



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Thanks for honesty

Dear Editor:

We, the staff and doctors of Maplewood Veterinary Hospital, would like to express our sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Miller for the honesty and integrity they displayed. We had undercharged them by \$50 and they brought it to our attention. It's knowing such people that makes doing business in Milton such a pleasure.

Dr. Debbie Hawkins
Maplewood Veterinary Hospital
Milton

Union workers paid well: reader

Dear Editor:

I have just read the front page coverage of the Power Workers' Union statement of the week and the letters to the editor. I would like to make a few comments and ask a few questions.

The first comment concerns the wage scale at Milton Hydro. Let no one forget the hourly rates set out by Mr. McNab are correct but, unfortunately, he may have been misinformed about the hours.

The linemen and material handlers, among others, work 40 hours per week, therefore, a lineman's basic annual wage is \$48,500 not \$45,500 and the material handler earns \$36,400. Not even mentioned were the double time wages for on-call weekends, holidays, emergency repairs, the benefits such as health, dental, vision care, life insurance, a pension plan, 24 paid sick days per year and the generous vacation package.

Secondly, the major concern of the union representative and some letter writers seemed to be what would happen if there was a major storm — would management and students be able to cope? Well, I guess we have that answer. We had a major electrical storm on July 29, probably one of the worst for many years. As a customer of Milton Hydro, were you inconvenienced by a long term outage?

Of course, one letter writer has a hidden agenda for criticizing the hydro commissioners and the "local rag" since he has run unsuccessfully for the job of hydro commissioner. Maybe he sees this as a way of making political hay.

Why did he not also urge the union to bargain in good faith? Why would the Power Workers' Union and the material handler continue to pursue a grievance under the umbrella of contract negotiations when a complaint of gender discrimination was filed on July 3 to the Ontario Human Rights Commission and is headed for arbitration on December 2. She has other options as well including Employment Equity and Pay Equity Boards.

Why does the union continue to use this issue to hold up contract negotiations and keep 22 other employees off the job?

If there is a logical reason or circumstances for the union's position regarding this matter, they should let it be known.

The Power Workers' Union propaganda of misinformation and half-truths makes me glad our hydro commissioners and management have not stooped to their level.

Finally, how do you feel about the remuneration packages of these employees? Do you feel they are being treated unfairly? Would you gladly pay higher rates to cover wage increases and new demands?

Call your elected commissioners for the facts and let them know how you feel as the paying customer.

Gordon Cartwright
Milton

Don't know how lucky they are

Dear Editor:

After reading further union's statements and letters to the editor I feel compelled to comment.

If Milton Hydro does not make a stand now with the Power Worker's Union they will be turning over the asylum to the inmates.

We have commissioners and management that really care and we need to get behind them. The people the union imports from Toronto and Hamilton couldn't care less about local employees and their families. I understand one of these imported picketers is charged with assault on a woman.

I walk past the picket line two or three times a week and when I look at these people on the line making \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year working in town, I cannot understand what they want.

How many people in Milton work out of town? Every day they have the expense and time getting to their jobs. Those riding the GO train leave at 7:30 a.m. or earlier and return at 6:30 p.m. or later, and they don't have summer hours either.

Is this union doing the right thing by these employees? Or are the employees listening to a union that has no idea how to negotiate an agreement. Is the welfare of the employees and their families the union's first priority? I would like to say to anyone who lives and works in Milton, making this kind of money and enjoy-

ing these benefits, is very lucky. I am sure a lot of people in Milton would love to work at Milton Hydro.

Gord Harker
Milton

Gay lobby group didn't like article

Dear Editor:

Recently your newspaper published an article regarding the police raids on parks in the Hamilton area. Your paper, unlike many others, chose to print the name of a man arrested.

The devastating effect the publishing of names has on both the lives of these men and their families seems to be of no consideration to you.

In cases such as these it is not unknown for people to lose their friends, families, jobs and yes, even their lives through suicide.

Later, even the Hamilton-Wentworth police acknowledged this and agreed to meet with the lesbian/gay/bisexual communities of Hamilton to address this situation.

We are sure your paper would never waste its space or time to report those found in so-called "lovers lanes" that straight people so often frequent.

We would appreciate an immediate cessation of this practice by your paper and a response to this letter by *The Canadian Champion* newspaper within the next two weeks.

Greg Pavelich
OutSpoken, Toronto

Editor's note: A response to this letter forms an editorial on page 6 of today's issue.

7—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, August 14, 1996

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