

P.G. Bell workers strike

Over 50 workers at the P G Bell steel factory in Georgetown walked off the job Sunday night after contract negotiations broke down last week.

Plant workers at the P G Bell Division of Jannock Steel Fabricating Co. on Sinclair and Armstrong Avenues are represented by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM). The IAM voted Friday to walk out Sunday at midnight.

Workers say the company refused to offer them any more than a five per cent annual increase on their two-year package. The cur-

rent starting rate for an employee is \$11.21 an hour.

"They said this is their final offer, but it's their first offer," said Wally Jackman, a burner and checker at the steel plant.

But IAM business representative Brian Short said it is "the overall economic package which the membership rejected."

A vote held Friday at the Cedarvale Community Centre resulted in 80 per cent of the workers voting in favor of a strike.

"The company presented a final offer at 4:30 p.m. Thursday (in a hotel in Toronto) and then left. They didn't even wait for a

response from us," said Mr. Short.

P G Bell vice president of operations Paul Gri said that although management didn't meet "face-to-face" with the union, there was a mediator at the contract talks.

"We've given them an offer and the only response they've given us is that they're walking out on strike," said Mr. Gri.

Striking workers are concerned not only with their pay package but with increasing benefits, including introducing a pension plan. Mr. Short says the union was offered RRSP-funded pensions, but these would not help workers about to

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Town salary committee named

Five local people have been named to a committee set up to consider salaries of Halton Hills politicians.

Joe Lister, Georgetown Independent managing editor Hartly Coles, Bob Malcolmson and Fred Harrison of Georgetown and Ross Knechtel of Acton, also a former Halton Hills councillor, will sit on the salary review committee.

Mayor Miller said town administrator clerk Dan Costea has been asked to set up procedures for the new committee.

The mayor sent a letter to members finalizing the committee early this week.

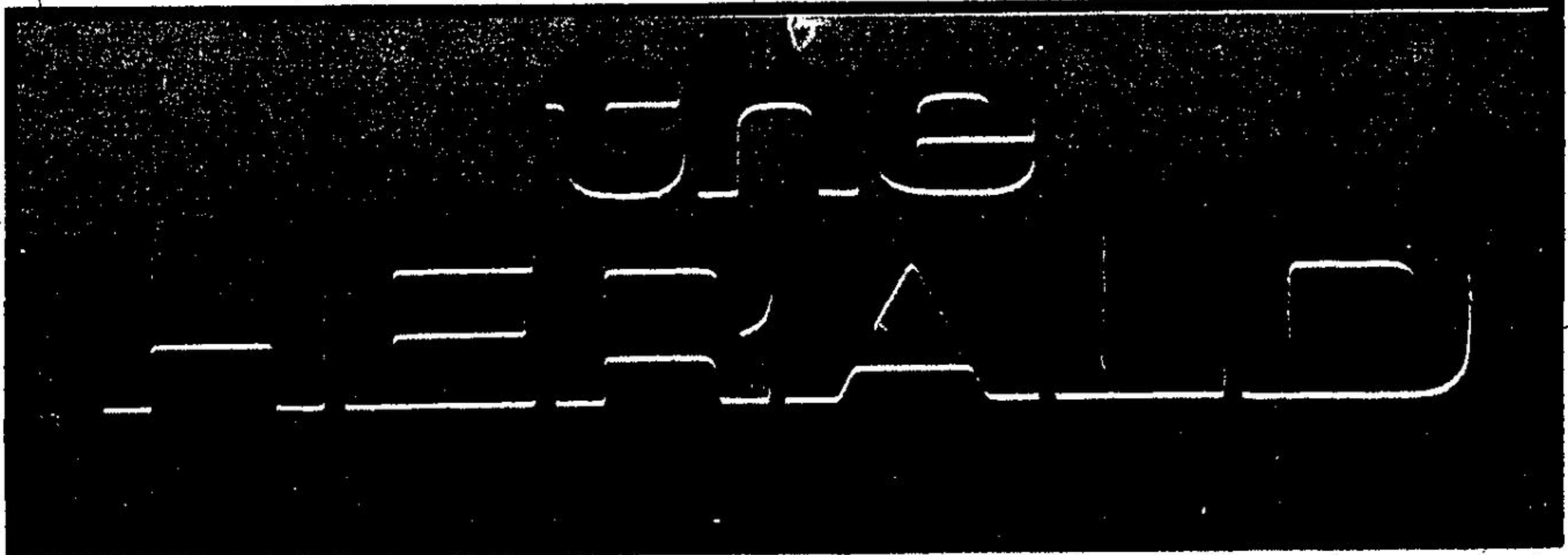
Councillors asked for a public committee to review salaries last year when a staff report indicated councillors were underpaid compared to municipalities of a similar size.

