

Strike over ambulances back on duty

By Linda Kirby

It was with mixed emotions that 75 Halton-Mississauga Ambulance Co. driver-attendants and dispatchers gathered at Oakville's Halton Inn for a celebration bash Monday afternoon following settlement of a six-week-old strike by the workers.

The members of Local 207 of the Ontario Public Service Union voted 70 per cent in favour of accepting the company's last offer which was earlier rejected by the workers.

Grant Bruce, negotiator for the union, said the contract was ratified Monday morning following "two-and-a-half hours of stormy debate."

The agreement provides a 20.5 per cent wage hike over two years, or an hourly increase of \$1.39. Mr. Bruce said the base wage rate would rise from \$6.76 an hour to \$8.15 an hour by April, 1980.

Despite reaching the union's goal—wage parity with Ontario Ministry ambulance drivers, workers remained bitter over the loss of work hours. Under the new contract, the work week will be reduced from 42 hours per week to 40 hours per week by April 1980, and employees will then work eight-hour shifts instead of 10 and 14-hour shifts.

"All in all, we are somewhat relieved with the con-

tract, but disappointed it ended on a reduction of work hours," said Mr. Bruce.

He said the union would try to regain the lost hours in the next contract talks.

Mr. Bruce said he felt union employees "realized, to continue the strike would be foolhardy."

"I think it was the best we could have done," said union representative Gord Armes. "We got our money, then they (the company) came out with the 40-hour work week. We had our backs to the wall."

Mr. Bruce said the union didn't appreciate the reduced hours which the company introduced at the 11th hour.

However, he said, one of the selling features of the new bargain was the provision of overtime pay after 40 hours. Under the expired contract, workers were obliged to put in 44 hours before receiving time-and-a-half pay.

Hank Meyer, union president, admitted he was "not overwhelmingly enthusiastic" with the final outcome, but said he was glad the strike was over.

"I feel a sense of relief that I am going back to work and the public is no longer on my conscience."

It was during union celebrations that Mr. Meyer stood up and made a request of the membership to return to work quietly and "bury the hatchet".

The strike has been marred by several picket line confrontations, telephone harassment of both sides and malicious property damage.

The latest incident took place over the weekend when an ambulance parked outside the Burlington station, was spray-painted with the words scab driver. Glue was applied to the locks of the vehicle as well as those of the garage door and the supervisor's car.

"The chief concern Monday afternoon was how the workers were going to treat the supervisors after going back to work," said Mr. Bruce.

"It is going to take some difficulties. Our guys are still a little edgy and nervous," he said. "If something should be said by the other side, things could flare up."

Mr. Meyer said he asked the membership to put all the events in the past and hoped that management would do the same thing.

"It is all in the past. We have to go back and do the job we are paid to do," added Gord Armes.

Dennis Munch, company manager, said he was "quite pleased" with the vote outcome.

"I'm very glad the strike is over, mainly for the public's sake," he said.

"Nobody is a winner in the strike, but both sides are happy."

Although it will not be for another 18 months before both sides get together for contract talks, union negotiator Grant Bruce said he is already thinking ahead.

He said the union's paramount goal is to have the provincial ministry eventually take control of all private ambulance companies in Ontario.

Town may buy old Milton Inn

A "very cheap look" will be taken at the possibility of the town acquiring the old Milton Inn property.

Planning Director Bob Zsadanyi made the comment to Milton Council Monday night when council voted to authorize getting the land appraised.

The land, located at the corner of Main St. and Brown St., was offered to the town by real estate broker Hamish Harrison for \$200,000.

Mr. Zsadanyi said there are a number of possible uses for the land, ranging from commercial outlets to a parking lot to road realignment.

Mr. Zsadanyi said the latter option would involve re-routing Brown

St. so it meets James St. in a four-way intersection.

Campbell Thompson, town clerk, said the purpose of getting the land appraised was to see if the land could be obtained at a reasonable price.

Once that is established he said, the town could investigate the possible uses for the land.

He said the town should proceed one step at a time.

Councillor Rick Day agreed the town should go "one step at a time", but suggested it was going about it backwards.

