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Union to charge HASS management

By ROB KELLY

Union officials at loggerheads with management from Halton Adolescent Support Services are laying a charge against executive manager Ugo Felice because they claim he is discriminating against their members.

Mr. Felice had no comment on the matter.

Grant Bruce, an Ontario Public Service Employees Union representative out of the Hamilton office, alleged Mr. Felice and HASS management (the charges name both) are withholding funds from employees because they joined the union.

"They are disciplining employees by withholding the 'bump up' money," Mr. Bruce said.

Last November HASS workers joined OPSEU — two months after the provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services announced a funding boost to HASS which was to raise pay levels.

Labor and management at HASS, which provides shelter and counselling for troubled youths, have held three meetings in an attempt to hammer out a first contract.

HASS operates a \$653,000 group home on Commercial Street in Milton that shelters nine troubled young people. The staff at the home are union members.

Mr. Bruce will forward details of his charges to the Ontario Labour Relations Board, which will in turn call for a management response within seven working days. The matter could go to a labour board hearing if it is not resolved in bargaining.

Mr. Bruce said he is "not he kind of

person to willy-nilly raise charges."

He said HASS management has been in possession of the provincial funds since March and "should have followed through" on the province's commitment to bolster wages for the HASS workers with the money.

Instead, the management rationale has been "negotiate if you can" for the funds since unionization, Mr. Bruce contended. "If we were to concede that it was negotiable, then that money would not have served its purpose," he added.

In two similar cases with other agencies funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, "the money was turned over to the employees", Mr. Bruce said, despite the fact union negotiations were ongoing there, too.

"That is what should have happened in HASS and what the employer said would have happened if there had been no union."

In other developments, unionized workers held an information picket outside HASS offices in Burlington Wednesday and have decided to picket the HASS board meeting tonight (Friday).

Mr. Felice offered few comments on the talks, save to say he hopes for an early settlement. Of the labour dispute he added, "we would like to get it out of our hair as soon as possible."



Finger lickin' good

Michelle Dykstra, 8, spent some time at Andrews Scarce Acres picking strawberries recently with her E.W. Foster School class. Who says school is no fun?

Fur flies as Halton opts to expand new Milton dump

By NORMAN NELSON

Toronto's garbage problem is our problem, Halton regional council has decided.

After a lengthy debate that at one point reopened old wounds concerning the decision to locate the regional dump in Milton, Halton voted to continue participating with fellow Toronto area municipalities in a garbage consortium known as the Solid Waste Interim Steering Committee (SWISC).

The motion, spearheaded by Halton Chairman Peter Pomeroy, passed on a 14-5 vote. Milton regional councillor Brad Clements sup-

ported the SWISC initiative, while Mayor Gord Krantz and councillor Bill Johnson opposed it.

Council also voted to offer SWISC 250,000 tonnes of Halton's new 5-million tonne regional landfill scheduled to open in 1992.

However, several conditions were attached, the key one calling for a reciprocal agreement whereby Halton ships back an equal amount of waste to the other municipality's landfill when it opens.

That was approved by a much closer 12-9 vote with the three Milton representatives united against the plan.

Mayor Krantz said he spoke both for himself and Milton council in expressing concern that despite 18 months of hearings setting stringent conditions for the landfill "the rules of the game have already been changed before there's even been one single bag of garbage on that site."

Chairman Pomeroy, who has often argued in the past that offering a small portion of the landfill on a reciprocal basis to another region (presumably Peel) would be the neighbourly thing to do, responded with a new twist.

He said he'd like "to try and get a little

money back" from the lengthy and expensive of getting the regional landfill approved. Some estimates placed that cost at \$12-\$15 million.

Mr. Pomeroy told Mayor Krantz that when the landfill decision was handed down — after considerable input, debate and cost — "at that point in time you could have made the decision that you wouldn't have gone to court."

"You would have saved the Region and the (Halton) municipalities millions of dollars. Instead, your municipality, for whatever reason wanted to go through that process ...

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