

Outlook on Halton Hills



Acton resident Ralph Vilestra shows off two of the many railroad lanterns in his collection that was displayed at the annual Steam Era show in Milton over the Labor Day

weekend. Here Ralph holds up an old Intercolonial Railroad lantern (left) and a CNR caboose lantern for closer inspection. (Herald photo)

Striking Bell workers vote on contract offer

Striking Bell telephone workers will find out this weekend if a contract offer put forth by the company, will be accepted.

According to Ray Mortimer, president of Communications Workers of Canada Local 26, Bell Canada offered a proposed contract to striking CWC workers Sept. 2.

"They'll be counting ballots Saturday night and Sunday. The results should be out Sunday night." Until then, said Mr. Mortimer, "everybody's sitting at the edge of their seats, waiting for the phone to ring."

While union representatives can't disclose the contents of Bell's latest offer, which includes improved pensions, cost of living increases and discusses the issue of part-time labor, Mr. Mortimer is not overly optimistic.

"It's not enough, considering we've been out pounding the pavement for 11 weeks," he said Wednesday. "We (the union) didn't say 'vote no', but we didn't recommend the agreement," said Mr. Mortimer.

The CWC, representing technical, electrical and electronic workers, walked off the job June 27 when the majority opposed a Bell contract offer. Workers are seeking wage increases, less company allocation of jobs, and job security for part-time employees, according to Mr. Mortimer. CWC Local 26 represents Halton Hills, Oakville, Orangeville and Mississauga.

But Bell management is "optimistic" that the strike can be settled.

"The union was complaining about pensions, too many part-time workers... we've made significant improvements since the last offer," said Geoff Matthews, Bell's Media Relations Manager for Ontario,

referring to the Sept. 2 contract.

"It's a very, very good offer. We're optimistic that they'll accept it," he said.

Local 26 members voted on the contract after a special meeting Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, the CWC will continue its 16-hour a week strike duty, picketing Bell's technical and electrical offices and operator centres.

"We signed a memorandum," said Mr. Mortimer, "(but) we're still on strike until we sign an agreement."

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Fighting the 'Unknown killer'

Liver diseases are the fourth leading cause of death by disease afflicting Canadians. Research has shown that liver diseases account for a greater number of illnesses and fatalities than was previously realized.

"Modern lifestyles and environmental hazards are responsible for this high incidence," says Ralph Davis, President, Canadian Liver Foundation (CLF), "and frighteningly, we will continue to see a rapid increase."

With the purpose of providing support for research and education in the causes, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diseases of the liver, the Foundation was incorporated in 1969 as the Canadian Hepatic Foundation. It became the Canadian Liver Foundation in 1979, and was the first organization in the world devoted exclusively to providing support for research and education in all diseases of the liver.

Programs developed by the Foundation to aid Canadians are: medical research (including grants, fellowships, and scholarships); and professional education (including workshops, international symposia, and an academic visitor program), in addition to public information and education programs.

"Vital extensions of the Foundation are the Medical Advisory Board and Chapters," continued Mr. Davis, "and with their assistance more Canadians can be served by us." Currently, the Foundation has 13 chapters across the country, providing support for patients and families affected by liver diseases, and local education and fundraising opportunities.

To aid diagnosis and prevention, the CLF Epidemiology Unit was established at the University of Toronto in 1981. The unit studies liver disease patterns and promotes early detection.

Assisting with the diagnosis of liver biopsies and the study of liver pathology, is the Liver Pathology Reference Centre, located at the Toronto General Hospital. Unique in Canada, the Centre is a national resource facility.

"All segments of our society have been under-estimating the significance of liver diseases," says Mel Zwaig, Chairman, Canadian Liver Foundation, "and there is a world-wide shortage of manpower committed to the solution. In answer to these increased needs, the Canadian Liver Foundation is expanding its activities to reduce the incidence and impact of diseases of the liver."

Liver Facts

The body's largest internal organ, the liver is located in the right quadrant of the abdomen. It is essential to life. The functions of the liver are to: cleanse the blood; produce, store and supply energy (sugar in the form of carbohydrates, glucose and fat); supply vitamins; manufacture essential proteins involved in blood clotting and resistance to infection; regulate the balance of many hormones; regulate cholesterol; and regenerate itself when injured.

Facts on diseases of the liver

Today, one of every twelve Canadians suffers from one of the over 100 liver diseases, which affects people of all ages. The many types of liver diseases include: gallstones; liver disorders in children; viral hepatitis; cancer of the liver; cirrhosis; alcohol-induced cirrhosis; hemochromatosis; and primary biliary cirrhosis.

Common Symptoms and Signs of Liver Disease

The Canadian Liver Foundation urges people to consult their physician if any of the following signs or symptoms are observed:

1. An abnormally yellow discoloration of the skin or eyes or the appearance of very dark urine or pale stools. This may indicate jaundice, often the first sign of liver disease.
2. Abdominal swelling.
3. Prolonged itching of the skin.
4. Chronic fatigue, nausea or loss of appetite.
5. Passage of bloody or tar-like stools or vomiting of blood.
6. Severe prolonged abdominal pain.

Flower show

The Annual Flower Show by the Oakville Horticultural Society will be held Saturday, Sept. 10, 1-4:30 p.m. at Trafalgar Village Shopping Mall (Cross Ave. in Oakville across from the Oakville GO station). Green thumb members of the O.H.S. will exhibit their best annuals, perennials, vegetables, and houseplants. Many excellent flower arrangements are also on display as well as a Junior Flower Show. For further information phone 847-0631 after 4 p.m.

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Notice of Meetings

PROPOSED ACTON QUARRY LANDFILL

A series of meetings will be held to present and discuss technical aspects of a proposal by Reclamation Systems Inc. (RSI) of Milton to develop a solid waste landfill in the Acton Quarry. The next meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. and will take place at:

Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 197
15 Wright Avenue
Acton, Ontario

All meetings are open to public observation. Consultants will be available from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and following each meeting to answer questions.

The topic for discussion for the next meeting to be held on Thursday, September 15, 1988 is "Socio-Economic Impacts".

Questions, comments and requests for further information should be directed to:

Ms. Jillian Daffern
Project Liaison Officer

Eco Logic Inc.
143 Dennis Street
Rockwood, Ontario
N0B 2K0

Phone: (519) 856-9591

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