Mr. Day said the town should decide on a use for the property before seeing if it can be acquired.

Man charged as 15-year-old raped

A 31-year-old Hamilton man has been charged with rape in connection with an attack on a 15-year-old Cayuga girl Friday night in the Milton area.

According to Halton Regional Police, the teen was hitchhiking to Brampton with two boys, ages 13 and 15, when the Hamilton man picked up the trio on Highway Five

near Walker's Line.

She told police the man drove the group to a bush area on Twiss Road north of Derry Road near a Boy Scout camp, when the incident took place.

According to police, the man forced her two companions into the bush before raping the girl.

The man left the group by the roadside and drove off.

Police said the girl flagged down an area motorist for help.

Police said they traced the man through several people, and received a description of the man from the rape victim and several individuals who recalled seeing him.

He will appear in Milton Provincial Court Friday for a bail hearing.

Rockwell takes back jobless employees

Two-hundred Rockwell employees laid off earlier this month have been called back to the Milton plant, but only for temporary duty.

The men were called back to fill in for vacationing staff, according to John Crnich, Rockwell manufacturing manager. Mr. Crnich said the

temporary jobs will last between two weeks and four weeks.

A total of 216 men were taken off the assembly line after reduced American car sales forced the plant to cut back on production.

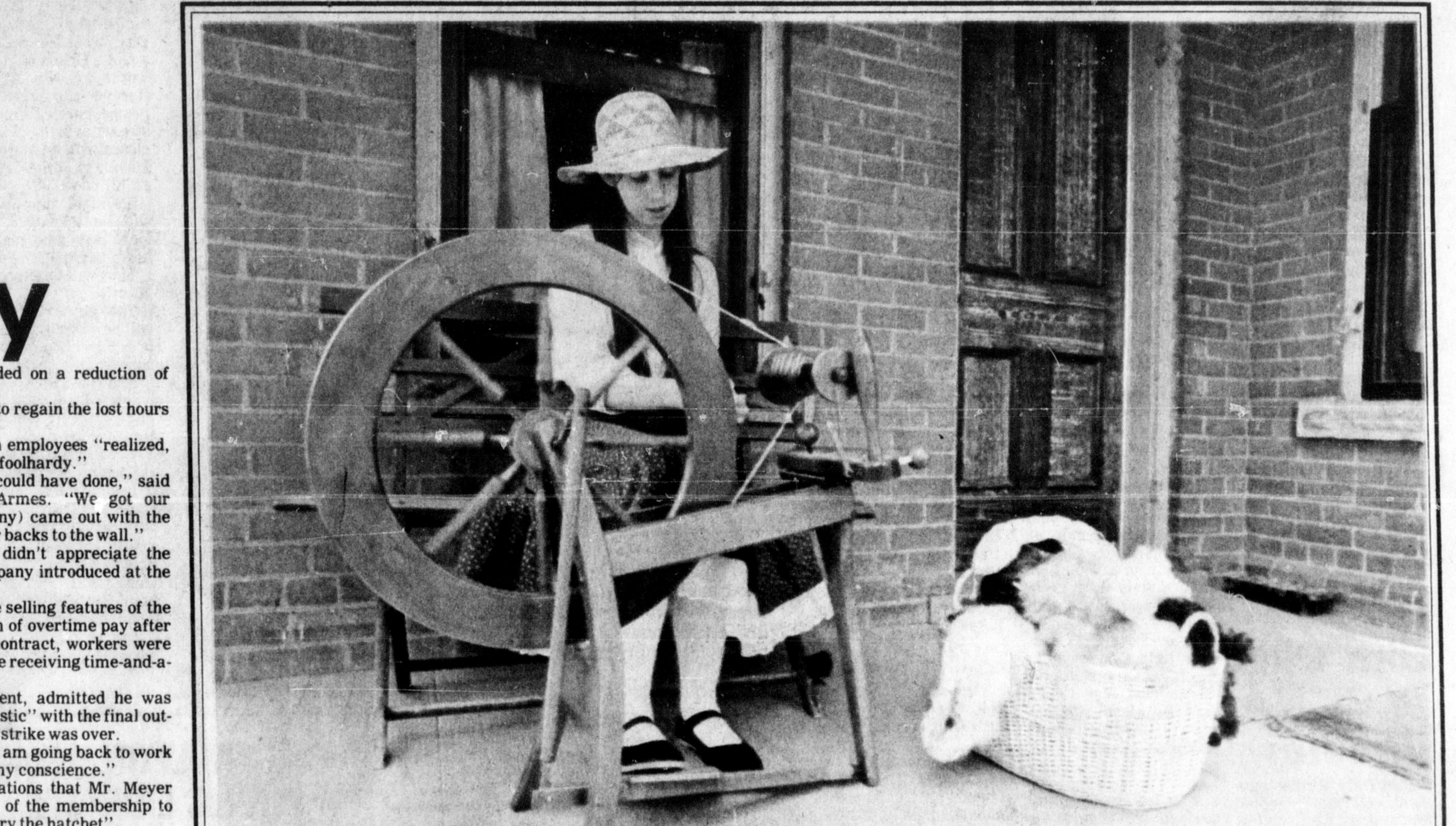
The local industry employs nearly 500 workers in the production of coil and leaf springs used in passenger cars, trucks and jeeps.

