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Cafeteria staff at high school allege they were 'fired' without cause

Eight former Georgetown District High School (GDHS) cafeteria workers who say they were fired without cause have filed a complaint through the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

The eight women who cooked and served food and provided supervision in the school's cafeteria were expecting to return to work September 7. But when one of them inquired about coming into the school to sign her work schedule, she received an e-mail from GDHS principal Ron Maruya five days later— on Labour Day— telling her, "Thank you for previously working in the cafeteria at Georgetown District High School. However, your services are no longer required for this school year." The others were also notified by either e-mail or voice mail.

'We don't view it as a firing. We view it as a non-renewal of contract.'



— Dawn Beckett-Morton (Halton District School Board)

John Villella of the Office of Worker Representation filed the complaint against the school and the Halton District School Board last week on behalf of the eight women, who didn't want their names made public. The board has until Monday to respond to the complaint.

Maruya said, "at this point, I am unable to make any comment," and referred questions to school board administration.

Dawn Beckett-Morton, executive officer of human resources for the Halton District School Board, said the cafeteria staff was not fired.

"We don't view it as a firing. We view it as a non-renewal of contract."

Villella said the women were not contract employees. The cafeteria staff is laid off each summer— as

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Feathered friends and fun at the quarry

Dufferin Aggregates held its annual open house Saturday and the event featured a wide variety of demonstrations, games and contests for the younger set. (Above) Jen Sinisac of the Mountsberg Wildlife Centre shows off an owl during a birds of prey demonstration while three-year-old Phayden Morrison of Rockwood (left) did his own excavation work in a sandpile.

Photos by Yves Desjardins

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