



Kay Hill has big plans, including travelling, now that she has retired after 44 years at Smith and Stone. Kay was honored by the company employees May 31 with a gift, presented by Richard Hancock, supervisor of plastics and

Caroline Ross, personnel supervisor. Kay worked at Smith and Stone between 1941-47 and 1953-91, doing various jobs in the assembly department as well as being very much involved in the Smith and Stone Credit Union.

CVCA determined to expropriate Willow Park

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on their homes, which must be paid in full once they leave the park.

"We all bought our homes at market price, now some of those homes may be worth only \$3,000 or \$4,000," Croft said. "When we paid \$40,000 for them, we cannot rent a house with that kind of mortgage, too. Who's going to rent to us if we already have a mortgage? We're in a catch-22 situation. Yes, we understand your situation, but you must understand ours."

Neighbor Bernadene Kavanagh appealed to the CVCA and the Town on a "moral basis" to consider the human element of the expropriation. In an emotional plea, Kavanagh explained that her son suffers from immune-deficiency, adding the stress of caring for her son and worrying about losing her home is proving to be too much.

"My son continually runs the risk of infection — he's not allowed to go anywhere, except outside. I know he got sick after the expropriation, but my family cannot move," she said. "You are dwelling on saving lives (from flooding), but here is a child whose life is in danger. Are you going to take a chance of making him sick, or are you going to help us stay?"

"It doesn't seem feasible that everyone is talking of saving lives, but everyone's lives in the park is being destroyed. We go home every night and worry about where we are going to live. We need somewhere to go, but we also need an extension now...I'm not talking legally, I'm talking morally. You have a moral right."

Barron noted that the members of the Authority voted almost unanimously in April not to extend the deadline again, and to proceed with the expropriation.

In an interview, Barron said she will inform the members at their next meeting later this month of the residents' concerns, but didn't hold

much hope for a new decision.

CVCA solicitor Rick Winter explained that, unless the Authority changes its mind, the next step is to set a hearing date with a Milton judge to review the expropriation.

"My instructions are to proceed and use all speed (for a hearing)...At that time, there will be an opportunity for all the residents to speak, and it will be up to the judge to decide if and when they should move," Winter added. "If he decides that they should leave, he will issue a warrant to the sheriff, and he can set whatever date he wishes. It is under that form that this issue should be debated."

Winter added the process could take anywhere from two months to a year to complete, which will give the residents the breathing room they need.

However, Hendy scoffed at the time frame, arguing there is "no assurances" that the residents will be able to remain on the property for that long.

She appealed for the support of Town Council to request the CVCA for a six to 12 month extension, but she received little enthusiasm from the councillors present.

Their hesitation arises from the fact that, should a flood occur where life or property is lost, the Town and the conservation authority would be held liable.

The residents claim that flooding of that magnitude has never occurred at the site, even during the unusually heavy rainfalls that have fallen this year, but Barron disagreed. She claims serious flooding happened in the early 1980s, adding she has the pictures to prove it.

Hendy noted the residents would be willing to give up their rights to claim should a disaster occur, but Town lawyer Roger Beaman didn't think the agreement would hold up in court.

"Somewhere, some ingenious lawyer would find out how to make a claim," he said.

Board hires 280 assistants

There was good news at the May 23 Halton Board of Education meeting for more than half of the board's 418 instructional assistants. Trustees approved hiring 280 of them as permanent staff in September.

A whooping cheer could be heard outside the board room after trustees topped the agreement with a 5.5 per cent pay increase.

For a decade instructional assistants have been working in public school classrooms — English as a second language (ESL) classes, working individually with special needs students or assisting teachers with large classes.

The good news for the assistants didn't come without a fight. The most vocal opposition at the board meeting was from Burlington trustee Noel Cooper, who called the move "a significant increase in cost."

However, according to board employee services superintendent Sue Currie, the permanent hiring, wage increase and accompanying benefits amount to 0.06 per cent of the board's \$270 million budget.

Burlington trustee Don Cassidy echoed Cooper's concerns about the impact on the budget now and in the future.

"While the board has been under considerable financial pressure from the public and given that 80 per cent of the budget is inflexible (current staff overhead), I suggest that there is not enough room to move," warned Cassidy.

A motion from Cooper to see such hiring of instructional put off until September of 1992 was defeated.

Cooper argued that the issue of hiring the assistants on a permanent basis was new, being rushed through and wasn't included in the 1991 budget. But board business services superinten-

dent Jerry Jenkins said it's common practice to include provisions for any contract not yet settled in the budget, and that was done in this case.

Currie also said that the issue had been under review for more than a year in connection to pay equity reviews.

"It has been presented by the (assistants) themselves as an equity issue," Currie said.

She pointed out that the board is hiring the instructional assistants permanently since the positions have existed for more than 10 years and aren't expected to disappear in the near future.

Instructional assistant salaries range from \$13.21 per hour to \$16.81 per hour.

Deck fire

Approximately \$200 damage was done to a deck at a Hale Dr. home in Georgetown Wednesday morning. The fire started after the owner placed a pot of hot wax on the deck to cool after it ignited on the stove, according to the Fire Department. No injuries were reported.

Still investigating

The Ontario Fire Marshal's Office is still investigating the cause of Monday afternoon's fire that destroyed a rural Limehouse home. The Fire Department tagged the damage of the Sixth Line home at approximately \$375,000. The owners of the home, Robert and Margaret Brown, were in Georgetown shopping at the time of the blaze. No injuries were reported.

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