Mr. Crnich said it will be another two to three weeks before the company makes any plans for rehiring employees on a permanent basis.

According to Mr. Crnich, American car sales continue to fluctuate and the 1979 car inventory is "substantial".

Few employees laid off, have found other jobs said Mr. Crnich.

In addition to unemployment insurance, workers receive supplemental unemployment insurance benefits equal to 90 per cent of their present wages for one year.



AT BRONTE CREEK PARK just south of Milton, there's a variety of daily demonstrations and plenty of fun activities for both young and old. Bridget Carey, 17, sits on the porch of

Spruce Lane Farmhouse, at her ancient spinning wheel, in one of several demonstrations staged at various times of the year. For more photos, see Pg. C1.

Despite objections

Sidewalks to stay on Bell St.

The sidewalks on the southern extension of Bell St. will stay, despite objections from residents on the existing part of the street.

Milton Council Monday night voted to keep the sidewalks on the east part of the street fronting a park.

The park forms part of the new Bronte Meadows subdivision. Bell St. is being extended southward to form part of the subdivision.

Stella Parton, a resident of Bell St., said in a deputation to council, she is opposed to the sidewalk because it is unnecessary.

She said she didn't see how pedestrian traffic would use the sidewalk. Existing paths through the woods connect the existing homes with Milton District high school and the Milton Sports Centre she said.

Residents of newer homes she said, would

cut through the park to get to those places rather than use the sidewalk in front of the park.

Councillor Gord Krantz said he was sympathetic to Mrs. Parton, but predicted "pressures will be brought to bear someday to put that sidewalk in."

Councillor Rick Day said a sidewalk is supposed to separate pedestrians from traffic, and for that reason, he is in favour of keeping the sidewalk.

Mrs. Parton also claimed a number of trees immediately south of Bell St. were cut down despite assurances they wouldn't be.

Public Works Director Joe Pitushka said there were some trees he initially thought could be preserved. He told Mrs. Parton he later found he was wrong and the trees had to be cut down.

Mrs. Parton claimed the residents were promised the trees would only be cut in a 33-foot wide path to allow the road to go through. She said the path is actually closer to 66 feet wide.

The 33 feet corresponds to the actual travelled portion of the road. Mrs. Parton said she was promised that was the extent of the trees that would be cut.

She said she didn't have the promise in writing.

Mr. Pitushka said the wider path was needed to accommodate the other services, including the sidewalk.

Mrs. Parton protested, saying she didn't want the sidewalk.

Mr. Pitushka said the services, such as water mains and natural gas pipelines, go under the sidewalk and not under the road.

He said it didn't matter

whether or not there was a sidewalk, the trees would have to come down. He added trees would be planted to replace the ones that were torn down.

Festival of Nations attracts 12 cultures

A Festival of Nations will be held in Milton, Sept. 15.

A dozen nationalities will be giving people a taste of their cultures. Entry to each may be had by purchasing a passport.

The bearer of one of these allows entry to the halls and a chance to win a trip for two to anywhere Air Canada flies.

