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Picketing time cut but not the numbers

Judge rules for 15-minute delays

By **BRAD REAUME**
The Champion

The locked-out hydro union workers are calling it a victory.

After an hour in judge's chambers Wednesday afternoon, legal representatives of Milton Hydro and the Power Workers' Union emerged with an interim ruling on picketing protocol.

Under the temporary agreement, picketers are allowed to delay people entering or leaving Milton Hydro on Thompson Road for 15 minutes, and only one entrance can be used to do that.

Management was seeking a reduction in the number of picketers but that was

denied, however picketers are no longer to target the homes of members of the Hydro Commission.

"We look at it as a victory," said Power Workers' Union representative David Shier. "We are looking at all the legal costs involved in this and wonder why the commission is spending money in court, and not on settling the contract."

Both sides will be back in court next Friday (Aug. 9) to argue over an injunction proposed by Hydro management. Hydro locked out its union employees on June 17 when they refused to sign a contract proposal put forward by management.

Milton-Hydro general manager Don Thorne said he was "not terribly happy" with the agreement, which resulted because of a lack of available court time to argue the full case. He stressed the agreement does not restrict future legal proceedings.

"I'm not happy that we've been deprived of our legal right to enter and exit our property," Mr. Thorne said. "We'll see how the (picketing) protocol goes."

Mr. Shier agreed the union is treading water in its dispute with hydro management. He said the union "will escalate some things" and attempt to gain public support. He said the union has suggested

