

Rockwood Gardens closed, over 40 jobs lost

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Rockwood Miller

It didn't come as a complete surprise, but employees of Rockwood Gardens, a mail order seed, bulb and plant company, were dismayed and disappointed when they lost their jobs last week.

Last Tuesday, the 40 to 45 employees

were told the American parent company, Foster and Gallagher, had declared bankruptcy and they were to gather their personal belongings and leave.

"It's a bloody shame," said lead hand Barb Leach of Acton, adding they'd had some layoffs recently, but the closure is "quite painful" for everyone.

"The labour board is sending us forms

so we can file for severance and vacation pay and our last week's wages, but insured creditors get paid first and there might not be much left for any employees," she said.

Lucy Lamoreaux, who worked at Rockwood Gardens for 24 years, said after a number of recent layoffs, they knew the company was "in trouble."

"There were work slowdowns as business was dropping and last year there were a lot of (job) cuts at our head office at Michigan Bulb," Lamoreaux said.

A recorded phone message at Rockwood Gardens said they were experiencing high call volumes and asked callers to be patient until their call could be answered.

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What's Inside



Students from MSB received scholastic and special awards at graduation night. See Page 7.



Work on Rockwood's first Habitat for Humanity houses is well along and completion is due this week. See Page 6.



Medieval feasts were popular as schools wound down for summer. See photos on Page 12.



Here's one truck that never made it around the corner of the Fourth Line and 17 Side Road. See photo on Page 3.

INSERTS

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GOT A PHOTO OF A BEAUTY SPOT in The New Tanner's circulation area? Send it in and we'll use it in colour during the summer months, if it is deemed suitable. Memory Gardens, of course, is one of Acton's prettiest places, where Mayor Kathy Gastle, Cr. Clark Somerville and Horticultural president Max MacSween posed recently. — Ted Tyler photo

Summer schools attract over 4,000

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

For approximately 4,000 public and separate school students in Halton, school is not out for summer.

They are enrolled in summer school with both boards of education, and while most are high school students who either failed a credit course or are upgrading their mark, 700 of them are elementary and middle school students (Grades 4 through 8) who are taking remedial classes.

Educators with both the Halton public and separate school boards say the number of summer school students are up by at least 10 per cent, and many because they failed math or new Grade 10 courses, including civics and career studies.

"We've seen a significant

increase in the number of students enrolled in Grade 9 and 10 math," said Halton District School Board summer school supervisor David Knight on Friday, adding they are running 10 classes in those subjects, double the number of several years ago.

"We're also seeing a radical decrease in the number of students enrolling in English. We used to run 10 classes and now we're down to three, but I don't know why."

Acton high school students attending summer school can enroll with either the public or separate school board. The public board doesn't offer busing for secondary school courses and just one Acton student is enrolled at the public board's summer school in Burlington. The separate board didn't have figures on how many

Acton students were attending summer school at Bishop Reding or W.I. Dick public school. Between 15 and 18 Grade 7 and 8 students from Acton are enrolled in summer schools to take remedial classes in English and math, being taught in Georgetown or Milton.

If a high school student

received a mark of 40 or above, they're eligible to take a two-week upgrade course offering 55 hours of study, half of the normal credit time. Students who didn't get a mark of 40, or those who want to gain a new credit, can sign up for a four week, 110-hour summer class.

Elementary school stu-

False alarm, hay blaze

What turned out to be a false alarm sent Acton firefighters racing to the Blue Springs Scout camp on the Sixth Line, Nassagaweya, at 12:28 last Wednesday afternoon. An alarm had malfunctioned.

Four hours later, firefighters were called to the Sixth Line east of Acton, where a hay bale was burning in a field south of Highway 7. Firefighters tore the bale apart and extinguished the flames.

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