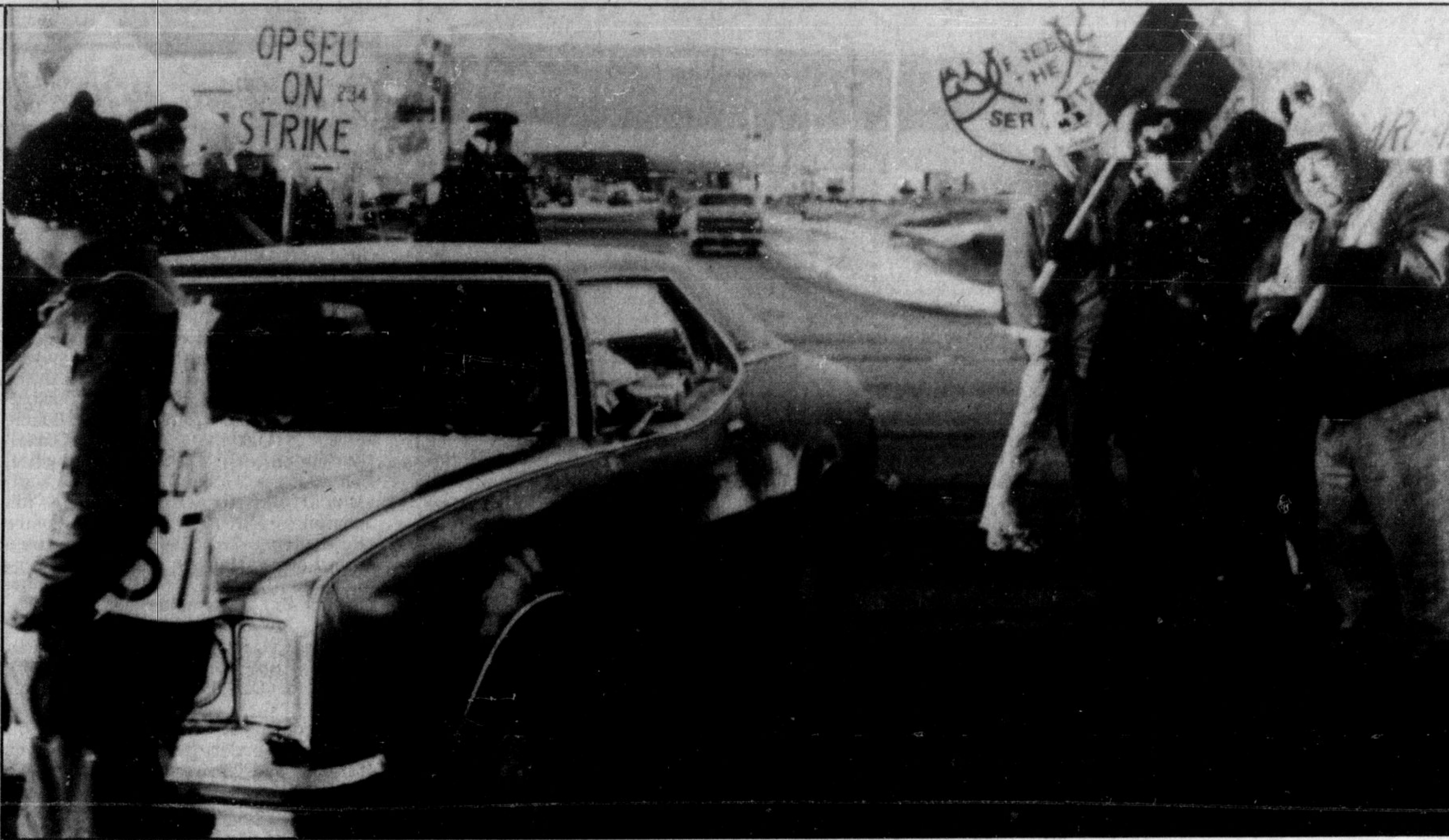


Men trained poorly, jail guard claims



HALTON REGION POLICE were on hand at the entrance of Maplehurst this week, as striking correctional officers set up a picket line. Police were called to escort management staff onto Maplehurst premises.

By Linda Kirby
Maplehurst Correctional Centre takes neither the time nor the effort to train its officers properly, according to a striking employee.
Malcolm Manford, an employee of Maplehurst for the past three years, says he is disappointed with the medium-security institution and its training methods.

He is one of 150 correctional officers at Maplehurst affected by the Province-wide strike by guards. Prison employees are hoping to win their case for a separate bargaining unit within the Ontario Public Service Union.

According to Mr. Manford, a successful conclusion would mean more than perhaps gaining a salary increase.

"There are a lot of other things we would go after," he said, citing proper staff training as a number one priority.

Correctional officers starting their career at Maplehurst receive "poor" job preparation for crisis situations, he said.

