

TRW lays off 126 workers

A drop in demand for seat belts is the reason for a recent layoff of 126 workers at TRW's Penetanguishene seatbelt assembly plant.

Seventy-seven of the laidoff workers started less than three months ago, Roddy Macdonald, TRW's human relations supervisor, said.

Production on car lines at five General Motors plants stopped at the same time, he said. Contributing to the drop in demand was the regular GM summer shutdown, he said.

The 126 layoffs coincided with the start of TRW's own, two-week, summer shutdown.

Notice of more layoffs of smaller numbers of TRW employees in August and September have been posted. Those layoffs might not happen, Macdonald said.

TRW had previously hired more employees to meet increased orders. The layoff of the 126 is an indefinite layoff.

Before the layoff, 714 people were on the payroll for the Penetanguishene plant. Sales increased 40 per cent in a short period, Macdonald said.

The stopping of production of car lines at five plants at the same time is unusual, the human relations supervisor said.

Indusmin averts strike with 5% raise each year

Indusmin and its Teamster employees have agreed on a two-year contract retroactive to May 1.

The wages of the 42 members of Local 938 of the Teamsters who work in

Midland for the silica processing company will rise five per cent in each year of the contract.

The contract covers operators, maintenance workers, and tradespeople.

Hourly rates range in the first year from \$12 to \$15.75.

The contract was approved by the Local 938 members last Friday, hours before a strike deadline.

No end in sight for two strikes

An end is not in sight in either the Catulpa-Tamarac or the Bell Canada strike.

The 50 Catulpa-Tamarac employees who belong to the Ontario Public Service Employees Union are starting week nine of their strike. Mediation has not made a difference.

The Bell Canada installers and operators are into the fifth week of their strike. Company and union representatives have yet to meet to discuss a new

contract.

Representatives of both striking groups on Monday said their people are supporting their strike.

Catulpa-Tamarac is a non-profit service for the developmentally handicapped and their families. The OPSEU Local 355 members are seeking the same pay as people who do the same work in the employ of the provincial government.

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