



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

OPSEU strikers showed no signs of giving in as they set up picket lines at three locations in town Monday.

Battle lines drawn as two factions dig in

• from GOVERNMENT on page 1

OPSEU members believe that public support will put pressure on the Mike Harris government to resolve contract disputes with workers after they realize how vital the role of public service employees is, said Sue Coker, president of OPSEU local 234, which includes 372 Maplehurst corrections, maintenance, kitchen and office staff and nurses.

"The work of public service employees touches on the lives of so many people, but so many people are unaware," she said. "A lot of people are going to be dumbfounded."

The workers walked off the job shortly after midnight Monday as talks between the provincial government, which wants to cut at least 13,000 jobs, and OPSEU broke down last week.

The last government offer included overtures to:

- Double severance pay to two weeks for every year of service to a maximum of 52 weeks.
- Eliminate unpaid days off, effectively raising wages 2 per cent.
- Restore 3 per cent merit pay to about one-third of workers.

- Cut notice of layoffs to six months from 11, enabling government to more quickly chop at least 13,000 jobs.

The last union position called for:

- Sixty weeks severance pay for employees of five years or more plus one week's pay for each year of service.
- Up to 50 weeks' pay for employees of less than five years.
- Job guarantees for workers whose jobs are privatized, with existing pay and benefits.
- Job retraining for laid-off workers.
- Full pensions for employees over age 50 with 10 years' service.



- A cost-of-living allowance if inflation exceeds 3 per cent.

OPSEU members realize cuts have to be made, but believe the government will arbitrarily chop, without developing a carefully thought-out, long-term plan that includes input from workers, said Ms Coker.

However, Mr. Chudleigh maintains the government's offer is fair and reasonable.

"The financial problems facing this province must be addressed," he said. "Our goal remains reaching a fair and reasonable negotiated settlement. The government has no plans to hire replacement workers, nor does it want to legislate the striking employees back to work. We want a deal, but not at any price."

About 1,400 OPSEU members live in Milton and many from out-of-town locals are picketing here, Ms Coker said.

