

Updated job skills needed by Region workforce

Continued from Page 1

Wood Gundy, to discuss Halton's economy today and its future projects.

Chairman Pomeroy said Halton has lost approximately 1,000 manufacturing jobs during the last year. Most of those jobs have been replaced by "high tech" positions that have been filled by people from outside Halton, said the Chairman. The 1,000 employees who have joined the unemployment lines during the last year didn't have the skills necessary to fill the newly-created service industry positions, he explained.

A good case in point is the problems facing those who lost their jobs at Provincial Papers. According to Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller, the Region sent out letters to companies throughout Halton asking them to indicate if they had any positions available for the Provincial Paper workers.

The response was good, said Mayor Miller, but it turned out the jobs offered required skills the employees didn't have.

Georgetown was built on companies like Provincial Papers and Smith and Stone, but now high tech companies such as Varian Canada on Guelph Street and Mold Masters on Armstrong Avenue dominate the Town's industrial landscape, he explained. Mold Masters is a company that exports products worldwide, added Mayor Miller.

Like Provincial Papers, the electrical component manufacturer, Smith and Stone, has also been hit hard by the depressed economy. The company shut

down its Porcelain Division in mid-March putting 38 people permanently out of work.

Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner agrees Halton's industrial base is in transition. As the world becomes more competitive, said Mr. Turner, Halton, like the rest of Canada, must focus on developing industry in which it is highly efficient. The service industries of telecommunications, transportation and financial institutions are some that nobody does better in the world than Canada," said the MP.

Mr. Turner went on to predict the transition will inevitably result in some people "getting caught in the crossfire and that's too bad. It will be up to the government to minimize the number of people affected," said Mr. Turner.

He qualified his prediction saying 17 per cent of jobs in Halton are in manufacturing and although "that's a significant percentage, we're not talking one in two workers is employed in the manufacturing sector."

The problem of workers not having the skills to keep up with economic changes can only be solved through a revamping of the education system. A majority of today's unemployed, said Chairman Pomeroy, were trained to do one type of job but to succeed in today's market, people must have skills enabling them to

move from one job to another.

The entire Region has a stake in ensuring that its residents are equipped with flexible job skills, said the Chairman. As proof, he pointed to the alarming statistic that the Region's General Welfare Assistance caseloads increased 67 per cent in the first two months of 1991 over the same period last year.

Unlike the 1981/82 recession when Halton's laid-off workers migrated out west to find alternative employment, unemployed workers this time around are remaining here, said Chairman Pomeroy.

Chairman Pomeroy offered a variety of statistics to show Canada's education system is in need of change. These include:

- education spending in Canada is second highest among G7 countries yet Canadian students attend school an average of 183 days per year as compared to 243 days per year in Germany and Japan.

- Canada's high school dropout rate of 30 per cent is one of the highest in the industrial world.

- Fifteen per cent of high school graduates are functionally illiterate.

Mr. Turner agreed the skills of Halton and the rest of Canada's workforce have to be upgraded. He stated the federal government is well aware of this need, pointing out \$700 million was recently

approved by the federal government for job skills retraining programs.

North Halton MPP Noel Duignan also agreed the answer to today's and tomorrow's unemployment problems in Halton lies with education. "Education must be promoted as a life-long activity and not one

that stops when people enter the work force," he said.

Mr. Duignan also commented that the provincial government must allocate more money for skill retraining programs. How much the provincial government will spend, however, won't be known until the budget comes down at the end of April, he said.

Serving Halton Hills for 18 yrs.

HOURS:
Monday CLOSED
Tues.-Fri. 10:00-6:00
Saturday 10:00-5:00



50%

Purchase two complete pairs of prescription glasses and you receive 50% Off 2nd pair of equal or lesser value.

20%

Purchase one complete pair of prescription glasses and receive 20% Off regular price.

SALE EFFECTIVE UNTIL APRIL 30th, 1991

GEORGETOWN OPTICAL
GEORGETOWN MARKET PLACE TEL: 877-3562

Assault charge

Halton Regional Police arrested an Acton youth for assault and choking after a domestic dispute between him and a Georgetown woman turned violent Monday evening in an Acton residence.

