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Town lays 154 charges

Builders face \$2.1 million in fines

By BEN DUMMETT

The Herald

Halton Hills Development Corporation and its principals could face fines of up to \$2.1 million if they're convicted of 154 charges in connection with building infractions in a Stewarttown subdivision.

The town of Halton Hills laid the charges against the company and its principals, Byron Dailey and

Michael Latrelle, after the town found that 22 houses on Thompson Drive, Applebee Court and Harrison Place in Stewarttown had numerous building deficiencies, said the town's administrator-clerk, Dan Costea, Friday. A hearing will be held July 5 in Milton to determine a trial date.

The charges were laid under the province's building code, planning

act and water resources act.

The development is comprised of 33 houses, but only those houses that were occupied before August 1989 are affected, said the town's building inspector, John Holmes.

By laying the charges "we are saying to developers that the town will not condone any structures that don't meet the building code," said Mr. Costea. He emphasized

his point, saying "we want the construction industry to know that compliance is necessary."

If the corporation is found guilty on all 154 charges, the court could impose a maximum fine of \$10,000 per charge. And if the principals are also found guilty on the same charges, then the court could impose a maximum fine of \$2,000 per charge and/or up to a year in jail

for each offence, according to the Ontario building code.

"In my years of experience, this is an abnormal situation," said Mr. Holmes. "Construction practices carried out in this subdivision are not normally found in the industry," he added.

The town's final inspections, which were done through the summer and fall of last year by the current town building inspection staff, revealed that some of the major

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Electrical firm lays off 80

The Georgetown company, Smith and Stone, has laid off 80 of its employees for the week because of the current strikes in the construction industry, said company president George MacPhee Friday.

"A major portion of the plant has been shut down this week because of the strikes in the electrical and plumbing industries, and a general slowdown in the economy," said Mr. MacPhee.

The company employs 170 people and manufactures a host of electrical devices common to most homes including plugs and switches. It is located on Glen Road in Georgetown.

Most of the company's orders come from the construction industry in Ontario and Quebec but the construction-related strikes in these provinces have slowed down the number of orders, creating a backlog in inventory, explained Mr. MacPhee.

The layoffs are necessary to allow for an inventory adjustment - a reduction in inventory - and at the end of the week the situation will be reassessed, said Mr. MacPhee.

He didn't rule out the possibility of further short-term layoffs, saying it will depend on when the construction industry settles its labor contract disputes. Mr. MacPhee wouldn't speculate when this would happen.

The company's parent firm, Hammond Manufacturing of Guelph, put the company up for sale in December, 1989. The company was put on the auction blocks after a couple of companies expressed interest in buying Smith and Stone, Hammond vice-president for financing John Anderson said at the time.



Strawberry delight

Mmmmmmm good! Now just a little cream and this would be perfect. The thought is probably crossing Nigel Eves' mind as he focuses on the strawberry feast in front of him. And as chairman of the Huttonville Strawberry festival, Mr. Eves knows his strawberries. The festival was held at the Huttonville Public School Sunday and food and

entertainment abounded. The festival is put on to promote the many strawberry growers in the Halton Hills area. It's now peak strawberry season and there's plenty of strawberry farms in the area to choose from. (Herald photo by Ben Dummett)