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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7th, 1990

Strike looms at local mill

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

The 50 unionized employees at Georgetown's Provincial Papers, a division of Abitibi Price, could walk off the job as early as this coming Monday.

The workers decisively rejected the company's latest offer in a vote held Sunday in Georgetown, said worker's representative and a national representative with the Canadian Paperworkers Union, (CPU), Marvin Pupeza.

The employees minus two or three who didn't attend the meeting, voted 85 per cent in favor of the offer being rejected, said Mr. Pupeza.

The union has been in a legal strike position since Sept. 27. Mr. Pupeza said unless a deal can be worked out this week a strike will begin Monday. "We've decided to give it one more shot," he said.

The wedge between the union and management is money. The company's latest offer includes a two-year deal with a 90 cents per hour increase in wages during the first year and a five per cent wage increase in the following year.

These figures were confirmed by the company's personnel manager, Barry Ferguson.

Mr. Pupeza said this offer is "too far behind" those agreements reached earlier this year between Abitibi Price and

the employees at its other divisions in Northern Ontario and Quebec.

Like these employees, the Georgetown workers want a three-year deal, said Mr. Pupeza. The union's initial monetary demands included a \$1.10 per hour raise and another 12 per cent tacked on to the hourly wage.

The \$1.10 represents lost wages incurred by the employees over the past 10 years, said Mr. Pupeza. During the early 80's, the Georgetown local's wage increase was \$1.10 less than the increase received by the other locals, said Mr. Pupeza. If that figure is translated into today's dollars, said Mr. Pupeza, the Georgetown employees are making \$2.80 less than other Abitibi Price workers.

The union is flexible on the 12 per cent wage increase, he said.

Mr. Pupeza said a mediator has been contacted to see if a meeting can be arranged this week between the mediator, union and management. At press time, Mr. Pupeza said he hadn't heard from the mediator about an exact date for a meeting. But Mr. Ferguson said management understands the meeting will be held Monday.

Mr. Ferguson would make no comment on the company's latest offer and the union's rejection of it.



An early Christmas visit

What's this? Mr. and Mrs. Claus paid an early visit to Georgetown over the weekend? Not quite. Georgetown resident, Marlon Cleave, holds up the Mr. and Mrs. Claus faces she bought at Saturday's Georgetown Knox Presbyterian Church annual

Christmas Bazaar. Ms. Cleave plans to send the wicker plate faces to her daughter in Winnipeg. Approximately 300 people attended the bazaar and it was expected to raise \$3,500 for the church. (Herald photo)

Councillors question police 'over Devil's night incident

Two Acton councillors and Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller are scheduled to meet soon with Halton Regional Police to discuss the force's response to the pumpkin and egg throwing assault on the community Oct. 30.

Councillors Norm Elliott and Rick Bonnette want to know why police left the intersection at Main Street and Mill Street while approximately 400 youths armed with pumpkins and eggs pelted cars and passerbys in the area.

"We're (the councillors) unhappy the police left the intersection," said Mr. Elliott, following Monday nights town general committee meeting.

He qualified his disappointment in the police saying, before making any final judgements he wants to hear the police side of the story.

Both councillors recounted for the committee how upon returning from a meeting in Georgetown the two entered what Mr. Elliott referred to as "a war zone" of egg throwing youths.

At the intersection, the councillors say they saw two police cruisers. Mr. Elliott said he was surprised at the "activity or inactivity" of the police.

After passing through the intersection, the councillors later returned to the scene and saw no police. Meanwhile, "the riot was going at full bore," said Mr. Elliott.

The councillors later found the police, said Mr. Elliott, at the Old Hide House parking lot at Mill Street and Highway 7.

Police told the two at that time they were unable to stop the youths and they were waiting for reinforcements. Mr. Elliott questioned if the police shouldn't have stayed in the area of the fray while waiting for backup. Mr.

Elliott said he is hopeful the meeting with the police will answer this question.

Mr. Elliott also took exception to local media reports in which an Acton resident was quoted as saying the egg throwing evening was an "innocent time."

"Let me go on record as saying this wasn't an innocent time," Coun. Elliott told the committee emphatically. "I'm speaking for dozens of citizens who told me of their dismay and disgust. It was the most serious incident I've ever seen in my community," said the councillor.

This kind of incident can't happen again, stressed both councillors.

Both men also noted the vandalism cost the town almost \$500 in clean-up expenses.

Mayor Miller said he received several calls about the incident, three of which came from non-Acton residents. "It was embar-

rassing to be told that Acton was a terrible place," said the mayor.

"If I played a tape recording of those phone calls to all of the people of Halton Hills, the community would say it can't happen again, and those who took part wouldn't want to do it again," said Mayor Miller.

Coun. Bonnette predicted youths from Erin, Rockwood and other surrounding communities would participate in the vandalism next year if measures weren't taken to prevent a recurrence of the event.

"The situation was dangerous," said Coun. Bonnette. He described how a Georgetown girl had gotten out of her car to participate in the egg and pumpkin throwing only to slip, fall and then have her arm run over.

In another incident, a youth received a large welt on his nose after being pelted by a hard-boiled egg, he said.



Town gets donation

The town will have no problem ushering in the New Year come midnight Jan. 1, 1991, now that there is the first and only official Halton Hills bell. The bell and cairn were donated by the McNally family of Georgetown. John McNally (left) presented the bell and cairn to Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller, (centre) and Town Director of Recreation and Parks Tom Shepard, Friday. (Herald photo)

An Inside Look

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TAKE TIME TO REMEMBER

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

Canada Post denies Georgetown closure

"Rumors" and "pure speculation" are the words a Canada Post spokesman used Monday in response to questions about the possible closing of Georgetown post office.

Chris Bartsch said there is no truth whatsoever to the talk of Canada Post closing the Georgetown office at the present time. But that doesn't mean at some future date the crown corporation may consider closing the station, he commented.

The Herald contacted Canada Post to clarify recent rumors circulating around town that either the station was scheduled to be closed or there were plans to sell the property.

The rumors have no foundation, repeated Mr. Bartsch. Mr. Bartsch's recent comments are similar to the ones he made about two months ago when the Herald contacted him enquiring about the same types of rumors.

During the last year the Georgetown's mail sorting operations have been moved to a plant in Mississauga. As well, the Norval post office was privatized last month.