

Campers allowed for Highland Games

Overnight camping will be allowed this year at the Highland Games despite town bylaws. Councillor Pam Johnston told colleagues May

24 that the town should allow camping at the games, shouldn't assume responsibility for liability for damages as a result of the camping.

A local Georgetown balloon company will release 10,000 balloons into the air to mark the BIG (Business In Georgetown) celebration Saturday. Up, Up and Away employee Trudy Thomas said the send-off is the largest she knows of in Ontario history.

"Swim at your own risk" signs were posted Monday, at the request of the Regional Department of Health, said Halton Hills Recreation Direc-

tor Tom Shepard.

Flash fire at Standard Products causes \$15,000 damage: A flash fire at Standard Products on Guelph Street caused at least \$15,000 damage June 16. The fire, which began about 8 p.m., was likely caused when vapor from glue or resins ignited, said fire officials. The fire was virtually out when officials arrived, after the sprinkler system was activated.

Long strike over

Smith & Stone makes deal with workers

The longest strike in recent history in Georgetown is over.

About 270 workers at Smith and Stone voted 72 per cent in favor of accepting a contract offer by the company in a vote at 1 p.m. Friday, June 17, said Canadian Auto Workers Union Local 1421 President John Doherty.

Workers at Smith and Stone walked off the job March 6 demanding better pensions, increased vacation benefits, better cost of living allowances and higher wages.

They were joined on the picket lines just one week later by fellow CAW members at Standard Products who also fingered pensions as the major point of contention in their negotiations.

Standard Products workers went back to work April 26 but negotiations between the CAW and Smith and Stone proved fruitless until the two sides got together June 14.

Bargaining began on Tuesday and wrapped up with a contract offer at 3 a.m. Friday, said Mr. Doherty.

"The timing was right," he said. "Both sides said we wouldn't leave until we hammered (an agreement) out."

"I think it was by mutual consent that we settled," said Mr. Doherty.

Negotiations started when management at Smith and Stone approached the Ministry of Labor and a meeting was arranged by the deputy minister, said Mr. Doherty.

However, no provincial mediator was present during the marathon bargaining session which led to the contract settlement, he said.

The two-year agreement includes increases in pensions to people who've been at Smith and Stone since the 1940s, said Mr. Doherty. Previously, raises in pensions could only date back as far as 1970, he said.

Pensions at Smith and Stone are "still lagging behind but it's a step in the right direction," he said.

Production workers received a 3x cent-an-hour raise in each of the two years of the contract and skilled workers received 50 cent and 45 cent raises respectively, said Mr. Doherty.

Vacation benefits were also increased to \$30 a week, times the number of years serviced, he said.

However the cost of living allowance remained capped at 20 cents a year, said Mr. Doherty. The union wanted to remove the cap on COLA.

About 40 workers returned to work on Monday (June 20) and the remainder will be called back in stages, said Mr. Doherty.

During the strike just under 10 per cent of the workers actually quit their jobs to find work elsewhere, he said.

However, most workers managed to survive by finding part time jobs during the strike.

Picketers received just \$100 a week during the strike.

Mr. Doherty admitted workers did get discouraged during the strike, "but they stuck together."

Company officials were not available to comment on the strike at press time.

The 106-home Relasco subdivision in Georgetown West was approved by the town's general purpose committee June 8. The 26-acre property will be developed within the expanded boundaries in Georgetown. It lies west of Moore Park, south of Highway 7 and north of the CNR Guelph Line.

A proposal by the town of Halton Hills to buy 4 1/2 miles of abandoned railway line has become a contentious issue with residents who live along the track. The town has a chance to purchase the abandoned railway line from the Canadian National Railway for just \$5,000. But Alf Spence, who lives in front of the track, said the area is a convergence point for "drug addicts, drunks, mini-bikers, skidoos" and "other noisy activities." Mayor Russ Miller said while he realizes residents might prefer to buy the abandoned tracks, he's concerned about the cost of cleaning and policing the area.

For the first time in recent memory, signs were posted on Fairy Lake warning prospective swimmers to take the plunge at their own risk. The fecal bacteria count in Fairy Lake near the wading pool where the new beach was created, exceeded government guidelines.



North York Mayor Mel Lastman found out (in no uncertain terms) that it really is worth the drive to Acton.



The skies above Georgetown were alive with color as 10,000 helium-filled balloons were released as part of the BIG celebrations. The balloon send-off was only one of many special events designed to celebrate Business In Georgetown.

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