

Strike delays start of OMB hearing

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

The strike by Ontario's public servants forced adjournment of an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing into a proposed rural estate subdivision west of Acton.

Although five days had been set aside for the Williams subdivision hearing, on Monday OMB member Wendy King agreed with a request from Jack William's lawyer, supported by lawyers for the Town and Halton Region, that the hearing be adjourned because the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) strike made it difficult to get Ministry staff to come and testify as witnesses.

William's lawyer Bill Mander-son also argued that issues he thought had been resolved - fish and fish habitat and agricultural issues - were still on the table for the Board to consider and that there had never been any opportunity to have a pre-hearing conference on the applications to try to narrow or "scope" the issues.

Lawyers for both the Town and Region also supported that call for

a pre-hearing as a means of shortening the process and lowering the cost of the hearing and to give all parties more information about their positions on the issues.

King ruled the full hearing would be adjourned until the week of July 29 and this week would be used for a pre-hearing.

Neighbours of the Williams site, on the west side of the Halton Hills-Milton Town Line between 17 and 20 Sideroads, were disappointed with the adjournment.

"We've done our homework and came prepared to proceed," said Acton resident Marcel Brunschwiler, who lives across from the proposed development.

"It's going to cost us more money to delay it and we have nothing to gain from the status quo."

The 20-estate lot Williams subdivision was approved by a one-vote margin at Town Council, approved by the Region and appealed to the OMB by the neighbours who have a number of concerns including the impact of the development on the environment and on the Town Line.



STYLISH SERVICE: School counsellor Kevin Dorscht serves up a plate of spaghetti to Scott Inns as wife Jan and son Brandon, 10, wait for theirs at McKenzie-Smith Bennett's spaghetti dinner held last Sunday as a fundraiser for its drop-in centre and Breakfast Club. (Karen Wetmore photo)

Early eye exams urged for children

Special to The Tanner

The Canadian Association of Optometrists (CAO) is celebrating its 1996 Vision Awareness Week

campaign (March 3 to 9), during which Actonites are reminded, it's never too early for your child's first eye exam.

"As with all our public education efforts, we are advocating prevention during Vision Awareness Week," says Acton's Dr. John Pond. "Regular eye examinations are essential in maintaining good eye and vision health, and the earlier exams start, the better."

During Vision Awareness Week, optometrists across Canada will step up their efforts to teach parents, other health professionals and educators there are many vision conditions that are not easy to detect without a proper eye exam. Some problems, such as strabismus (crossed eyes) and amblyopia (also known as 'lazy eye') can lead to permanent vision loss if not treated at a young age.

'Lazy eye' results when vision in one eye is weaker than the other. To avoid seeing double, the child ignores the weak eye and uses only the strong eye. It is virtually impossible for parents to detect it

because the good eye performs so well, and masks the problem.

According to Dr. Pond, regular eye exams are important because so much of what we learn - some say 80 per cent - is learned using vision. Undiagnosed poor vision inhibits childhood development.

"An optometrist can fully examine a child even before he or she can read or speak," says Dr. Pond. "The vast majority of vision problems can be successfully treated with either vision training or spectacles and, in special cases, contact lenses."

"Young children have no basis for comparison of what their vision should be, and will accept limited vision as normal until someone identifies the problem."

"It makes sense to ensure our children have healthy eyes and vision as they go through the most important developmental years, and as they prepare for the complex visual demands they will face as they get ready to start school."

For more information, contact Dr. Pond at 853-4300.

Legion celebrates 65th anniversary

LEGION NEWS

BY MIKE MANUEL
P.R.O. Branch 197

On March 24 our Branch celebrates our 65th anniversary.

Late in 1930, Zone 13 was granted permission for the formation of a Branch of the Canadian Legion in Acton and Charter number 197 dated March 27, 1931 was granted.

Beardmore and company granted, lease-free, a clubhouse and on April 21, 1931 a Charter night banquet was held for our 20 members. Our list of past-presidents is second to none, starting with Comrade W.

Gould in 1931. Through the growing years we had Comrades J.M. MacDonald, G.H. Musselle, J.A. Chapman, S.F. Snow, and A.E. Padbury, who led us to 1947.

In 1947, with 167 members, the Branch moved into the Lantz building on Main St. N.

A few presidents, who looked after the administration of the Branch through this second generation, were Comrades A. Kirkness, L. Duby, R.M. Storey, W. Mattocks, G.W. Beatty, V.J. Patrick, W.H. Peal, J.A. Milne, S.D. Gunn, G. James, R.H.L. Angell.

On Sept. 13, 1974 this Branch was closed and on Sept. 14 the Union Jack and Canadian ensign

were raised in front of our present premises on Wright Street. Over the past years our membership has grown steadily to just under 700.

Our latest presiding presidents have been comrade F.C. Allen, A.J. Irwin, J.H. Goy, A. Waldie, J.F. Higgins, L. Shone, J. Phillip, J. Buchanan, G. Jeffrey and presently F. Koen.

Tickets are available at the Branch for members only, for \$5 for the March 24 festivities. This fun-filled day will also see a serious side, with the presentation of service and honours awards and the initiation of a number of new members.

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