

McNally concerned businesses will suffer with MVA

By **STUART JOHNSTON**
Staff writer

The business community is going to suffer severely if Halton Region continues with its plans to implement market value assessment next year, warns local businessman and developer, Dave McNally.

McNally fears that the new tax, which bases property taxes on 1988 market values, will place such a burden on local businesses, that many may have to close their doors for good.

McNally is basing his predictions on personal experience. Last week, he contacted the provincial assessment office for information on how MVA is going to affect his

industrial properties in Georgetown. What he discovered was a shock to his system, to say the least.

Taxes on his 10-acre vacant property on Guelph St. are expected to rise 58 per cent next year, from \$24,120 to \$38,300. A 3.5 acre parcel on Todd Rd., also vacant, will skyrocket 143 per cent, from \$6,370 to \$15,480. A Mill St. property is predicted to jump 53 per cent, while taxes on another building with industrial outdoor storage will rise by 50 per cent.

McNally is so enraged, and discouraged about Halton's plans for MVA, that he's taking on a personal crusade to garner some support from local businesses. He will be



DAVE McNALLY

"I'd like to make a point that the timing of this whole thing is absolutely ridiculous — a time when nobody is making any money,"

addressing regional councillors with his concerns on Dec. 2, the same day Ward 1 (Acton) councillor Rick Bonnette will attempt to convince his colleagues to open the matter up again for dis-

McNally said. "Why tinker with the system during the worst economic times since the Great Depression...? The percentage increases are just way out of line. We can't be increasing taxes all of the time. Speaking from the heart, I just can't afford to pay, and I honestly believe it's wrong."

McNally explained that landowners with vacant parcels, or large tracts of land, are going to be hit hardest with MVA. He questioned the logic of hitting businesses with more taxes, at a time when they are struggling to stay afloat, and wondered aloud "where the incentive" to go into business is.

"People won't be able to keep

vacant land to try and attract industries to the town anymore," he warned. "We're a small business, holding a few acres, but what about those with hundreds of acres? How are they going to be affected? No one will be able to afford to hold properties for any length of time. The taxes are just going to kill you."

"This has to end — I think we're over-taxed. I think it will get to a point where there's no money left, and no incentives to be in business... The general feeling now from the business community is a sick feeling. It's not as worthwhile anymore as it once was, and the consensus among businessmen is, if they can get out, they would."

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News

Digest

Body identified as local man

Halton police say the body discovered by hunters in the bush west of Eighth Line and north of 22 Sideroad last Friday morning is Thomas Paul Melanson, 44, of Georgetown.

"The cause of death was a single gunshot wound to the head," said acting inspector Mike Eacrett. "Foul play is not suspected."

Eacrett says Melanson had come to the attention of Halton police on May 12, 1992 as a missing person. He says family members reported the man said he was going camping back in March.

