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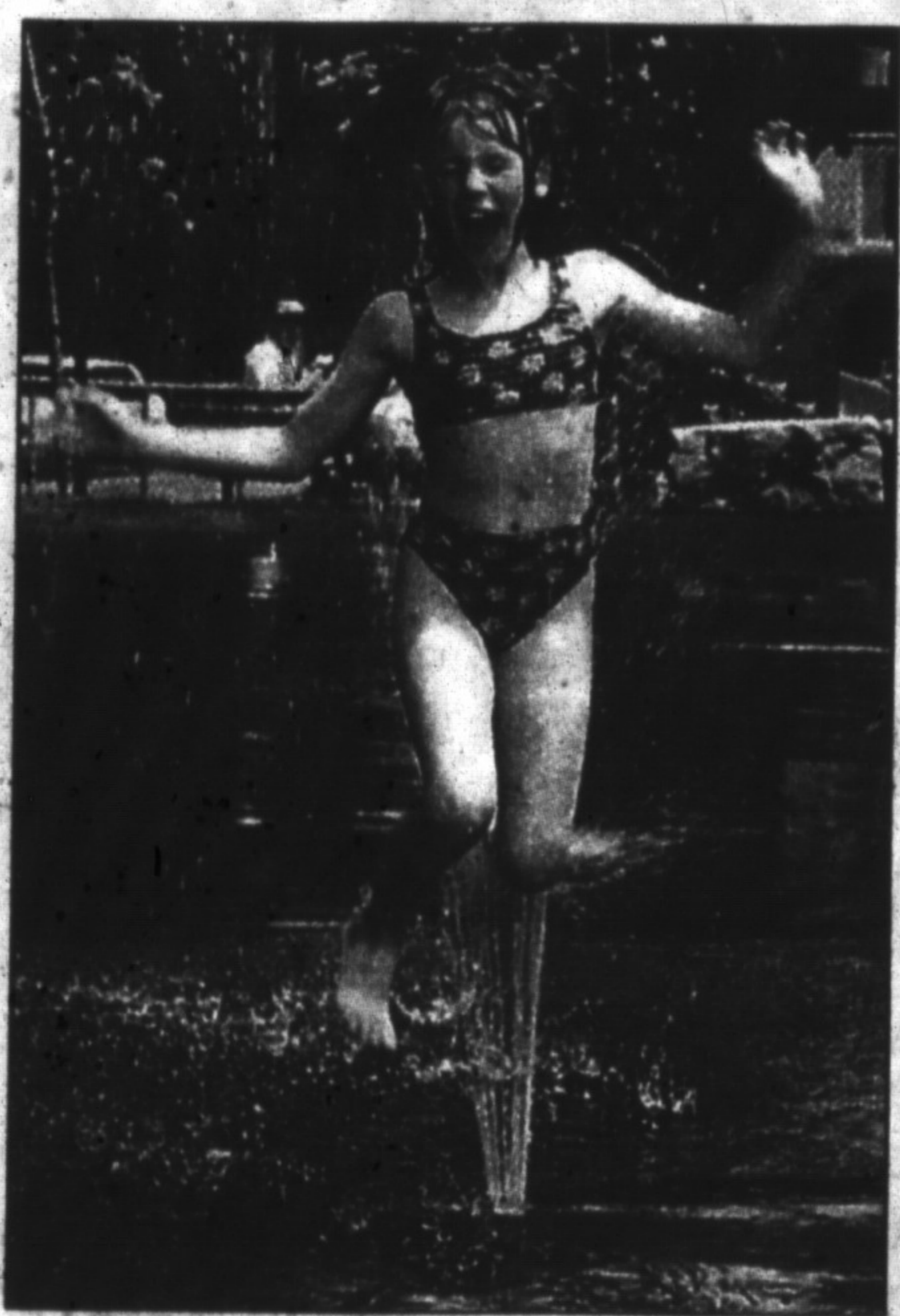
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Volume 12 Number 7 FRIDAY JUNE 28, 1996 Serving Milton, Ontario 75¢



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Splish splash

Eight-year-old Jennifer Petrie was one of the many young people on hand Saturday afternoon to try out the new splash pad water play area in Rotary Park. The pool and splash pad will be in full swing this Canada Day weekend, as various festivities take place within the park to celebrate the nation's birthday. See story p. 3.

Each side blaming the other for hydro picket line scuffles

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

The hydro workers' lockout has heated up as incidents of violence were reported on picket lines Wednesday morning.

Police launched investigations into two complaints of assault, one from Milton Hydro officials and the other from the Power Workers' Union.

"Things are escalating," said upset hydro general manager Don Thorne, "I'm incredibly disappointed."

The lockout of 23 employees grew tense as about 35 unionized workers, including Power Workers' Union members from other regions, set up a large-scale picket.

A union member from outside the local bargaining unit twisted a management worker's arm behind his back and threw him into a fence as he approached the Main Street hydro building shortly after 6:30 a.m., Mr. Thorne alleged.

But union representative David Shier gave a different version of the incident, alleging the management worker shoved a female union member out of his way while trying to cross the picket line.

"This person pushed his way through and grabbed her by the arm and shoved her," he alleged.

Mr. Thorne also alleged he was threatened while attempting to enter the building.

Unionized workers, who wanted Mr. Thorne to enter through the building's main door, blocked him as he tried to go in through a rear door, he said.

