

Licence issuers only asking for fair shake

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

The province should either start to negotiate with the 288 Ontario Motor Vehicle Licence Issuers in good faith, or face the consequences, warns Dave Clark, operator of the Georgetown-based Ontario Motor Vehicle Office.

The consequences include the issuers shutting down the licence issuing system starting March 1, 1992, he said.

Mr. Clark said he and the other private issuers fear it's only a matter of time before the province eliminates their jobs in an attempt to streamline the licensing renewal process.

He explained his association, the Ontario Motor Vehicle Licence Issuers' Association, is aware the province is considering a plan to form a crown corporation that would deal with all vehicle-related licensing.

In light of this possibility, Mr. Clark worries his job could be eliminated.

Mr. Clark said he has become that much more concerned since finding out recently the Insurance Broker Association of Ontario has informed its membership the province wants insurance brokers to oversee all driver and vehicle data bases, and vehicle registration renewals.

If this happens, his, as well as most other offices, will eventually go bankrupt, said Mr. Clark.

Vehicle registration renewals represent between 50 and 60 per cent of the issuers' business, he said.

As for a crown corporation being formed, the province has only, officially, told the issuers- changes will be made to the license issuing

system, said Mr. Clark

Without providing specifics, the issuers have been told the province has a moral obligation to them in the wake of any changes that take effect.

Mr. Clark wants that moral obligation to either equal a five-year contract or compensation packages for each issuer, based on the number of years they have run their operation.

The only other appropriate provincial action would be for the province to appoint an arbitrator to decide what constitutes a fair compensation package.

"If there is no place for us in their plans the province should be up-front about it," said Mr. Clark.

"The NDP is supposed to represent labor and small business, so we expect something to be done," he added.

Mr. Clark said his association's next meeting is scheduled for January, and at that time he will be calling for his membership to support the idea of shutting down the system if the province doesn't offer the operators a contract or a compensation package.

Mr. Clark explained March is the best month to shut down the system as an effective form of protest because it's during this month the province's heavy truck operators must renew their licenses.

He thinks the association membership will support shutting down the system because they took a similar action this past Nov. 11. This is the first time the issuers have taken such action as a protest against the province, said Mr. Clark.

"This is serious, our livelihoods are at stake," he said defiantly.

Hospital tree-lighting

Remember when Christmas meant sharing the joys and blessings of the season with family, friends and neighbours?

Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital is bringing back these traditional pleasures in a special Christmas celebration.

The Hospital will be holding an old-fashioned tree-lighting ceremony on Thursday, December 12th, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Using an old-fashioned theme, the evening's festivities will include carol singing, hot chocolate, spiced tea and Christmas sweets.

The event will be structured to raise funds through a "Buy A Light" Campaign.

A donation of \$2.00 for one light, or three for \$5.00 will go towards the Georgetown Hospital Foundation and will be used for Hospital Equipment.

The Buy a Light Campaign will formally kick off November 30th, from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Hospital staff and volunteers will be selling Christmas lights at a number of Georgetown area locations such as Loblaws, Zellers,

Young's Pharmacy, Georgetown Library and Moore Park Plaza. Lights will also be on sale at the Hospital Gift Shop from November 30th through to December 12th.

Explains Linda Dawson, chairperson of the 30th Anniversary Committee, "we're confident that the campaign and Christmas carolling will become an annual event for Georgetown."

Help support your local hospital, Buy A Light. And come out and enjoy the sights and sounds of an old-fashioned Christmas, December 12, 1991.

For more information, contact Linda Dawson at 873-0111.

Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital is a 112-bed primary, acute care and long term care facility. As a primary health care provider, the Hospital is committed to identifying health care needs for Halton Hills, and developing programs in co-operation with other health agencies.

Established in 1961, Georgetown Hospital celebrates its 30th Anniversary this year.

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