In addition, people who frequent the English pub have the chance of winning a ticket for two to England.

The organizing committee met at town hall Wednesday, July 25.

Representatives from the different ethnic communities heard plans for the closing to be on Main St.

This will feature performances by different groups on a stage and remarks by Mayor Don Gordon, Halton MPP Julian Reed and Halton MP Otto Jelinek.

Afterwards, children of each nationality will light candles and sing O Canada to conclude the day.

A red maple tree may be planted as an event marking the day.

The high school brass band will play ethnic pieces to give a musical background to the closing ceremonies.

Promotion of the event is being carried out with press releases, posters, flyers, advertisements and notices in the ethnic press.



BREAKING INTO JAIL is less common a pastime than breaking out, but Wally MacKay has his own reasons for breaking into the old Milton Jail.

Attempts are being made to hold Milton's annual flea market in the courtyard of the jail, and Wally is helping with the set-up.

New location fails to attract interest

Milton's annual flea market is finding itself in jeopardy because of a lack of interest.

Judy Houston is trying to get more people to set up tables, but she says she is finding it difficult.

"Right now, it doesn't look too promising. It's late in the season.

"I don't know at this point if it (the flea market) will materialize. I'm not getting enough positive response."

Mrs. Houston said she has been contacting a number of people who set up booths in last year's flea market, but the uncertainty of their commitment is, in turn, making her uncertain.

"The people seem to be laying back waiting for someone else to say they'll go in, and then they'll follow the crowd."

One of the problems Mrs. Houston is facing, is the site of this year's flea market: the courtyard at the old jail.

Previous markets were at the old firehall. The open-air atmosphere of this year's market is

making people a little uncertain, Mrs. Houston said.

Problems with transportation and the set-up of the merchandise and the possibility of rain are unforeseen she said. Those problems she said, didn't exist when the market was held in an enclosed building.

Val Grimshaw and her assistant, Wally MacKay, have been working for the Milton Centre BIA group with the set-up of the courtyard, including the levelling of the land and cutting grass.

"The place looks quite nice now," said Mrs. Grimshaw. "It looks more like a park than a weed dump."

Mrs. Grimshaw added much of the clean-up work was done by residents of Maplehurst.

Mrs. Houston said she was still trying to get more people to go into the flea market. No dates have been finalized.

Region can't buy Site F

"This is completely logical, and, therefore, we can't go for it."

Those were the words of Councillor Rick Day responding to a request from Dennis Perlin, regional solicitor, to negotiate options to buy land.

The land the region wants to buy is the land on which it hopes to put a landfill site, known as Site F.

Mr. Perlin emphasized he wants to negotiate options to buy the land.

An option to buy is an agreement to fix a sale price. The region would, at some future date, have the right to exercise the option if it wanted to.

He said it does not necessarily mean the actual purchase of the land.

Mr. Perlin mentioned three properties: the Kowal and Micallef property, the Mogil property, and Bessie Smith's property.

The land area of the three properties is 143 acres, 102 acres and ten acres respectively.

Mr. Perlin said the first two properties have indicated their willingness to negotiate.

In any case, Mr. Perlin said three conditions would have to be fulfilled before the region would exercise its option to buy any land.

The conditions are that all environmental approvals would have to be given; all appeals by the town of the Ontario Municipal Board's decision on Site F would be completed; and the region could not buy Bessie Smith's property until Miss Smith asked the region to do so.

These conditions didn't impress Milton Council which voted against giving Mr. Perlin permission to negotiate with landowners.

Councillor Bill Johnson said "We've stood firm in the past and I think we must stand firm now."

"Mr. Leitch (Fred Leitch, the town's solicitor) has said this action won't prejudice us. I say it will prejudice us. Surely the Cabinet or the courts or the Environmental Assessment Board will hear about it."

Mr. Day agreed. "The first thing Jim Snow is going to read in the morning is a newspaper report of this."

"The logic of Mr. Perlin's request is inescapable, but unfortunately, logic and image don't always correspond."

"Mr. Perlin's letter is crystal clear and I'm sorry I'm going to have to support Councillor Johnson on this."

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