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## HRCRA, Lac Minerals make land sale deal

By NORMAN NELSON

A 390-acre tract of land that Lac Minerals once hoped to strip mine is well on its way to simply becoming just another part of Kelso Conservation Area.

The company's proposal to expand its present quarry operation (about 175 acres on the east side of Bell School Line) onto the adjacent property on the west side sparked a bitter two-year fight by area residents that led to the formation of Keep the Escarpment Environment Protected (KEEP).

KEEP sought to head the company's mining plans off at the pass by having the area slapped with tighter land controls that would prevent any new quarrying operations.

It was at a provincial hearing to consider this proposal at Milton in mid-August that Lac Minerals made a surprise announcement — they were willing to sell the property to the Halton Region Conservation Authority (which operates Kelso).

The hearing was subsequently shuffled off to Dec. 11 to allow the two sides time to work out a deal — which HRCRA general manager Murray Stephen confirmed has now been inked.

The only missing piece of the puzzle, he added, is a cheque from the Province. The HRCRA is requesting the money through the Niagara Escarpment acquisition fund, which is administered by the Ontario

Heritage Foundation.

"I'm optimistic." He refused to estimate even a ballpark value for the land, which has previously been earmarked as a high priority item in the HRCRA's land acquisition program.

What the HRCRA and Lac Minerals have arranged, is a "purchasing process." Both parties will prepare independent appraisals and, "based on these, we will negotiate for a final price."

If a final price can't be agreed upon, he said, it will be turned over to an independent arbitrator for a binding decision.

At this point the HRCRA has not drawn up any plans on what it will do with the land. But since it is adjacent to Kelso, he said there will obviously be no trouble incorporating it into public use.

"We should know where everything stands" a week before the Dec. 11 resumption of what will likely now be an uncontested hearing.

That hearing would basically have pitted Lac Minerals against all other parties — including KEEP, the Town of Milton, Halton Region, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the HRCRA — who all, in one form or another, wanted stricter land use controls on the tract.

Lac Minerals; on the other hand, wanted the same designation on the land that was in place when they bought it.



Photo by EILEEN BAILEY

### Good old days

An old fashioned gospel concert and hymn sing at St. Paul's United Church on Saturday evening at 7:30 will celebrate the church's 138th anniversary and the 100th anniversary of the present sanctuary. Present and former choir members including (from left) Mike Ledwith, Amelia Randell, Glen Wicks and Judy Hunter, were getting in tune for the event at a rehearsal Wednesday and even dressed for their part. Tickets cost \$5 and children under 12 are admitted free.

## Strike looms for Catholic schools

By PAUL MITCHISON  
Special to The Champion

A strike is very near for speech

therapists and other education workers at Halton's Catholic schools.

"They've painted us into a corner," said Jackie Morse, a spokesperson for the association representing the workers. "I'm afraid that a strike looks very possible at this point."

A meeting held Tuesday night ended in frustration, with workers walking out before the board presented its latest monetary offer. A strike vote is expected shortly, and employees could be on the picket line as early as November 9.

About 20 board employees, who work in child care, as psychometrists and speech pathologists have been without a contract for the past 10 months.

They're members of the Association of Professional Student Services Personnel, and work with children who often have serious education and behavioural problems.

Ms Morse said that contract lan-

guage is even more important than monetary concerns, as the workers try to receive acknowledgement of professional credentials and to have recognition of codes of ethics. As part of that, they want the assurance that untrained people won't do their jobs.

"This past April we actually had a university student who had applied for a painter's job, who was placed in charge of caring for a child with a severe behavioural problem in a classroom situation for two months."

She said that parents and the public should be aware that at times of staff shortage, the board resorts to hiring what she calls "unqualified" people to handle special needs students. "We feel other children are at risk and even teachers are at risk."

The affected employees, as well as a few teachers, have taken to wearing armbands to protest the slowness

• see STRIKE on page 10

## Quiet Halloween for local cops

Halton Regional Police are breathing a sigh of relief after being treated to a relatively uneventful Halloween in Milton.

Less than a dozen incidents were reported, most of which occurred on so-called Devil's Night, Tuesday.

The bad spirits, it appears, converged on Acton for Devil's Night. Police there say their hands were kept full with a crowd of approximately 200 youths in the downtown area.

About 75 returned for a Halloween encore, but Staff Sergeant Mike Kingston said police were well prepared and had far fewer problems.

In total, police laid one assault charge on an 18-year-old youth and handed out five liquor violations.

On Halloween night, vandals spray painted then trashed a sign near Derry Road and Eighth Line.

On Devil's Night, police investigated the following Milton incidents:

- A brick was thrown through the front window of Halton Real Estate at 190 Main Street.
- A brick was thrown through a window at a portable at W.I Dick school and a pack of burning matches followed it. Luckily, a fire did not start.
- Vandals, standing on the railway overpass at Ontario and Main Streets, dropped paint on a Plymouth driven by an elderly Milton man.
- A window was broken by a BB gun pellet at 741 Woodward Avenue.
- Paint was scratched on a van parked at 121 Chisholm Drive.
- Paint was scratched on a Chrysler Fifth Avenue parked at Milton Mall.



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