

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Pounding the pavement

Catholic educators looked determined yesterday morning, picketing Bishop Reding Secondary School during the start of a province-wide illegal walkout over Bill 160.

Bert Andrews taking financial whack from the teachers' strike

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

The illegal walkout by Ontario teachers is affecting more than just students and parents.

Businesses across Ontario stand to lose big if the strike drags on for any appreciable length of time.

Ontario teachers have walked off the job in a dispute with the provincial government over provisions in Bill 160, which seeks to give the province control of education.

According to Bert Andrews of Andrews Scenic Acres he will lose as much as \$30,000 if the strike lasts through Halloween.

School trips have been scheduled to visit his pumpkin patch throughout the month of October. The final week before Halloween is good for about one third of his total take on the pumpkin visits, he said.

"This strike will have a big impact on our business," he said. "There are normally 3,000 to 4,000 school kids coming in to pick pumpkins. There'll be a lot of disappointed kids."

Every year several acres are given over to growing pumpkins for the express purpose of the school trips.

Mr. Andrews said there is no commercial market in Ontario for pumpkins. Even if there was, he said, the demand for pumpkin pie peaks at Thanksgiving.



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BERT ANDREWS

"There are a couple of acres which won't get picked," Mr. Andrews said. "The pumpkins will just be plowed into the ground."

Mr. Andrews said his 10 Sideroad farm is only one of several in the area which benefit from school activities. He has been involved with Halloween school trips for about eight years, he said.

Mr. Andrews said he does not know all the details regarding the strike but feels it was unfortunate more time wasn't given to negotiations between teacher unions and the government.

Mr. Andrews added that he has been forced to lay off 15 tour guides on a day-to-day basis due to the teacher walkout. The guides would have been employed through the end of October.

Man killed in Guelph Line crash

An early morning accident in rural Milton claimed the life of one motorist yesterday (Monday).

At press time, police had not disclosed the name of the deceased because their family had not yet been notified.

The two-car collision occurred at

7 a.m. on Guelph Line north of No. 25 Sideroad. According to investigating officer Rick Ferguson, a northbound Mazda — with a single occupant — went out of control.

It spun several around several times and crossed into the south-

bound lane where it was struck broadside by a Volkswagen.

The driver of the Mazda suffered fatal injuries while the VW motorist was treated for minor injuries at Guelph Hospital and released.

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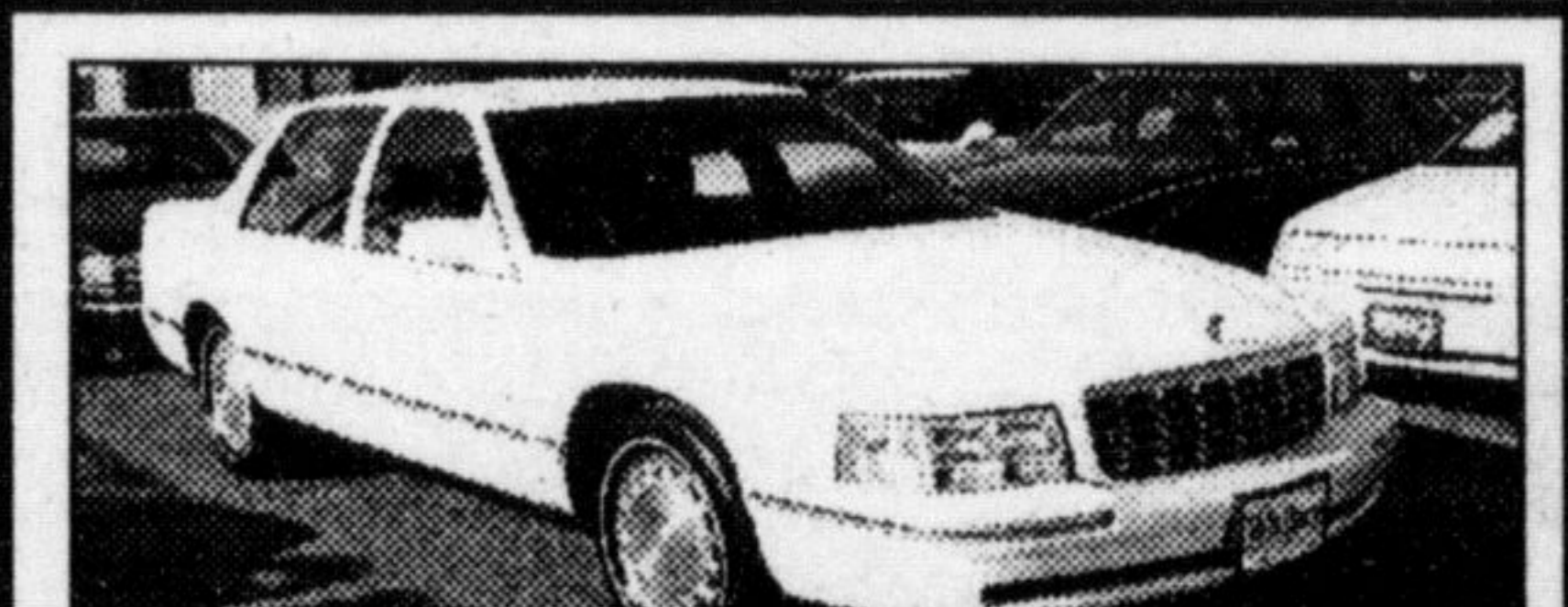
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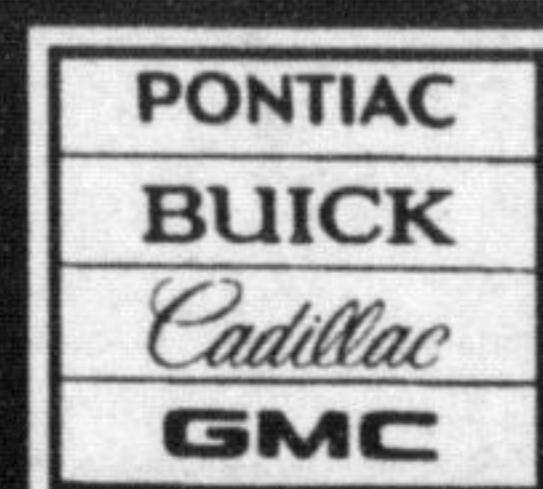
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