The five-member committee will review councillors' salaries and make recommendations back to council on potential increases.

Currently, the mayor is paid \$20,400 a year plus an extra \$16,000 a year from Halton Region, town and Regional councillors are paid \$8,000 a year and Regional councillors pick up an extra \$16,000 a year from Halton Region.

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Child safety week

It's National Child Safety Week and Halton Regional Police Safety Officer Susan Delaney is out in the schools driving the safety message home. Here, Grade 3 student Derek Nolan is helped along by Const. Delaney and Limehouse Public

School safety patrol captain Lindsay Brown (Grade 5) at Limehouse school last week. The police are always preaching the safety message to kids but with the spring weather bicycle safety takes a front seat. (Herald photo by Brian MacLeod)

Hazardous waste depot closed

By DONNA KELL
Herald Staff

A Region-run hazardous waste depot in Milton has been shut down by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

The Ministry sent a notice to Halton Region April 11 saying the Steeles Avenue Milton Household Hazardous Waste depot, which serves mainly North Halton, was being operated "contrary to the statute" agreed upon by the Region and the Ministry of the Environment (MOE).

Wastes such as paints, turpentine and bleach bottles were separated and disposed of in special containers by a Regional employee on the site. But the ministry said Monday that the Region was "violating their certificate of approval."

"I have a duty and obligation in my role (as environmental officer) to point that out immediately," said Lyle Parsons, Planning Coordinator for the Halton-Peel division of the MOE.

Mr. Parsons said a notice sent to the Region last week was not an order to close the plant, but merely outlined the problems to be corrected.

The ministry said the hazardous waste disposal plant is not properly placing safety equipment, diking around storage areas for hazardous waste, is not providing approved equipment for the storage and handling of waste and is not storing the waste properly on the site.

Milton Regional Coun. Bill Johnson said he is "mad as hell" at the ministry's notice. Halton is not required to close the depot but could face fines and future action against them if they don't comply, said Mr. Parsons.

"These people (the MOE) who should be assisting us are doing everything to embarrass us," said Coun. Johnson.

"We thought we were leading in the (disposal) field but along came the big, bad ministry to shut us down."

Coun. Johnson said the Region should have been given several weeks to correct any problems associated with the hazardous waste depot in order to prevent its closure.

"Now that they've shut this thing down, we'll have paints and solvents and God knows what else all along the sideroads."

Coun. Johnson referred to the dumping of hazardous wastes near Mountsberg several years ago by several men who he says were not convicted.

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Man injured in collision

A Georgetown man, 18, is in serious condition in Sunnybrook Hospital following a single-car collision in Glen Williams Thursday night.

Halton Regional Police say Cahir Blake, 18, was driving a 1985 Mazda eastbound on Sideroad 22 near 10th Line when the car went out of control, struck a tree and rolled over before coming to rest in a field.

The Halton Hills Fire Department was called in to extract the man from the car.

Police say the car failed to stop for a stop sign at the intersection of Sideroad 22 and Tenth Line. An investigation into the collision continues.

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