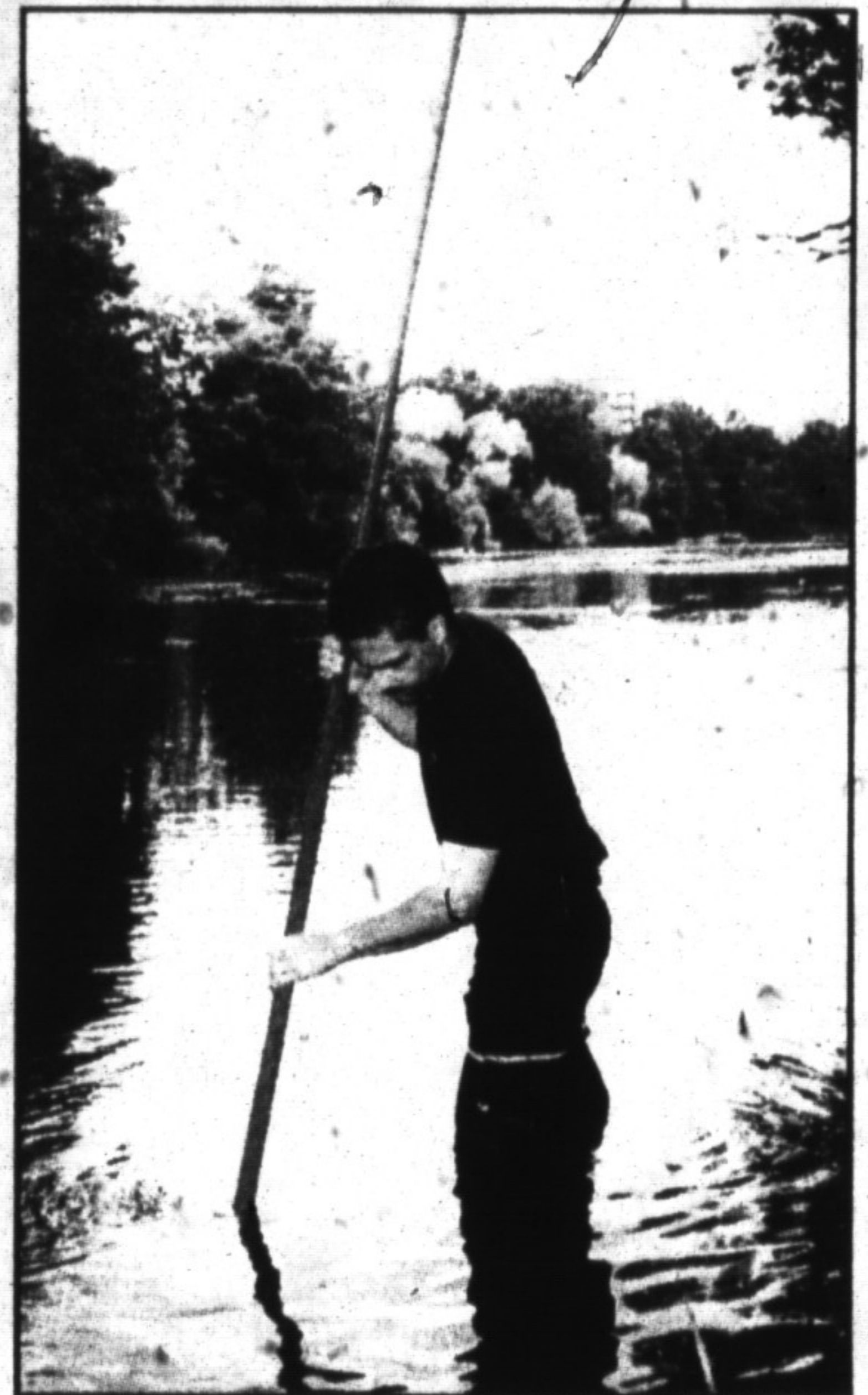
• see **UNION** on page 3



Fishing for clues

Police and firefighters fished a cash register from the Mill Pond Wednesday afternoon, after it had been stolen from Scoop's ice cream store on Mill Street the previous night.

According to police, unknown suspects pried open the front door to the establishment and removed the cash register. An undisclosed amount of cash was removed before the register was dumped into the pond.



Photos by **GRAHAM PAINE**

A Milton firefighter using hip waders and a grappling pole searches the bottom of the Mill Pond in Rotary Park for the cash drawer of the stolen cash register already recovered from the pond by firefighters, and being examined by (inset) 12 Division Village Constable James Barnes.

NEWSLINES

Missing man reported seen

A Campbellville man who went missing over a week ago was reportedly seen by a local acquaintance early Wednesday morning at Campbellville Park, but police are still looking to confirm his whereabouts.

Amos Sweezy, 61, was seen at 6:10 a.m. by an acquaintance who works at the Mohawk Racetrack. The person has apparently seen him on a number of other occasions over the past week as well.

"While the concern over his well-being has decreased, we are still looking to find him and confirm his acquaintance's report," said acting Staff Sergeant Joe Martin.

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New
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Photo by **GRAHAM PAINE**

Gravel truck drivers explain their protest to Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Thursday morning at the Hwy. 401 eastbound scales, where truck drivers were protesting recent load restrictions by the Ministry of Transportation. OPP officers made sure at least one lane was open for traffic.

Truckers protest

100 angry with new restrictions

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
Special to The Champion

Close to 100 gravel truck drivers from across southern Ontario descended on Dublin Line and No. 5 Sideroad early Thursday morning, protesting new load restrictions.

The protest - which saw trucks parked all along the two roads as early as 6 a.m. - comes in light of restrictions imposed by Transport Minister Al Palladini last week.

The Ministry of Transportation has called for a 1.5 tonne per axle decrease for gravel trucks. Fines for ignoring the restriction have increased from \$500 to a high of \$20,000, while an intensified

spot check campaign for axle weight is also expected.

One protester said the ministry is hoping to make the roads safer through decreased truck loads, but isn't going to compensate drivers for lost wages.

"How can we maintain our vehicles if our wages decrease due to smaller truck loads? If you have a factory worker who makes a lot of money and a waiter who is just getting by, who do you think is more able to keep their car in safe condition? It's the same situation if our wages go down," said the protester, who would not give his name.

"Accidents are more prone to occur if our vehicles are not safe because we

• see **ANGRY** on page 3

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