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"ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED"

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1993

## Scrutiny angers 'blood' business

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Acton Tanner

Weekend odour complaints in Acton have been traced to a business known as the "blood factory" on Commerce Court.

"We are the guilty party," said Ontario Protein engineer Cliff Evans last Wednesday.

"We had some new product come in last week. There's always spills and we had some blockages in the tanks. There is no problem with the discharge from the natural gas burning process, but there will always be smells, especially with certain weather conditions" Evans said.

Last month *The Acton Tanner*

reported that both the Ministry of Environment and Halton Region are monitoring the research and development process at Ontario Protein, which is trying to develop a system to convert animal blood into a pet food and plant food additive.

Evans said he hopes to solve the latest odour problem by scrubbing the air in the 10,000 gallon storage tanks.

Evans complained he is being harrassed by government officials. "We have the Town on our neck and we have the MOE on our neck. They practically want us to stop our work and get them reports," Evans grouched.

"The press in Ontario is very powerful and the Province can't stand the heat so it's fighting by chewing up industry. Everybody has gone green, but they're also hungry because industry is moving to the States," Evans said.

"Once we prove what we're doing it wouldn't hurt me to move from Acton. We'd lose our set-up money if we moved, but if it is going to be continuous harrassment, then I don't know."

Evans agrees that neighbouring residents have a right to complain about the smell but also thinks they would be better off if they did not know that the blood drying plant was there.

"If you live near a cookie plant you're going to smell cookies.

"Same thing with rubber and pulp and paper. There will always be a bit of an odour in our plant when weather conditions are bad," Evans said.

Ahmed Hamis, Halton Region's industrial waste abatement inspector, said testing over the past month has convinced him that Ontario Protein is not putting anything into the sanitary sewer system.



REGION CHAMPS: Acton High School sent nine Science students to the recent Halton Region finals at Burlington's Lester B. Pearson High. Amy Tawse, front middle, and Katie Holmes, front right, won in the Life Science and Behavioral Science categories. With the winners are back row, left to right, Jill Vanderzand, Shannon Bailey, Tricia Holly, Lee-Anne Goy and Lucy Reed. Front left is Lisa Gainwood. (Doug Harrison photo)

## Holmgren in court

An Acton babysitter, charged with killing one and injuring another of her charges, made a brief court appearance in Milton yesterday (Tuesday).

Heather Holmgren, mother of a baby girl, will be back in court Monday, June 14 to set a date for a preliminary hearing on charges of manslaughter and aggravated assault.

Holmgren, free on \$25,000 bail, was charged April 5, almost three months after the death of a six-month-old Acton boy in her care.

Before tests showing the baby boy had been assaulted were back, a 6-and-a-half-month-old baby girl in Holmgren's care was rushed to hospital after falling ill.

Doctors later said the baby, who recovered, had been assaulted.

## Town service cuts likely

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Acton Tanner

The cumulative impact of Provincial deficit fighting plans is "starting to hurt" in Halton Hills.

Reacting to last week's NDP budget, Town treasurer Ray King said the budget measures will increase taxes by \$67,000 a year.

"Like all taxpayers we'll have to pay the new eight per cent sales tax on insurance premiums and sand and gravel," King explained in an interview Thursday.

"The July 1 introduction of some of the measures means a half-year impact of \$38,500. That's \$38,500 that we haven't

budgeted for. Add that to the \$147,408 the Town lost in unconditional Provincial grants and there is \$186,000 unbudgeted," King explained.

"We either have to find ways to reduce almost \$200,000 in expenditures from the budget we just approved, or increase taxes.

"Obviously, Council will make the final choice, but in my mind it would be very clear that they will want to find the necessary cuts to not increase taxes," said King, who noted the economics gets much worse when the social contract is factored in.

"In theory, Queen's Park says

the social contract will have no effect on municipal ratepayers. In theory, it may not have any effect on the tax dollar because of the way that they would work it, but it surely would affect the ratepayers," King argued.

"If you take 12 days labour from all employees, then obviously we don't cut as much grass or plough as many roads," King said.

King, who briefed Council on the budget's impact last night (Tuesday), predicted the Province will withhold five per cent more in grants and transfers to get the wage concessions it wants from Ontario's 900,000 civil servants.

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