

Community

Strike averted at Georgetown Provincial Papers

The 50 unionized employees at Georgetown's Provincial Papers, a division of Abitibi Price, and the company's management have reached a two-year contract agreement, averting a possible strike.

The workers voted Sunday 80 per cent in favor of the two-year deal which includes an approximate 10 per cent wage increase in the first year and eight per

cent increase in the second, said the workers representative and a national representative with the Canadian Paperworkers Union (CPU), Marvin Pupeza. The percentage increase translates into a \$1 increase in the first year and an 80 cent increase in the second, he said.

The workers' negotiating committee had reached a tentative agreement with management

Nov. 11. But nothing was certain until the vote this past weekend, said Mr. Pupeza. If an agreement hadn't been settled the workers would have walked off the job, he said.

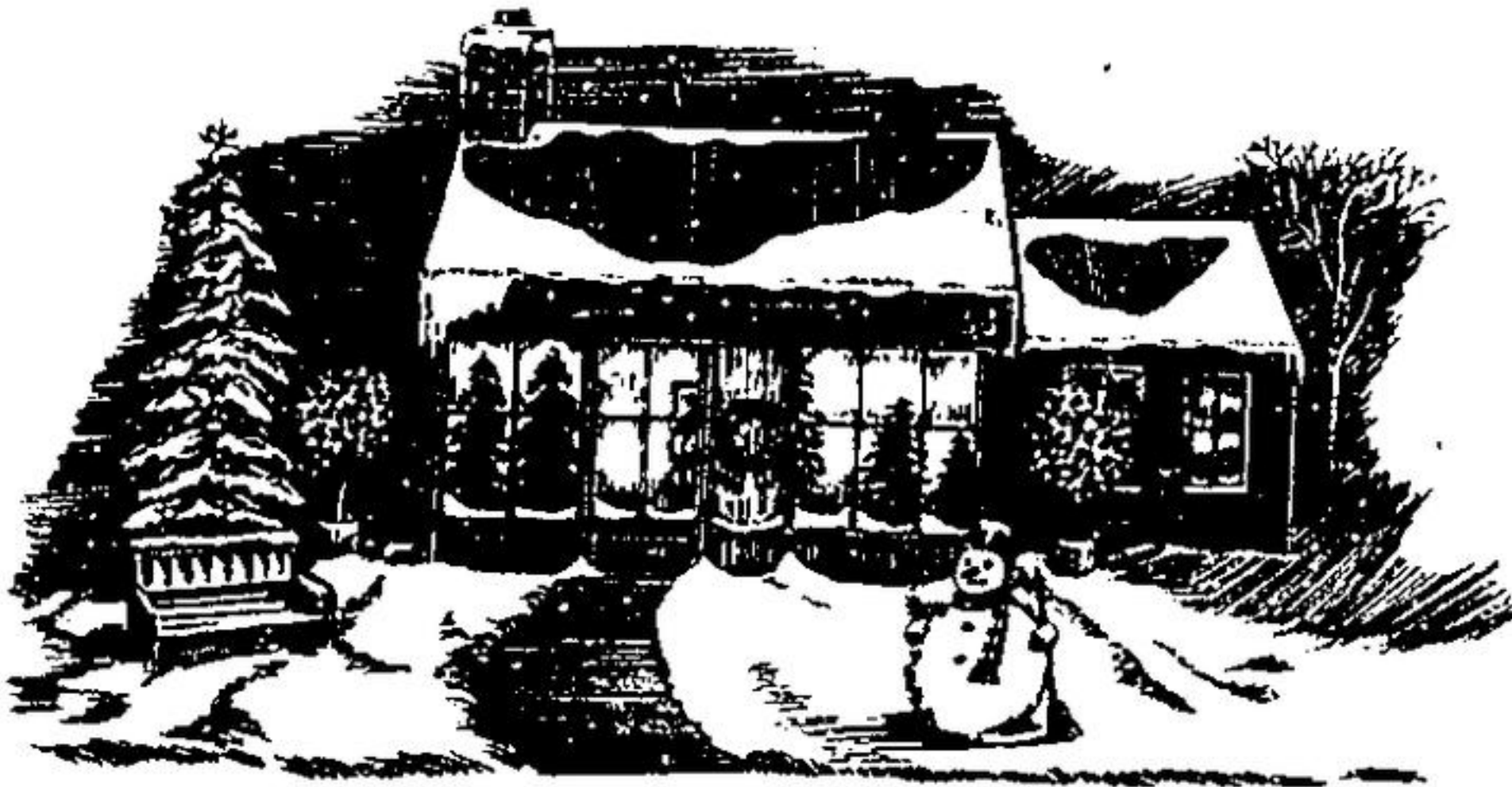
Mr. Pupeza said that money was the major contract issue and although the union didn't get as much money as it originally wanted, the increase they did get

was the best possible at this time.

The union originally wanted an eight per cent wage increase plus four per cent cost of living increase for each year, said Mr. Pupeza. It wasn't possible to get this kind of increase this time around, said Mr. Pupeza, because of the slow economy. The fact that Christmas is close didn't help the situation either, he added.

If the union had achieved their original demands, the workers' wages would have been in line with contracts recently signed between management and workers at the company's other plants, he said.

"We decreased the gap (between the Georgetown local and others) and down the road we will be in a better position to better that," he said.



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