

Ted Chudleigh says Curwood closing omen of the future

Curwood Packaging in Georgetown has announced it will cease operations by the end of March throwing almost 150 people out of work.

The plant closure will be a blow to the community and could be a sign of things to come, says Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh.

igh, opposition critic of Economic Development and Trade.

"The McGuinty Liberal government increased business taxes 34 per cent while the Canadian dollar rose from 68 cents to 86 cents U.S.," said Chudleigh. "What did they expect would happen?"

"Another manufacturing plant closes in Ontario and our Premier still has not developed a plan to maintain our employment base, Chudleigh charges. He hasn't done any meaningful investigation as to why these plants are closing, nor has he forwarded a strategy to help the displaced workers and their families cope with the sudden shift in their lives," said Chudleigh.

"Energy costs and taxation issues still have not

been addressed by the McGuinty Liberal government. We are going to keep seeing these closures until those problems are solved," Chudleigh predicts.

Curwood Packaging is based in Wisconsin and will consolidate its operations there. It is unclear how many of the Georgetown employees might move to the United States.

"The employees of Curwood and their families have taken the brunt of this blow which will be felt by the whole community of Georgetown," said Mr. Chudleigh. "I am pleased that Wellington - Halton Hills MP Michael Chong has stepped up and committed the resources of the federal government to help get those employees back on their feet."



SNOW DAY: These boys were quick to take advantage of Monday's school cancellations and enjoyed the day sliding at Rockwood Conservation Area. From left are Conor Devine, Nathan Howson, and Troy Hill. - Photo by Rebecca Ring

January was mildest month in recorded history - E.C.

January of 2006 will go down in history as the mildest January in recorded history for most of Ontario including these parts. In several cases, the former mark stood for more than 60 years.

The record temperatures were generally five to almost nine degrees above normal. Southern Ontario also reported a few days of double-digit-plus temperatures that brought out the joggers in shorts and t-shirts, says Environment Canada.

In turn, the milder temperatures generally increased the rainfall values and reduced the snowfall values in Southern Ontario. Snowfall in Warton, for example, has not been this low since 1964, but with more rain than usual the total precipitation is only three millimetres below normal. This trend was most noticeable in Wellington County, which broke high

precipitation and low snowfall records, respectively.

There were some exceptions. On January 9, an Alberta Clipper crossed Southeastern Ontario and dropped 10 centimetres of snow, along with a brief period of freezing rain.

Another storm system followed on its heels on January 21, with more freezing rain for Central Ontario before 15 to 20 centimetres of snow fell from Barrie to Ottawa.

Mild temperatures returned to the province following this storm and, on January 27, Thunder

Bay reached 9.5 degrees, making it the national hot spot for the day and breaking the former record of 3.9 degrees, set in 1944. This warm intrusion extended as far north as James Bay, where Moosonee reached 5.9 degrees and where a thunderstorm producing ice pellets and freezing rain was detected moving into Quebec.

The last storm of January hit Central Ontario on January 29-30, bringing 10 to 15 millimetres of rain south of a line from Parry Sound to Trenton.

Driver dies in crash north of Hillsburgh

A multi-vehicle collision on Wellington Road 24, north of Hillsburgh, on Monday morning resulted

in the death of one man and serious injuries to another.

A Wellington OPP investigation revealed that four vehicles were southbound and became involved in two separate minor collisions in a whiteout caused by blowing snow. Two of the drivers exited their vehicles as a Hillsburgh fire truck arrived to assist.

A southbound dump style truck, operated by Arthur Smitherman, 49, of Toronto, was unable to avoid the collisions and struck the four vehicles on the roadway as well as the two drivers who were out of the cars.

Craig Ostopovich, 38, of Mississauga, and Steven Ford, 53, of Flesherton were transported to Headwaters Hospital in Orangeville. Ford succumbed to his injuries later in the day. Ostopovich was admitted with head and pelvic injuries and is listed in stable condition.

The roadway was closed for approximately nine hours while Western Regional OPP Technical Traffic Collision Investigators and Wellington O.P.P. officers tried to piece the series of events together.

Investigation is continuing.

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