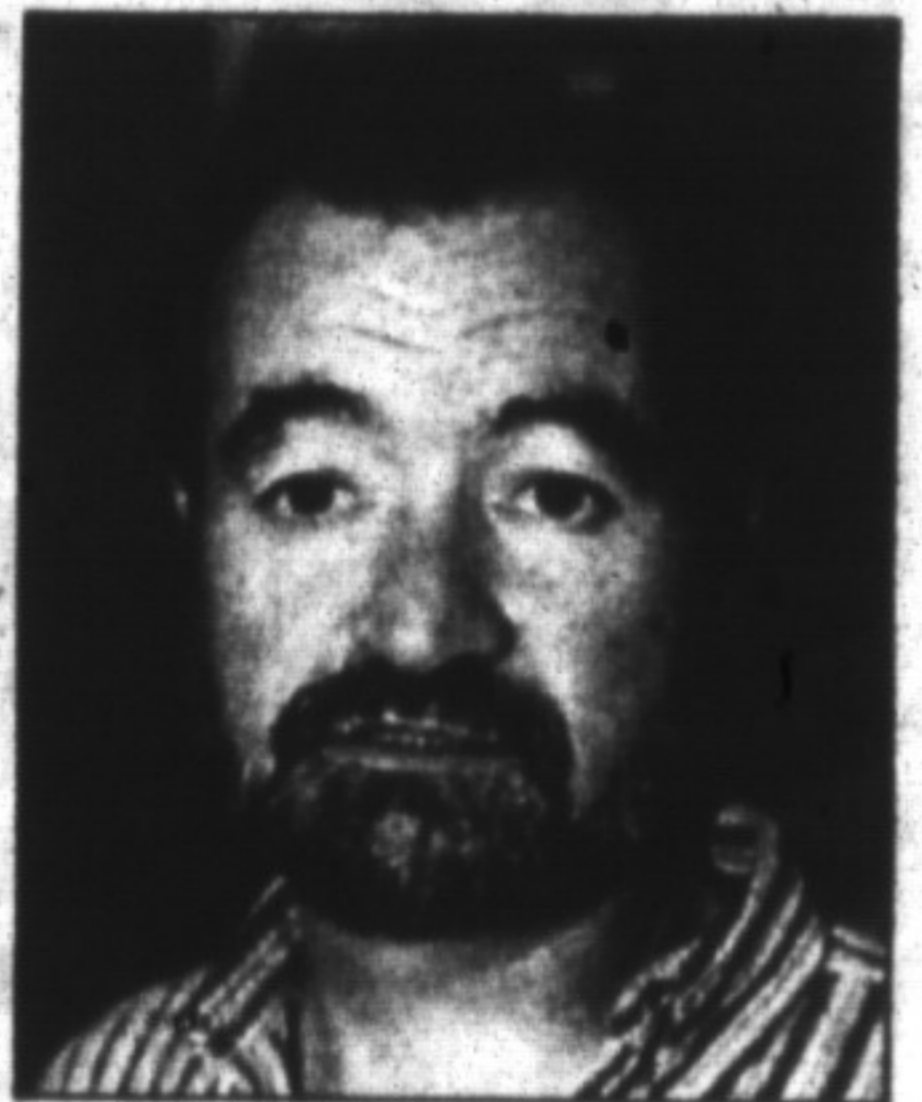
As a result, Mr. Thorne said he decided to take the main entrance, but was held up for about 15 minutes, during which he said he was "ridiculed. There were about

10 people around me pushing and shoving and swearing at me."

The workers also told Mr. Thorne they were going to come to his house and "get" him, Mr. Thorne alleged.

But Mr. Shier denied the allegation of threats, saying "I have no knowledge of that."

The picketers also blocked all door entrances and driveways into the building, Mr. Thorne said.



David Shier

He said the union members shouldn't be on hydro grounds, but Mr. Shier disagreed. "We question whether that's public property or not."

Mr. Shier said Mr. Thorne provoked the union employees into aggressive picketing by "using an unconventional means of access" into the building.

Hydro officials are consulting with a lawyer over the issue and may seek a court injunction in an attempt to control the workers' picketing practices, Mr. Thorne said.

Milton Hydro has hired a security company, which was on the scene yesterday morning. Part of the security company's role will be to videotape picket line conduct, Mr. Thorne said.

"All of the staff here feel personally threatened."

• see Picket on page 5

NEWSLINES

Bush parties bad news, say cops

Police are requesting Milton parents keep an eye on their kids, in response to bush party concerns. "We are asking that parents make an extra effort to ensure their children are where they're sup-

posed to be," said Staff Sgt. Jackie Gordon.

Police are making the plea in the wake of the June 8 death of a 19-year-old man at an Acton bush party.

Many of the party-goers have been drinking or have taken drugs, she said.

Anyone with information about upcoming bush parties is asked to call police at 878-5511, ext. 2105.

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Berries are ready

Local strawberry growers report that their crop will be ready for picking.

"It's been a long and anxious wait," said John Hughes, co-owner of Bell School Line pick-your-own farm, Springridge Farm.

The crop looks good, Mr. Hughes said. "The berries are firm and full of flavour and damage from insects has been unusually light."

Bert Andrews, operator of Andrews' Scenic Acres on No. 10 Sideroad, also recently reported that strawberries are ready at his pick-your-own farm.

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