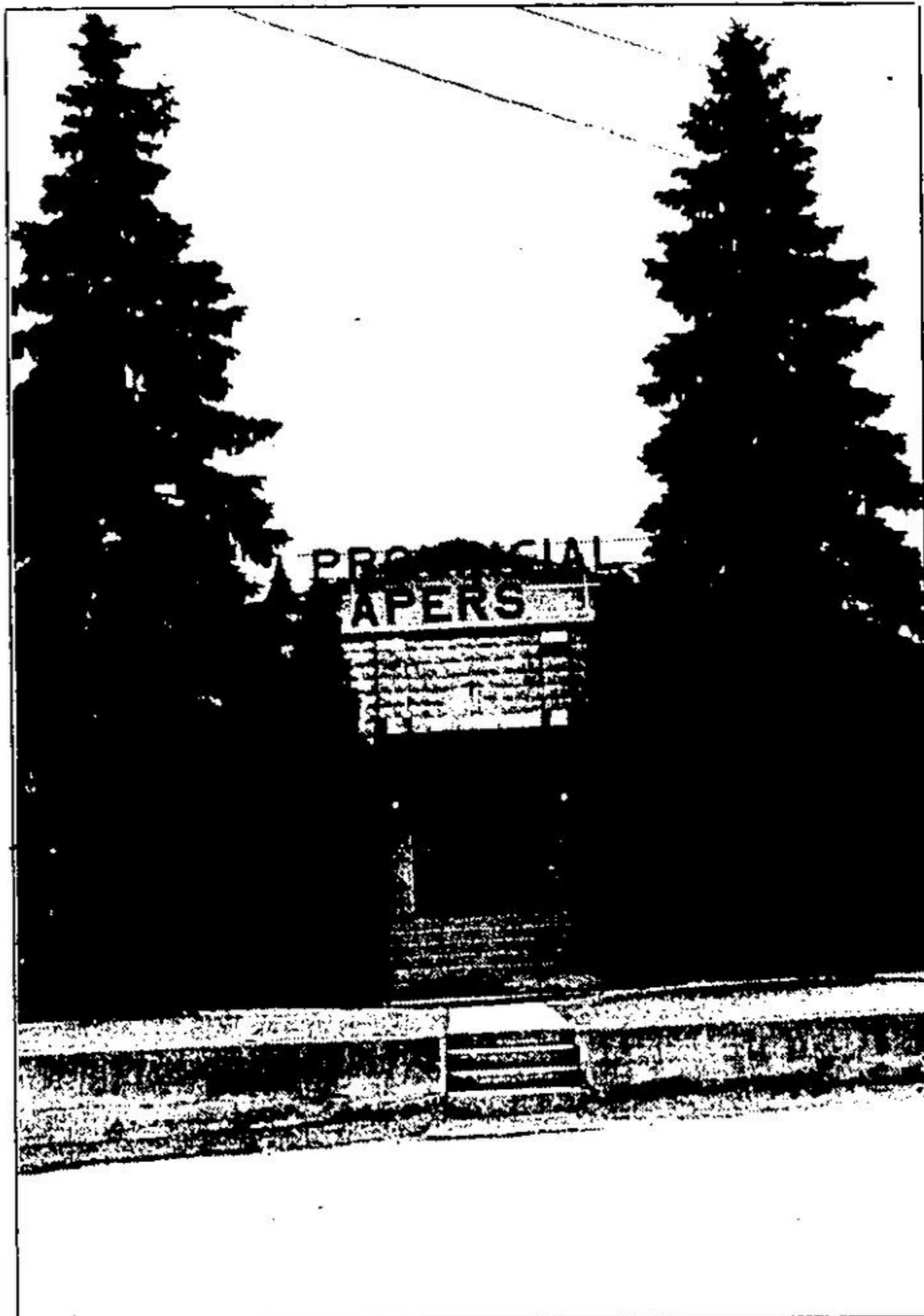
Police were called to the scene by the 19-year-old woman who told police the argument started when she told the accused she no longer wanted to live with him and was going to leave him.

Police say the 17-year-old accused became very upset and struck the victim over the head with a plastic bird bath. Then, say police, he pushed her to the couch and choked her with one hand while making his other hand into a fist. She agreed not to leave him so he would stop choking her.

The accused ran out of the residence when police arrived but police gave chase on foot and caught him, taking him to the ground. Police say he had possession of a utility knife which was opened all the way.

When police asked him what he was going to do with the knife, he said he was going to kill himself.

The accused, from Acton, appeared in court Tuesday for a bail hearing on charges of choking and assault level one.



The closure of Provincial Papers in Georgetown earlier this year is not only a sign of tough economic times. It also signifies a change in Halton Hill's industrial base from low level manufacturing companies to high tech companies, agree local politicians. (Herald photo)

ARE HIGH PRICES CRUSHING YOU?



THEN COME TO R.E. McCALL'S MEN'S WEAR

20% - 50%

OFF STOREWIDE

POLO GANT
NAUTICA JANTZEN
MEXX FARWEST

R.E. McCALL

211 Guelph St. Northview Centre Men's Wear Beside The Police Station

"A Little Out of Sight But So Is Our Selection"

Keep Your Trailering Safe!

With The Right Towing Equipment

by **DRAW-ITE**



TRUNNION BAR

REESE

* CLASS I
* SPORT FRAME
HITCHES

EAZ-LIFT

REMOVABLE DRAWBAR



OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK!

HALTON TRAILER SALES & RENTALS

R.R. 1, GEORGETOWN Trafalgar Rd. & Hwy. 7 877-4266