

Many former Mueller Canada employees still looking for work

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Mueller Canada was the only place Susan and Steve Mead had ever worked.

For more than 20 years, the couple moved through the ranks of the company, with Steve becoming a supervisor and Susan working in the office.

But in July everything changed for the Mead family and more than 100 other local residents. Mueller announced it was closing its Milton operation and moving production to the United States. "We went from two incomes to no income," Susan said. "That was hard."

In addition to the financial worries the closure caused for many, there was also a flood of emotions the employees had to deal with. "I was really sad," said Susan. "My brother worked there, my father worked there... It was a great place to work."

While Steve quickly found another job through contacts he'd developed over the years, Susan learned firsthand how difficult the job market could be.

"I thought I could get a job in three weeks, but that didn't happen," she said. "The market is tight out there, and job interviews are a lot different than they used to be."

Now Susan is helping her former co-workers find new jobs at the Mueller/CAW Local 252 Action Centre

that has been set up on Nipissing Road, where she volunteers as a peer helper.

The centre — funded by Mueller, the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 252 and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities — is helping former Mueller employees with everything from resumes and preparing for interviews to financial and career planning and returning to school.

"We get people back working in jobs that they like," said Nancy McDonough of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities at the centre's open house October 31. "We've got some great people here with great skills."

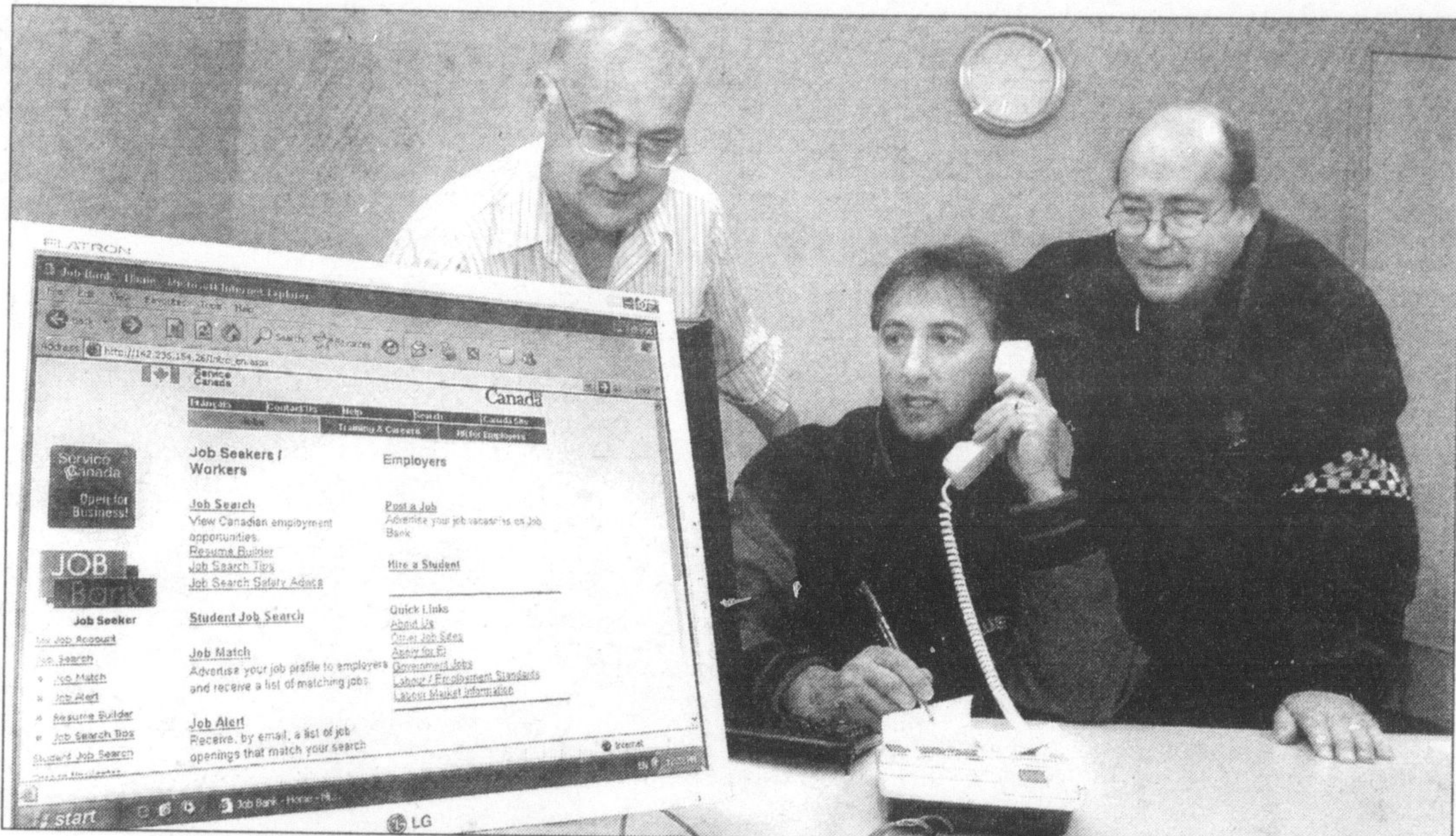
Peer helper Gord Hurley reported the centre has been really busy so far.

"We have people calling and coming in every day," he said, noting that while there were 104 individuals looking for work just after the plant closed, that number is down to 52.

He said the former Mueller employees who are still looking for work are experienced lathe operators, plasma welders, mechanical assemblers, machinists, administrative staff, electricians and more.

The Mueller/CAW Local 252 Action Centre is located at 917 Nipissing Rd., unit J. It can be reached at (905) 878-9411. Office hours are Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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LOOKING FOR WORK: Former Mueller Canada worker Dennis Marjanovic (centre) searches the job banks at the action centre while peer helper Gord Hurley (left) and Doug Cooper, CAW Local 252 treasurer, look on.



A special word of thanks to the voters of Ward Two and my campaign team for their support on November 13th.

Along with the other Councillors, I look forward to serving the residents of Ward Two and all the residents of Milton.

Congratulations to all the candidates who participated in the Municipal Elections.

Mark J. Curtis
Councillor Ward Two

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