MILTON

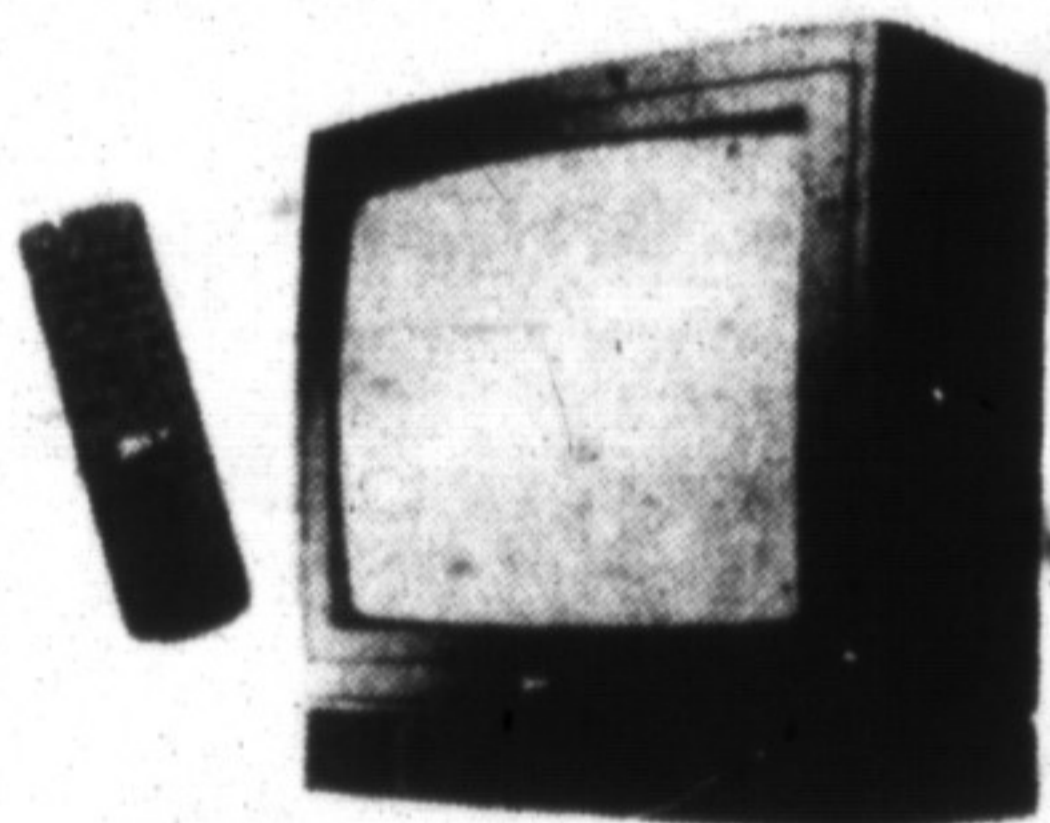
G/S TELEVISION

INQUIRE ABOUT OUR VIDEO CAMERA RENTALS

GEORGETOWN

ZENITH

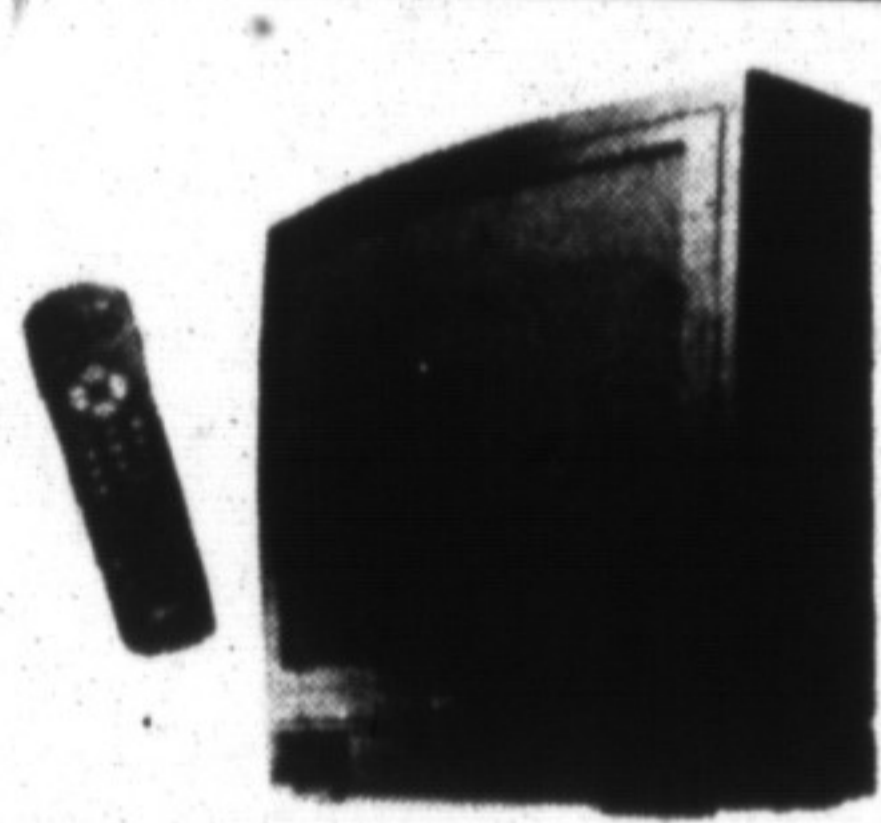
19
Inch
Stereo
Colour
TV



SR1941
\$369⁰⁰

ZENITH

27 Inch
Colour TV

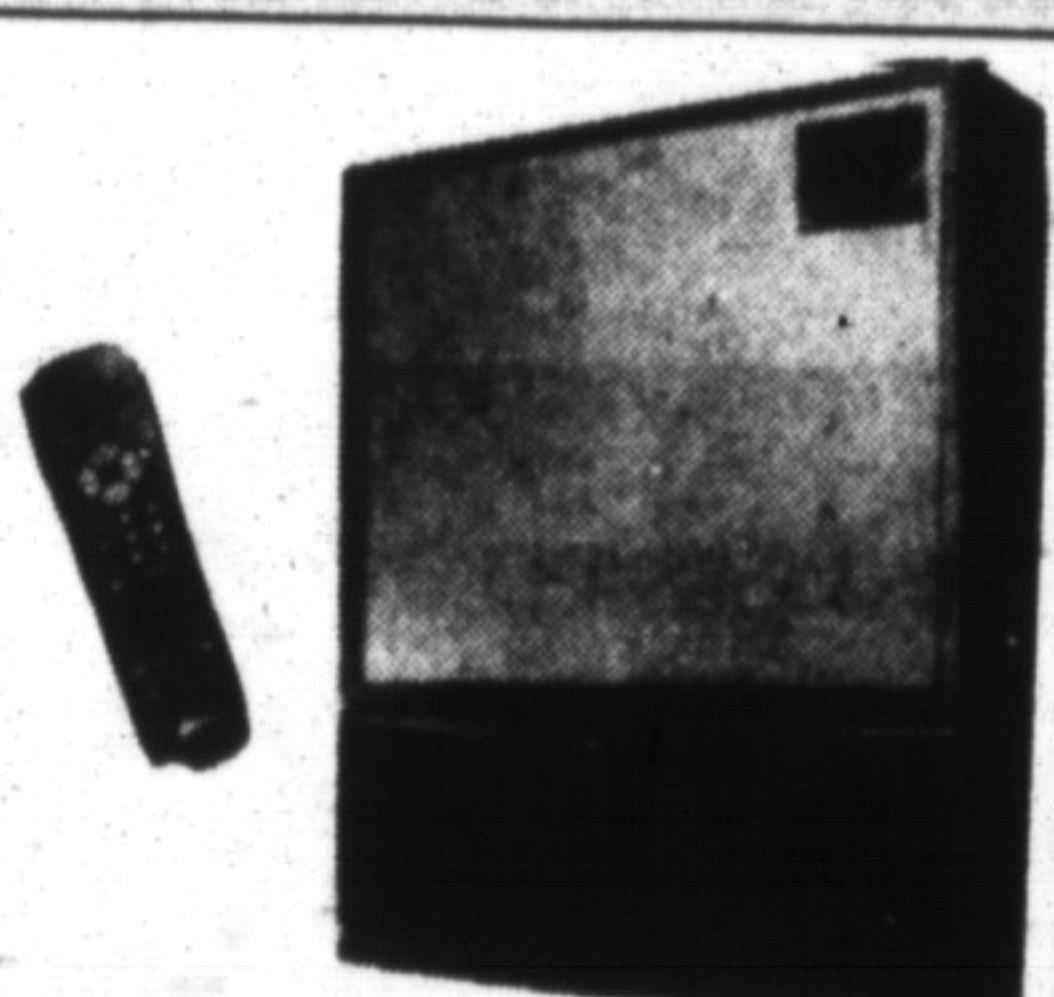


SR2765
\$599⁰⁰

- MTS Stereo with SAP
- ZDG™ High Contrast Picture Tube
- Trilingual English/French/Spanish On-Screen Display
- Sleep Timer
- Slate Color Finish
- 23-7/8"H, 26-1/2"W, 19-1/8"D

ZENITH

52
Inch
Colour
TV



PVR5263
\$2,399⁰⁰

- Stereo Receiver/Monitor
- Trilingual English/French/Spanish On-Screen Display
- Sleep Timer
- New Parental Control
- Matte Black Color Finish
- 19 1/2" H, 20 1/2" W, 18 1/4" D
- Optional Custom Stand Available (KDR820Y)

ZENITH
A DYNAMITE SALE

- Color Picture-In-Picture
- Surround Sound Capability
- MTS Stereo with Spatial Equalization (SEq) Audio System
- Digital 3-Line Comb Filter
- 18-jack Rear Audio/Video Jack Panel including S-Video
- Slim-Profile™ Cabinet
- 51 1/2" H, 44 1/2" W, 24 1/8" D

37
YEARS IN
HALTON

370 Main St. E.
Milton

(Additional Parking at Rear)

875-3877

G/S TELEVISION

- SERVING SINCE 1958 -

WE SERVICE WHAT WE SELL!

265 Guelph St.
Georgetown

(beside Belam, Inc.)

877-9541

MORE THAN
JUST A
TELEVISION STORE

