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NEWSLINES

Woolworth workers show their generosity

Employees of Woolworth Canada's Milton distribution centre have issued a challenge to other businesses in the Milton area.

Employees voted to donate \$2,000, all the money in their social committee account, to the Deidre Scholtz Fund.

The fund has been set up at the Royal Bank at Milton Mall to help pay for lab processing of blood tests done in an effort to find a bone marrow donor for



Deidre Scholtz

Deidre Scholtz, 5, who was recently diagnosed with idiopathic aplastic anemia.

Deidre's bone marrow does not manufacture blood. Without that ability, she has no white blood cells, instrumental in the body's immune system, and no platelets, which help the blood to clot.

Woolworth's employee Brenda Johnston said workers were asked if they would like to donate \$1,000 to the fund. They agreed overwhelmingly and the suggestion was made to give all \$2,000 in their social committee fund.

"Money donated will also help other people who need a bone marrow donor," said Ms Johnston.

Beer Store robbed by armed thug

An impatient robber pulled a Beer Store clerk over the counter and poked a gun into his chest after demanding money Tuesday night.

"The (robber) produced a gun and demanded money," said Sgt. Frank Phillips, Halton Regional Police spokesman. "The clerk momentarily hesitated and was pulled over the counter and had the gun shoved into his chest."

The robber then released the clerk and handed over a plastic bag, ordering him to fill it with money, police said.

"The clerk complied and the gunman fled the store on foot. He was last seen running westbound on Millside Drive."

No shots were fired and the clerk wasn't injured in the robbery, which occurred shortly after 6:30 p.m.

The robber is described as male, white, five-foot-eight to five-foot-10. He has a slim build with a muscular chest. He also has a flushed complexion. He was wearing a blue or green plaid lumber jacket. The gun is described as a black snub nose revolver.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 878-5511, ext. 2416 or Crime Stoppers at 826-8477.

Prayer day welcomes all comers

Everybody in Milton is invited to this year's World Day of Prayer service Friday night at Knox Presbyterian Church.

Jan and Pep Philpott will be the keynote speakers during the service. The couple, now on leave in Milton, have worked as Presbyterian missionaries in Africa for six years.

The focus of the World Day of Prayer service in Milton will be Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere.

The World Day of Prayer service gets underway at 7:30 p.m. in the Main Street church, which is wheelchair accessible and offering signing for the hearing impaired.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Tempers are heating up at local Ontario Public Service Employees Union picket lines, especially at Maplehurst Correctional Centre (above) and the Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf.

A few reports of violence

Tensions rise on picket lines

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

Tensions are mounting between citizens and striking Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) workers at two main picket line locations in town:

"The public is starting to get irate," said Halton Regional Police Staff Sgt. Roy Smith.

Students and parents have reported delays as long as 45 minutes while trying to drive into the E.C. Drury High School complex, where OPSEU employees are picketing at both entrances, Staff Sgt. Smith said.

One of the picketers hit a car windshield with this fist Wednesday afternoon, cracking the glass, a youth told *The Champion*.

The youth said he was leaving the complex with a friend at 3:20 p.m. when his car was swarmed by picketers.

The striking workers are say they have been victimized as well. Two picketers, one who was sent to hospital, have been hit by cars at entrances to the complex.

The situation isn't any more peaceful at the Maplehurst Correctional Centre entrance, where police have been called repeatedly.

Officers are considering laying a charge of obstructing police against one stubborn/picketeer, Staff Sgt. Smith said.

"There was one incident where one of the picketers

refused to move aside to let a truck through."

Tensions among Maplehurst employees have been rising since two bargaining unit members were treated in hospital for smoke inhalation after inmates set fires at the Martin Street correctional centre.

The government has complained to the Labour Relations Board that jail guards, who are among 13,500 essential workers across the province, are breaking an essential-services agreement by keeping prisoners cell-bound in some jails, including Maplehurst.

However, OPSEU president Leah Casselman, who was at the Maplehurst picketing site Wednesday, said the agreement only calls for "care, custody and control" of inmates by staff.

The government is trying to "buy out" the inmates by given them rights to see visitors and make purchases at the canteen, she said, and in the process, the environment is less safe for the skeleton staff currently on the job.

"People are going to get killed," she warned.

She added that OPSEU has no plans to pull essential service workers from the jail, contrary to rumours, because "that's exactly what the government wants them to do so they can end the strike."

The labour board has sided with the government, however. A judge ruled Wednesday that inmates have the right to spend time out of their cells, and the free

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