Hydro Commission settles two-year pact with employees

By BEN DUMMETT The Herald

Halton Hills Hydro Commission has settled on a two-year contract with its employees, which calls for percentage pay hikes of 5.25 per cent in the first year and 4.75 per cent in the second year, confirmed Commission Manager Gerry Trudell during an interview Tuesday.

Canadian Union of Public Employees, (CUPE), Local 3387 represents the utility's 38 union employees.

Mr. Trudell described negotiations as "fair and congenial." The union has been without a contract since April 1. However, the two sides could only get together to begin talks in May, said Mr. Trudell,

The pay hikes reflect similar agreements signed between other commission's and their employees, said Mr. Trudell, The Metro commisions settled their employee contracts in January and set a pattern for other utilities to follow," he said.

Aside from the pay increases, the two-year deal also includes minimal improvements to some

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benefits, said Mr. Trudell.

According to Mr. Trudell, the new contract is a little lower than the previous one: In that contract the employees received a 5.75 per cent increase in each of the two years.

Union local president Steve Townsley said negotiations went

"pretty smoothly." Asked if the employees are satisfied, he said they voted in favor of the contract.

Mr. Townsley couldn't provide figures for the percentage of · union members' who voted in favor of the contract.

Aside from the union contract

settlement, Commission management also settled on average percentage pay increases of 5.25 per cent and 4.75 per cent over the next two years, said Mr. Trudell.

Saying the utility's five management employees are satisfied with their pay in-

creases, Mr. Trudell emphasizzed they are in line with management salary increases at other utilities.

Management's previous percentage salary increases were 5.0 and 5.75 per cent in each year respectively, said Mr. Trudell.



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