Some officers had never seen a riot stick until a riot broke out at the institution three weeks ago, he said.

"Things did not run as smoothly as the officials said it did," he said regarding the Nov. 12 incident.

"There are no set up riot squads and little organization to deal with that situation," he said.

He added that guards ran into all sorts of problems in finding riot gear and organizing the recapture of inmates.

Mr. Manford said guards were well aware of brewing discontent among inmates and had warned management officials "for months" about the problem.

He said he would like to see improved training of new officers.

Three years ago when he began to work at the institution, he received a standard first aid course.

Officers now receive only an emergency first aid course, he said.

Guards are trained for procedures in the event of a fire, but there are many officers including himself who have never had practical experience with a fire mask, he said.

"I think they (Maplehurst) are almost negligent in not providing the necessary training."

"There is no practical preparation and many don't come close to sampling the real experience of a riot until it happens," he said.

When the institution first opened four years ago, officials assured the community only first time offenders would be lodged at Maplehurst.

That has all changed.

The latest rampage and escape by 18 inmates Nov. 12 proved the policies had changed.

Many escapees had more than a dozen previous convictions, including one 20-year-old youth who held a record of 99 previous convictions.

"I've seen very few first time offenders in my time," Mr. Manford said.
"The public is not aware of what is going on in here."

Senior officials at Maplehurst refused to comment on the allegations made by Mr. Manford.

Consultants restricted in new studies

Any consultant doing a study for private enterprise within the Region will be excluded from working for the regional municipality, to avoid any "conflict of interest."

That is a recommendation regional council will be asked to approve today, even though it may mean going further afield for consultants and thus prove more costly.

Public Works Director Bob Moore told committee last week the recommendation was suggested by Solicitor Dennis Perlin, who is concerned that some firms who have worked for the region in the past will be appearing against the municipality in regard to Site F.

It is hoped the recommendation will preclude this from happening again in the future.

The recommendation as amended read: That, in the future, retention of professional engineering consultants for Regional studies exclude those firms accepting appointments from the development industry for work within the corporate limits of the Regional Municipality of Halton.

Several people representing consulting firms in Halton appeared to object to the recommendation.

Ivor David of Kleinfeldt Ltd. said "I couldn't believe this was being proposed."

He said it was "extremely restrictive" and "a classic case of overkill."

Mr. David was supported by other professional engineers who pointed out they have a code of ethics which eliminates any engineer accepting a job where there would be a conflict. Penalties are strict for violation, said Mr. Moore—himself a professional engineer.

While the engineers in opposition said it would effectively stop 50 per cent of the area consultants from accepting region work, one engineer said he thought it was a good idea.

Tom Foulds, of Simcoe Engineering, said it was not unusual for a municipality to restrict work to firms already doing a private sector contract but, "what is unusual is that it has always been generally understood, and here it is formally spelled out."

Promotion just too popular

Loblaws offers 50¢ refunds on McDollars

McDonald's Restaurant in Milton is no longer accepting McDollars, the promotional tokens sold at area Loblaws stores.

Champion the restaurant took in "thousands" of McDollars before owner Richmond Chandler decided to opt out of participation.

Loblaws, with the purchase of \$10 worth of groceries, they were worth \$1 at a participating McDonald's Restaurant.

losing 45 cents on every McDollar and the promotion was so successful, the local restaurant couldn't keep up with the demand.

ments with the Milton Loblaws to give full 50 cent refunds on any unspent McDollars, and quit accepting them at the restaurant on Nov. 30.

clearly indicated the offer was only good at "participating" McDonald's outlets. As of last Friday, the local McDonald's is no longer participating.

Town to own Main St. for DBIA loan

Regional Council will today be asked to remove part of Main St. from the regional road system so the Milton Downtown Business Improvement Area (DBIA) can go ahead.

for swift approval of the ownership so it could take advantage of a \$10,000 loan to turn Main St. into a semi-mall as envisaged in the DBIA plan.

Mayor Gordon said the Martin-James section needed to be freed immediately.

New Halton officer for March of Dimes

Ontario March of Dimes has announced the appointment of Christopher Pratt as the new Community Development Officer for Halton.

Before going to Toronto, Mr. Pratt was involved with community work in Hamilton and Simcoe. He was chairman of the Haldimand-Norfolk Association for the Physically Disabled.

"If there are objections to this, it will be to the town and not to the region so you won't have to get involved," he said.

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- * Office Chairs * Calculators
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Hamilton: 969 Upper James St. • Stoney Creek: 940 Queenston Rd.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON

Applications are requested for appointment to the following Committee:

HALTON REGIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL - 1 required

All applications must be in writing, preferably setting out your qualifications for the Committee.

R. Main, Deputy Clerk, Town of Milton, 251 Main St. E., MILTON, Ont. L9T 1P1.

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