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February 15th, 2007 12:00 noon
 “Soup up Your Job Search Skills”

February 22nd, 2007 12:00 noon
 “Soup up your Interview Skills”

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Sobeys, union ratify agreement

The more than 600 workers at the Sobeys retail support centre in Milton ratified a new three-year collective agreement at a meeting on Jan. 31. Many of them are from Acton and area.

Last fall, Sobeys announced its plan to open a new distribution centre in Vaughan, which would have a huge impact on the workers, represented by Local 175 of the United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW), at the Milton location. The new contract includes seniority based severance offers,

a shift bid process, transition bonuses and severance packages.

Workers receive wage increases of 3 per cent in each year of the agreement. Full-time workers receive a lump sum signing bonus of \$650 and part-time receive \$300. Company contributions to the Canadian Commercial Workers Industry Pension Plan increases to 85 cents per hour over the course of the agreement term.

In addition, the company agrees to contribute \$150 per worker toward the Ad-

justment Committee, which will provide affected workers with job training, resume writing, EI assistance and other resources.

“It’s important that this agreement contain language

covering severance pay and similar compensation for workers who will lose their jobs as a result of the new facility Sobeys plans to open in Vaughan,” says Local 175 president Wayne Hanley.

January warm but colder than 2006

Temperatures in January of this year ended up well above normal in spite of the arrival of wintry weather in the second week of the month, Environment Canada reports. Even though average temperatures were two to four degrees above normal across the province, it was still much colder than January of 2006, the mildest January on record.

If you thought January this year was wet, you are correct. Environment Canada says rainfall was almost double the norm in Southern Ontario.

Snow? It tended to be below normal for the province. What if the rain had been snow? We’d be up to our necks now.

On January 15 a well developed storm system brought “significant amounts of freezing rain” to this neck of the woods. It made driving conditions hazardous and formed a crust over snow which had already fallen, making walking difficult

and sending salt sales higher as well as coating vehicles with ice.

As January receded, cold arctic air started to move in. As well as continuous falls of snow it led to below normal temperatures in February, much like the old-fashioned winters of yore when the mercury dipped well below zero on the old Fahrenheit scale for two weeks at a time.

Fahrenheit or Celsius the weather this week has been bone-chilling cold.

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