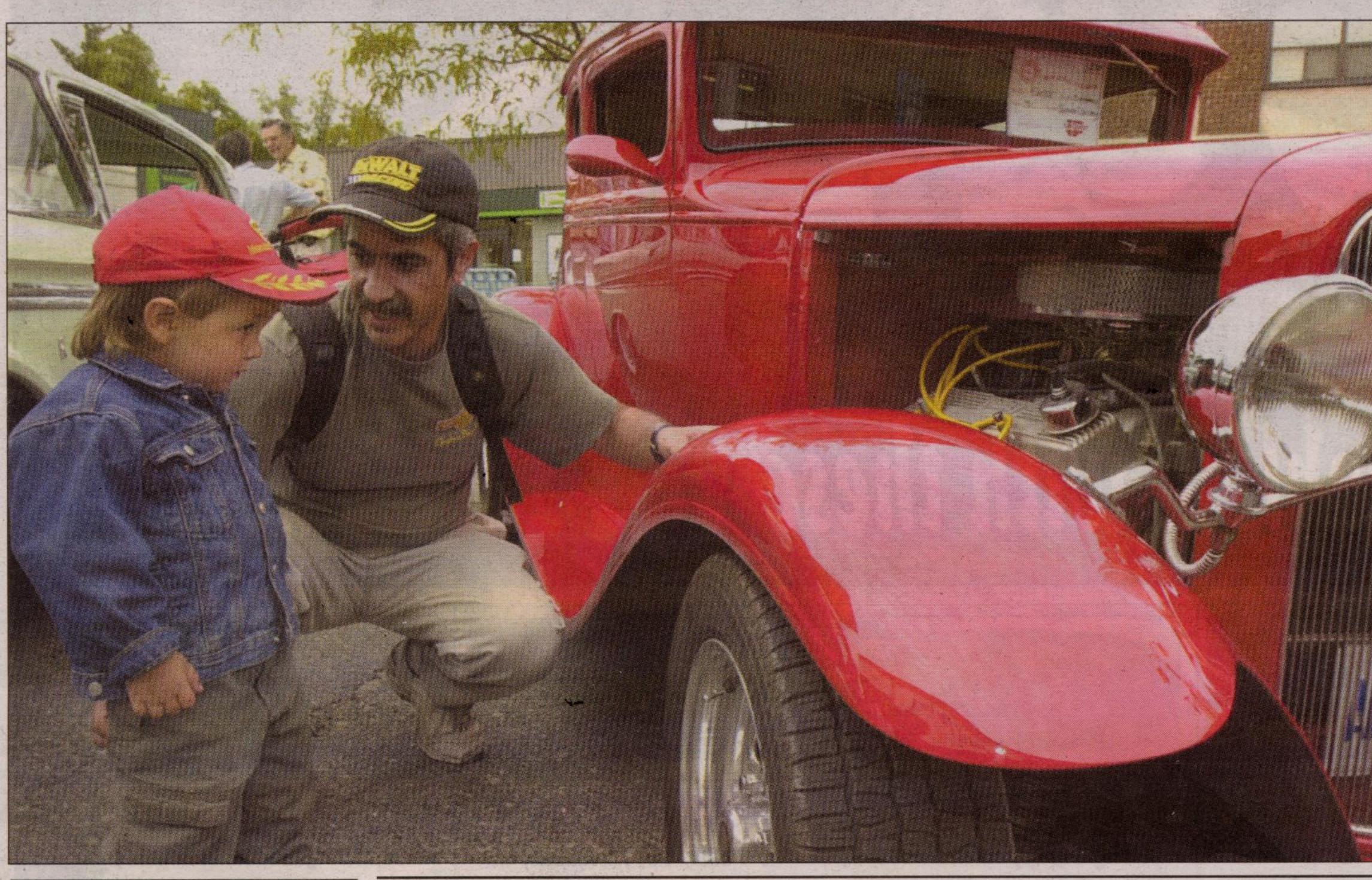
# Wednesday, August 28, 2002 48 Pages Vol. 125 No. 21 · Ontario's Number One Community Newspaper ·

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#### Cruisin' the car show

Max Freedman was suitably impressed with this vintage automobile during the third annual Rock 'n Roll 'n car show held Friday in down-Georgetown. town Young Max took in the show with his dad Rob as dozens of classic automobiles drew hundreds of car buffs. Proceeds from the show, which also featured Rolly Rocker and the Hemi Heads, went to the William Osler Health Centre.

> Photo by Shawn McAlpine

# September 3-8, 2002

16-page Georgetown Market Place 10th anniversary section

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## High school teachers hint at job action

The head of Halton's public high school teachers' union is promising patience—for a while.

The Halton District School Board's secondary school teachers will return to the classroom next Tuesday without a contract.

Their current collective agreement expires at the end of August, as does the deal between the board and its elementary teachers.

Joe Harwood, president of District 20 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), says the two sides will soon sit down to discuss non-monetary contract issues.

But deal-making is largely on hold until a review of the provincial funding formula for education is completed in November.

And if that review doesn't result in more money for school boards to pass along to their teachers, union officials are promising a difficult second term.

Last week, Earl Manners, president of OSSTF, warned that members could be

prepared to strike as early as February, if money to the board and we have a successnew collective agreements aren't negotiat- ful negotiation, with a deal in place before ed by then.

Like the Halton board, many of the province's 69 school boards have passed balanced budgets that include no additional money for contract negotiations.

"We're fully aware that we're patient until November and then we'll do some analyzing and if things are not positive, we'll consider some action for February," said Harwood.

He said he believes Halton teachers agree with that plan, although he added that February's "action" could take a variety of forms aside from a strike.

Harwood said he was disappointed the board opted to pass a budget that had no money allocated for a collective agreement with the teachers, despite an offer by OSSTF to accelerate negotiations to satisfy the board's budget timelines.

"I remain hopeful that the government reviews the funding formula, allocates February," Harwood added.

Halton Hills Trustee and board chair Ethel Gardiner echoed Harwood's sentiments. "I'm very hopeful the funding formula review will recognize the need to include money for collective agreements."

She added she isn't surprised by the talk of potential labour unrest, but "the Halton board won't be the only board to experience these difficulties if more money isn't poured into public education."

Both Gardiner and Harwood hinted that significant salary increases might be required to settle a new contract, pointing to recent settlements with provincial nurses and teachers offering raises in the neighbourhood of five to 10 per cent.

Harwood added the board's decision to give director of education Dusty Papke an 8.5 per cent salary increase has helped set the tone for upcoming negotiations.

—By Kim Arnott, special

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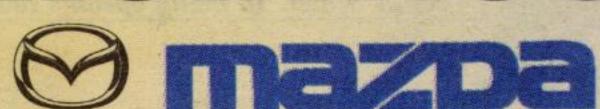
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