


ESAC Celebrating 20th Anniversary of the Elderly Services Agency (Ontario)



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A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER VOL. 146 NO. 26 FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2005 \$1.00 (GST included) 52 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



In deep

Mark Burger takes a shot out of the water during the Deidre and Friends Foundation golf tournament at Granite Ridge Golf Club Tuesday. Seventy-two golfers teed off and helped raise \$7,500 for the foundation.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Teachers/board have tentative deal

By JASON MISNER
 Special to The Champion

New critical Provincial funding won't be lost now that a tentative deal has been reached between the public school board and its unionized elementary teachers.

As a result, the union's stepped up work-to-rule campaign, which was into its second week, is over at the 72 public elementary schools.

The Province had threatened to pull the new dollars if a deal wasn't signed by Wednesday night.

The Halton District School Board and its 1,800 elementary teachers of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, Halton district reached a tentative contract Wednesday evening following nine hours of negotiations by telephone and fax.

Those talks followed the more than 30 hours of dealings that took place over the last five days as both sides tried to hammer out a contract.

The four-year agreement -- retroactive to August 31, 2004 -- will expire in August 2008. The deal was faxed to the ministry Wednesday.

Details of the tentative deal weren't released.

Teachers are to vote on the agreement sometime over the next few days. Trustees will meet Tuesday at 6 p.m. to vote on the deal.

It's believed Halton's provincial funding share will be enough to hire 13 new elementary teachers.

The Halton public board was one of the last remaining boards in Ontario that hadn't signed a contract. At stake was the board's share of millions of dollars in special funding the province has set aside.

It was the lack of a contract this late in the school

year that prompted the Ministry of Education to issue the board an ultimatum on Tuesday that if a deal wasn't signed by Wednesday, it would lose access to the money.

Education Minister Gerard Kennedy had set June 1 as the deadline for Ontario school boards to reach four-year agreements with the teachers' unions. It's part of a framework agreement the minister made with teachers' federations and the public school boards' association earlier this year.

Local board staff, the union and trustees were elated that a tentative deal had finally been struck, however late in coming. They say it provides important labour peace over the next few years.

Dawn Beckett-Morton, the public board's executive officer of human resources, said these negotiations were more difficult this time around than

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