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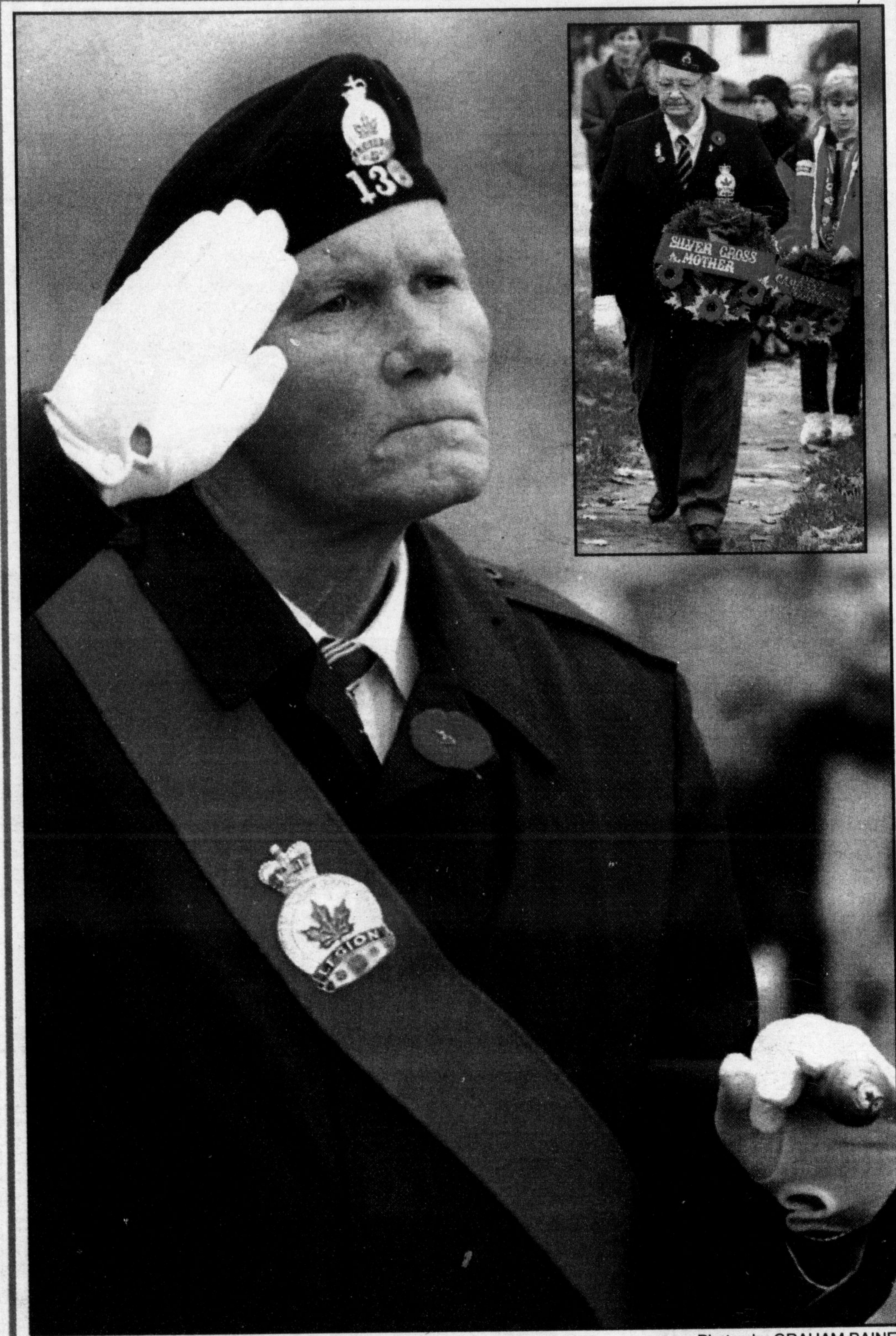
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Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Saluting the silent

Milton Legion Branch 136 Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Allen (above) pays tribute to fallen comrades during Remembrance Day services in Brookville Sunday. Meanwhile, Jean Hasselfeldt (inset) carries the wreath as a Silver Cross Mother.

Teachers hold line

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

There was no sign of an end to the teachers' strike yesterday morning despite word of discussions between union leaders.

Because of increased "militancy" among rank-and-file teachers, heads of the province's teachers' federations opted to stay on the picket lines, said Eileen Lennon, president of the 126,000-member Ontario Teachers Federation.

"There's huge support on the line. There's great militancy. There's great concern. There's great resolve to continue the protest," she said Wednesday.

About 2,000 Halton public school teachers appeared bound and determined Tuesday when they staged a mass picket in Milton.

Quietly displaying placards and waving at beeping cars, teachers marched from Brian Best Park to Ontario Street and then through downtown and back.

Al Tanner, president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, was among the crowd.

"The membership is very strong," he said. "The public support is still there encouraging us to keep up the action."

And tens of thousands of teachers were to converge on Queen's Park yesterday to protest the government's proposed education reform legislation.

Meanwhile, the Halton Board of Education, which has publicly stated its opposition to Bill 160, took action to end the strike at a special meeting Tuesday.

Trustees passed a motion to join with the Greater Toronto Area boards in seeking a cease and desist order through the Ontario Labour Relations Board by today.

But the board also voted to hold a meeting with teachers' federation presidents to discuss a voluntary agreement to return to class by Monday in exchange for no disciplinary action beyond the loss of wages and benefits.

"Ongoing talks with the Greater Toronto Area school boards have been taking place during the past week," Dusty Papke, the Halton board's director of education, confirmed Wednesday.

"No date has been established for the local meeting with the Halton Board of Education trustees and local teachers' federation presidents."

Milton's 11 public schools and four Catholic schools remain closed due to the protest.

Ontario teachers walked off the job

October 27 to protest Bill 160, the Education Quality Improvement Act. The move is illegal for most because they have existing contracts with their employers — school boards.

Teachers' unions have insisted the proposed legislation would remove teachers' contract limits on class size and preparation time and bring about the hiring of unqualified people.

But some teachers say these issues are minor and the real bone of contention is that the bill is undemocratic because it gives too much authority to government in controlling how education is administered.

However, the Harris government has maintained the legislation is simply a plan to improve the quality of education for students.



Al Tanner

NEWSLINES

Stuff for kids at lake

Crawford Lake has expanded its weekday programs to accommodate parents and students during the teachers' protest.

For the duration of the strike, the local conservation area will offer staff-guided village tours from noon to 3 p.m. Monday to Friday.

The cost is \$3 per person, with no charge for pre-school children.

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