

Strike looming at Georgetown Abitibi Price

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

The 50 unionized employees with the Georgetown company Provincial Papers, a division of Abitibi Price, will be in a legal strike position Sept. 27, said the worker's representative and a national representative with the Canadian Paperworkers Union, (CPU), Marvin Pupeza.

The employee's previous contact expired in May.

Mr. Pupeza couldn't predict if the workers would strike starting Sept. 27. He did say, however, he

would have a better idea about a possible strike after the union and management representatives meet with a mediator two or three days before the legal strike date in an attempt to settle on the terms of a contract.

The union held a strike vote Sept. 9, said Mr. Pupeza, and 93 per cent of those who voted supported the idea of a strike.

Representatives from the company and the union have already met with a councillor but no contract issues were discussed.

During the meeting, the com-

pany explained that historically, no contract agreement is settled with the Georgetown employees until agreements have been settled between the union and the other divisions of Abitibi Price. The parent company owns 19 plants located in the provinces of Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland. There are strikes currently going on at most or all of these plants, according to Pat Sweeney, a national representative for the Union.

The Georgetown Mill is involved in sheeting - cutting strips of paper into different sized sheets - and ap-

plying high gloss to paper to be used, for instance in magazines, said the mill's superintendent, Fred Aggis.

Mr. Aggis confirmed Mr. Pupezas interpretation of the recent conciliation meeting. The talks between management and the union have stalled and won't progress until the company has a clearer idea of the types of the settlements that are decided upon at the other Abitibi Price Mills, explained Mr. Aggis.

Mr. Pupeza said the company's employees in Georgetown are concerned about several issues including money, scheduling, various types of benefits and the current operation of the plant.

Meanwhile, Mr. Aggis said the strikes at the other mills will have no immediate effect on production at the Georgetown plant. But if the strikes continue for a long time, a third of the mills operation would be affected resulting in possible layoffs, predicted Aggis.

The Georgetown mill's sheeting production depends on the company receiving the raw material from an Abitibi mill in Thunder Bay, and the workers at that plant are currently on strike.

Mr. Aggis wouldn't specify how much longer the workers in Thunder Bay would have to be on strike before Provincial Papers would consider laying off some of its employees.

Taxpayers pay double, trustee claims

Halton taxpayers are paying double when they or their organization pays to use Halton's schools, says a Halton Board of Education trustee.

Arlene Bruce is angered that Halton taxpayers contribute to the region's educational system but have to turn around and pay again when they want to use school facilities to hold public or private functions.

Many organizations are beneficial to society and provide a service improving the community, Mrs. Bruce said.

The Halton Board of Education's policy governing the usage of school facility use, Policy 3000-10, categorizes applicants into groups to arrive at a rental rate.

This policy stipulates that it is

desirable to foster co-operation with community organizations and a commitment to make school facilities available to these groups.

Although Mrs. Bruce states that taxpayers are paying twice when they rent school buildings, she said "it's just the way of the world." People pay to have the schools built and then have to pay again to use them because those costs are budgeted, she said. "It's frustrating but it's one of those things," Mrs. Bruce said, adding that she wasn't going to suggest the rental system be modified by the board.

School facility rental coordinator, Marlene Marx, said people who rent school facilities for functions are not paying twice. She explained that it would be unfair to increase education taxes so that no

one would pay to use facilities when not everyone uses the schools for functions.

Even though 87 schools in Halton are booked solid, the board doesn't make a significant amount of money from renting the schools, said Mrs. Marx. She explained that of the nine category rates, two categories pay only 50 per cent of the base rental cost, one pays 35 per cent of the cost and another category doesn't pay to use school facilities.

This latter category, which is not charged to use the facilities, includes parent groups, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides and Board of Education employees.

Groups who pay 50 per cent of the rental costs such as service groups, also include commercial nursery schools or local associations and non-resident commercial groups using the facilities for seminars or demonstrations. Pre-school and co-operative groups pay 35 per cent of rental costs.

Rental rates for anyone holding a function at a school facility where there will be liquor served will be paying five times the base rental rate, said Mrs. Marx. She said these organizations would be charged \$132 an hour if liquor is served but on the same booking they would be charged \$44.75 where no liquor is served.

Mrs. Marx explained that the rate increases where liquor is involved because the board wants to discourage school facilities being used to hold licensed events.

The board also charges organizers to cover heating costs and to recover overtime pay for school caretakers who must be at a school when facilities are rented.

Centre provides escape from parenting strains

By LISA RUTLEDGE
Herald Special

There is an escape for mother and child when the strains of parenting run high, at the Acton Parent Child Resource Centre.

The drop-in centre, now located at 83 Wallace St., in Acton offers refuge in a sanctuary-like atmosphere to socialize, energize and even learn. Parents can bring their children, up to five-years-old, to the centre to play and interact with other children.

It offers a release for both parents and children in an informal gathering because being a parent can be one of the hardest jobs in the world, said Susan Walker, a public relations officer for the drop-in centre.

Mrs. Walker wants to encourage more parents to use the resource centre, especially young mothers who could learn from the wisdom of more experienced mothers.

Approximately 80 members visit the centre, half of them regularly, said Mrs. Walker, adding that they come from areas as far as Rockwood and Fergus.

The centre provides an escape enabling people to socialize with other adults and a controlled area for children to play. It also offers craft workshops and guest speakers such as nurses.

Mrs. Walker believes both the parents and the children benefit from the centre. She maintains the parents are better able to put stresses into perspective after a coffee break and conversation.

Children, who do not visit day care centres have the advantage of interacting with other children, especially children who live in rural areas, said Mrs. Walker.

There is a variety of books, toys and riding toys, explained Mrs. Walker, adding that the toys aren't wasted when children become bored.

Until early September the resource program operated within the YWCA, but the centre has branched out with the assistance of the Acton Social Services and Information Centre. The parent-child program has been running for about seven years.

The centre receives funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services and charges a \$20 membership fee, said Mrs. Walker. She said the fee is reasonable considering one child's toy can cost as much as \$50.

\$4,000⁰⁰

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