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Wages outstanding issue: union

• from LOCAL on page A3

know how important this service is and they don't want to make people suffer," said Pat Daley, of CUPE communications.

The two sides haven't been at the bargaining table since May 25 when a provincial mediator failed to get the two sides to agree on a contract.

The outstanding issues are wages and wage scales, said Daley. She said the 47 drivers, who joined CUPE last year, are on 14 different pay scales. The drivers are also looking for an increase in their wages, she said.

Daley said the majority of the drivers currently earn less than \$13 per hour while drivers for Peel Region's TransHelp program, which do similar work, earn in the range of

\$20 per hour.

"They're mostly immigrant workers, new Canadians, a mix of men and women, a large number would be workers of colour," said Daley. "So they're people who are struggling to make new lives for themselves and their families here and are doing important jobs."

Currently, the local Red Cross also uses volunteers to transport some of its clients. Daley said those volunteers shouldn't be used as replacement workers in case of a strike or lockout.

"In any kind of a strike situation, anyone who does the regular work of the people on strike is strikebreaking basically," she said.

Tim Foran can be reached at tforan@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Student skills winners recognized

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Garrard, from Milton District High School, said he learned a lot about landscaping through his work experience.

"All the students in this room cannot do it without you, the employers."

He was among several Halton students recognized for winning medals at the Ontario Technological Skills Competition. Garrard won gold in landscape gardening with Joseph Isaak.

"When students see what is happening and they look at the passion that goes into it, they really get excited," said Greg Burns, a Halton Catholic District School Board curriculum consultant for technological studies. The Partnership Award was presented to

the Halton District School Board's retiring director of education Wayne Joudrie.

Joudrie said partnerships were already in place when he started his position.

"Once I discovered it, my job was to be a steward and not screw it up," he said.

But others were impressed by his leadership and mentoring.

"His dedication to students never wavers and always he will lend a hand," said Michael Pautler, director of education for Halton's Catholic board.

"Wayne is a tremendous source of guidance."

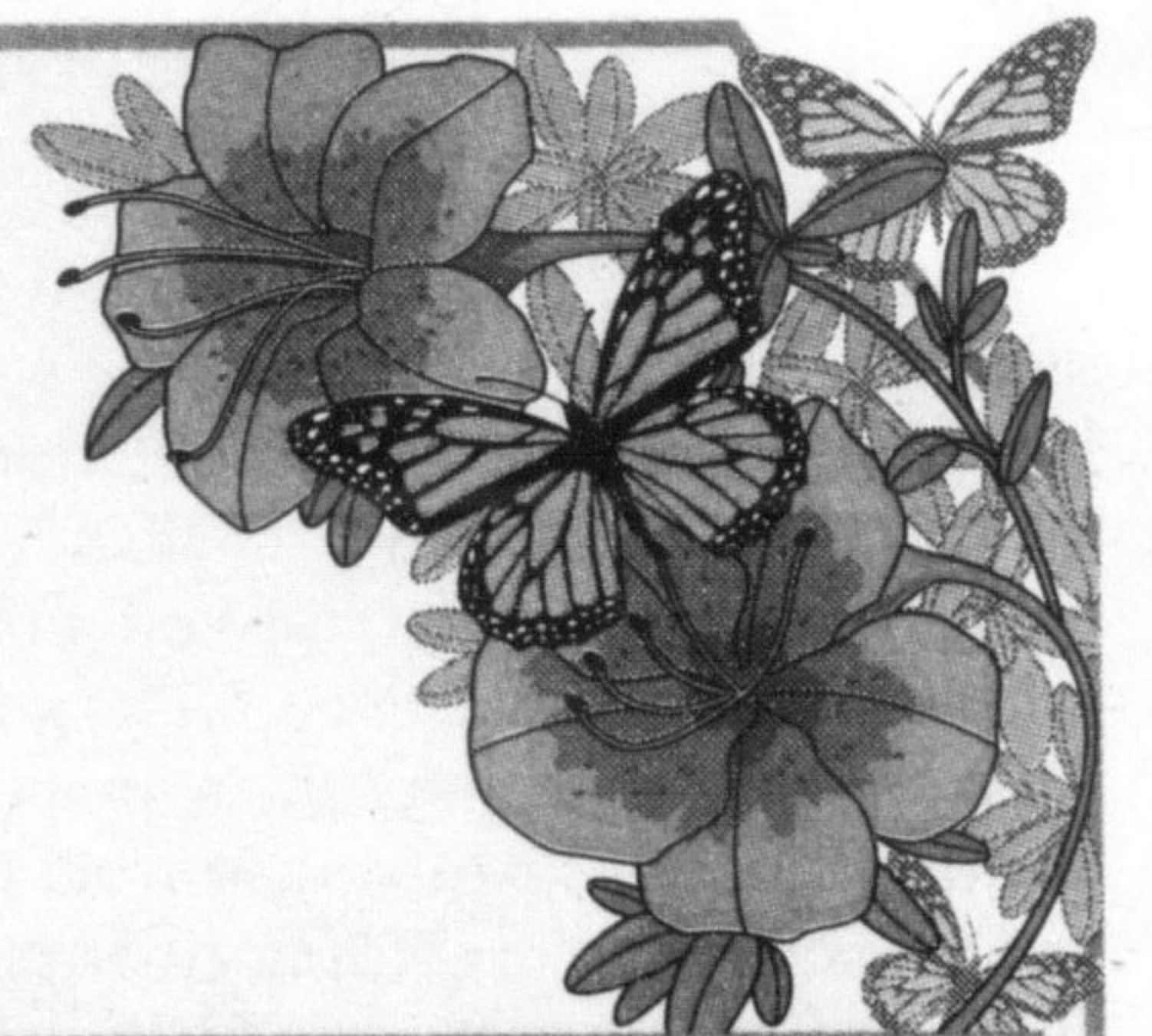
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