The new building will be an "open concept" structure where the atmosphere is comfortable and friendly, said Mr. Ventin.

"We want the building to be accessible. Not somewhere you go to pay taxes," he said.

To that end, town councillors are planning a fundraising drive to add those extra touches to the civic centre which were not included in the \$6.1 million budget.

The fundraising drive will kick off on May 11 with a reception at the Cultural Centre.

Mr. Ventin wants about 50 large trees to improve the landscaping and a reflecting pool in the front courtyard would cost \$16,000 to \$18,000.

The reflecting pool was initially planned for the building but it was stricken from the budget approved by the town in the fall.

Initial plans for the courtyard in front of the entrance of the 45,000-square foot building call for an open and flexible area, said Mr. Ventin.

The town can hold displays, ceremonies and other activities in the courtyard, said Public Relations Committee member Pam Johnston.

Mr. Ventin, who has worked on restoration projects for older municipal buildings, wants to enhance the community atmosphere. More than 100 years ago, old municipal buildings included opera houses, he said.

"The intent of this council is to provide a place where people feel comfortable," said Mr. Ventin.

The interior will be designed with natural materials, including cedar ceilings.

The town is also looking at turning photographs of older municipal buildings and sites in town into murals on the walls in the interior of the civic centre.

Mr. Ventin wants to use special paper to make the photographs look older.

Such murals would be "conversation pieces", the architect said.

Another plan is to construct a walkway from the civic centre to the

fairgrounds, said Mr. Ventin.

Donors will contribute to tangible items like that to help beautify the area, he added.

The sign outside the civic centre will be a silo sliced in half vertically and separated horizontally.

"The half sides (of the silo) symbolize the bringing together of Acton and Georgetown," said Coun. Johnston.

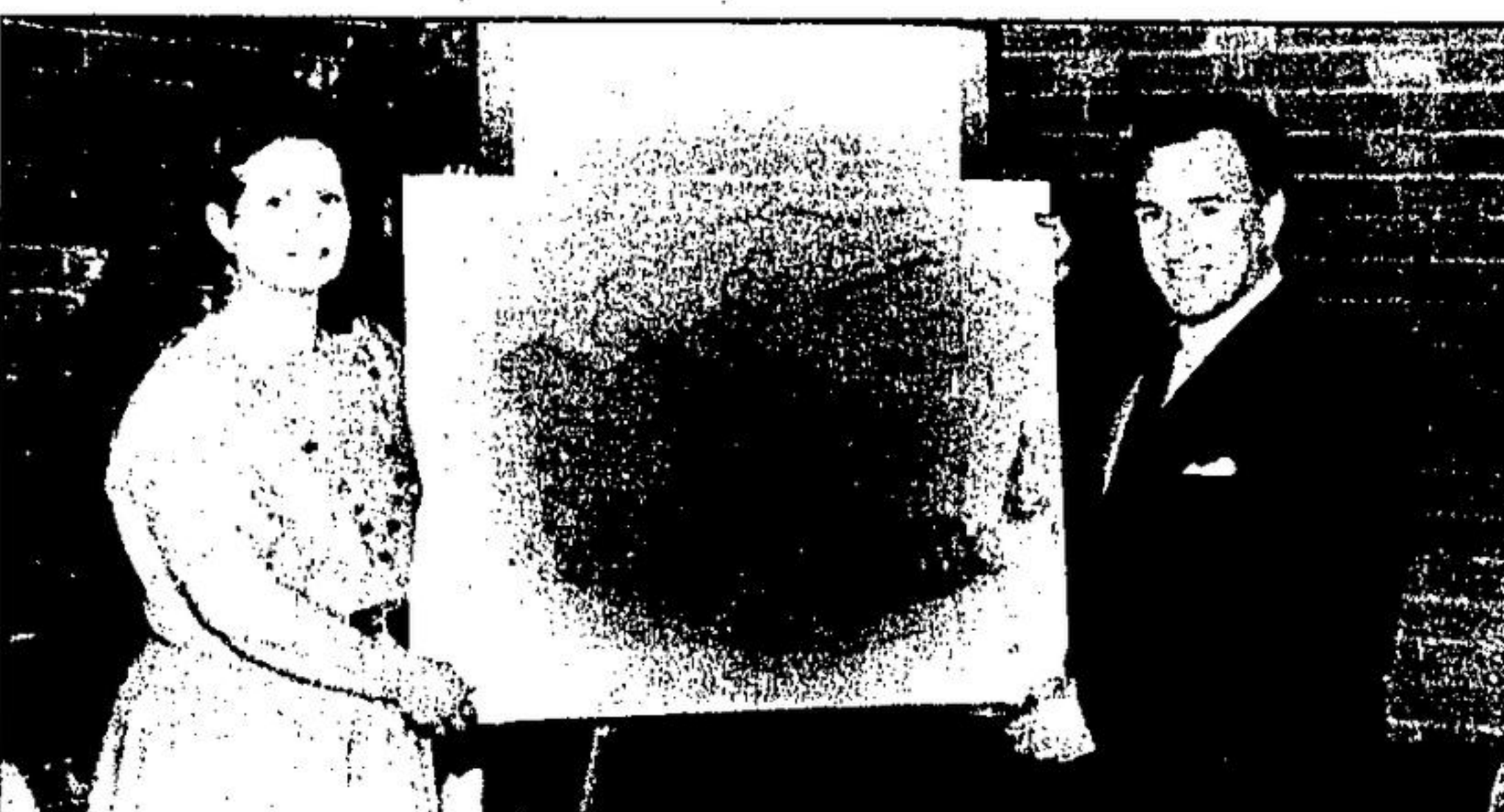
The color of the outside, green trim and reddish bricks, was inspired by a farmhouse just down the road from the administration building on Trafalgar Road, said Mr. Ventin.

Once the building is complete in December some 70 municipal employees will work there.

When the expansion of Georgetown in Halton Hills Village is complete more administrators will be needed so the building is designed to hold another 20 people, said Mr. Ventin.

Construction is on time and on budget, said Mr. Ventin. But he would prefer cold dry weather instead of the recent rain.

"My only claim to glory is to deliver on time and on budget," said Mr. Ventin.



Civic Centre architect Carlos Ventin and Public Relations Committee member Pam Johnston show the architect's rendition of what the new civic centre will look like when it is completed in December. The \$6.1 million building will be able to service Halton Hills well after expansion. (Herald photo)