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MILTON PUBLIC



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No mail strike yet

A mail strike was averted, at least temporarily, as Canada Post and its union agreed Wednesday night to resume bargaining.

But the threat of a nation-wide postal strike hung over the talks that were to resume at a Hull, Quebec hotel yesterday.

The postal workers have been without a contract since August, said Mike Aikenhead, president of local 223 of the Canadian Union on Postal Workers. The local represents about 35 mail carriers and wicket clerks at the Milton post office.

Mr. Aikenhead said the workers' main issues centre around a reasonable wage increase and job security for the 4,000 positions the union maintains will be lost due to Canada Post restructuring.

The union has demanded an 8 per cent wage hike over 18 months.

The company has offered 3 per cent over three years with wage increases of zero, 1.5 per cent and 1.5 per cent annually. Letter carriers and clerks earn \$17.41 an hour.

A strike would mean closure of the Milton post office and no delivery service, except for government pension and social assistance cheques. The union has made a commitment to deliver them.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Reding generosity

Bishop Reding Secondary School students (from left) Ken Flynn, Lindsay Darling and Stephen Orticello show the boxes and bags of food the school collected for the Salvation Army. Competitions were held by homeroom classes. The recent food drive by students and staff mounted up to 2,500 pounds.

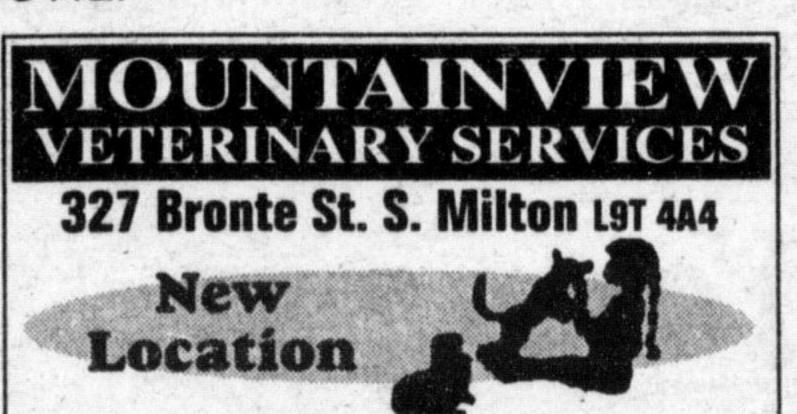
NEWSLINES

Car seat safety course

Car seat safety information is being offered by police and public health nurses in Milton Thursday.

The Car Seat Safety Clinic will be held at Richardson Chev-Olds at Derry Road and Ontario Street from 3 to 7 p.m.

Participants must have an appointment. Call 878-8113, ext. 8412.



Dr. Jo-Ann McKinnon 875-1322

No truth to walkout rumour: Gayfer

By BRAD REAUME

The Champion

According to various people who should know, there is no truth to the rumour that teachers' will walk out again on Monday.

A rumour has bubbled around town for several days suggesting teachers will take the opportunity to stage another walkout when Bill 160, the Education Quality Improvement Act, is given third reading at Queen's Park.

Steve Gayfer, Halton vice-president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), said teacher representatives will meet this weekend to outline their strategy for continuing protest.

He did not rule out a one-day walkout by teachers when Bill 160 is passed but said it was highly unlikely to be as early as Monday.

While ruling out an early walkout, teacher representatives say there will be continuing protests

over the legislation.

Onnig Pilibbossian, principal at Bishop Reding Roman Catholic Secondary School, agreed rumours of a walkout are false.

He said he has received no indication of any potential walkout from teachers at his school nor union representatives.

Mr. Pilibbossian did say there is a protest scheduled for today (Friday).

Teachers will picket Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh's Main Street office beginning at 3:30

, p.m

He was unaware of any other scheduled protests. "Everything is back to normal here," he said.

Joe Diubaldo, president of the Halton Catholic Secondary Teachers' Federation, said he was unaware of any plans to stage a walkout.

He said such an action has not even been suggested or discussed locally.

"We will be trying to maintain pressure by picketing MPP's offices, and by keeping people aware."

Hospital commission reports

The verdict on the fate of Milton District Hospital will be in Tuesday.

Hospital administrator Allan Halls said he has received word that the Health Services Restructuring Commission will release their intentions for revamping area health care.

Hospital officials from facilities in the 905 area have been asked to meet the commission at a Mississauga hotel early Tuesday morning. A press conference will follow.

Hospitals have 30 days to appeal the commission's plans and then final decisions will be made.

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