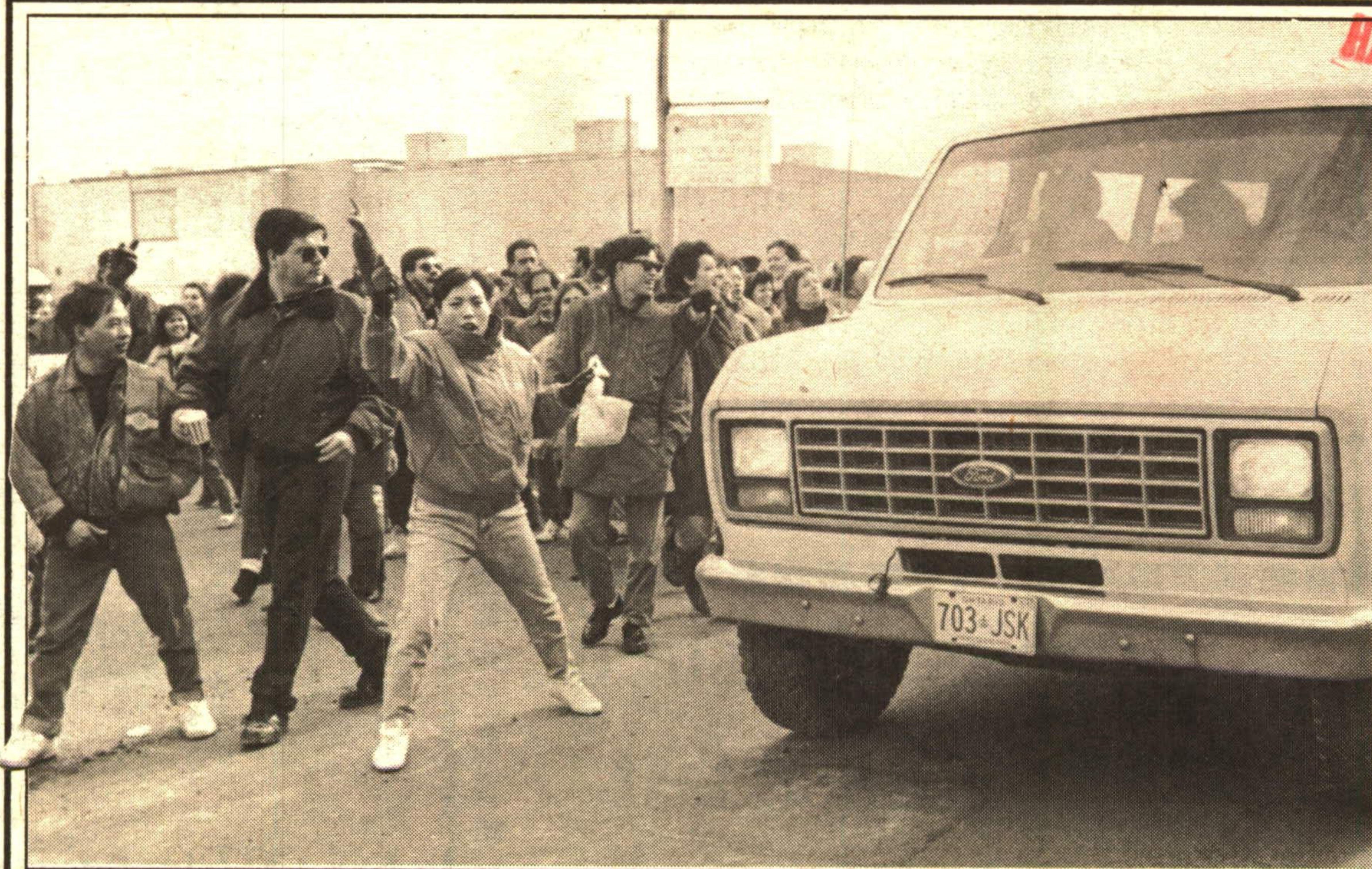
Eacrett says the man was known for hiking and camping on the Bruce Trail, and that his family hadn't heard from him since March 28.

Eacrett says police received reports after May 12 that the man had been spotted in Georgetown.

The body, found in a concealed campsite, "was in an advanced state of decomposition and had been there for several months" according to Eacrett.

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On strike!

Strikers at Maple Lodge Farms have repeatedly disrupted the movement of company trucks, vans and buses in and out of the Winston Churchill Boulevard plant as 1,000 members of the United Commercial and Food Workers Union, Local 175 walked out Monday after-

noon. Traffic from Embleton Road to Steeles Avenue has been disrupted as Peel Regional Police have been on hand to attempt to keep order on the picket lines. See story on page 3.

Photo by GEORGE BESHIRI

Local bank robbed at gunpoint

Police are looking for a man who robbed the CIBC at 82 Main St. in Georgetown Thursday morning.

Acting inspector Mike Eacrett says at 10:48 a.m. a lone male carrying a briefcase and a handgun entered the bank, pushed a customer aside, pointed the gun at a teller and demanded an undisclosed amount of cash.

After receiving the money the man fled on foot. No shots were fired and no one was injured.

He is described as a white male between 18 and 25 years old, 6' tall, weighing 140 to 180 pounds with a slim build. Police report the man had bad teeth or had

something in his mouth and that he may have been wearing makeup at the time of the robbery.

Eacrett says the man was wearing a red and black plaid jacket, a light colored sweater with a hood, and a black toque. He was also wearing blue track pants with writing on the legs, light socks and running shoes with blue trim.

The investigation is continuing.

Anyone with information should call acting inspector Mike Eacrett at 878-5511 ext. 2115, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-668-5151.

Woman killed as chimney collapses

Tragedy struck a rural Ballinafad family Thursday night after high winds collapsed their home's chimney, killing a 49-year-old woman.

Elizabeth Mannell and her 18-year-old daughter Deborah were sitting in their family room at approximately 9:27 p.m. when high winds blew the chimney through the roof above them, according to the fire department.

After the debris rained down upon them, the floor of the family room then gave way and everything collapsed into the basement.

Police, fire and ambulance services were immediately called to the Trafalgar Rd. and 32 Sideroad home.

Firefighters attempted to get into the basement to search for the two women, but the remnants of the floor kept collapsing beneath them, according to the fire department. They finally dropped into the room, and began their search, and soon found Deborah buried under parts of the roof.

After another 40 minutes of searching, they located Elizabeth under a pile of rubble, but she was pronounced dead at the scene.

Her husband, Bill, was sick in bed at the time of the accident, and was not injured, police say. Deborah was taken to Georgetown District Memorial Hospital, where she was treated and released.



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