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Education

Mediator hands down new contract

By ALAN SHACKLETON
Tribune Staff

A contract imposed by a mediator on York Region high school teachers is fair, said the president of the provincial teachers' federation.

"We're happy the arbitrator picked our position," said Lynn Johnston, head of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation.

"However, I felt all along that our position was reasonable. Despite the headlines, I don't consider this a win or lose situation. I see it as a fair position, not that someone got stomped."

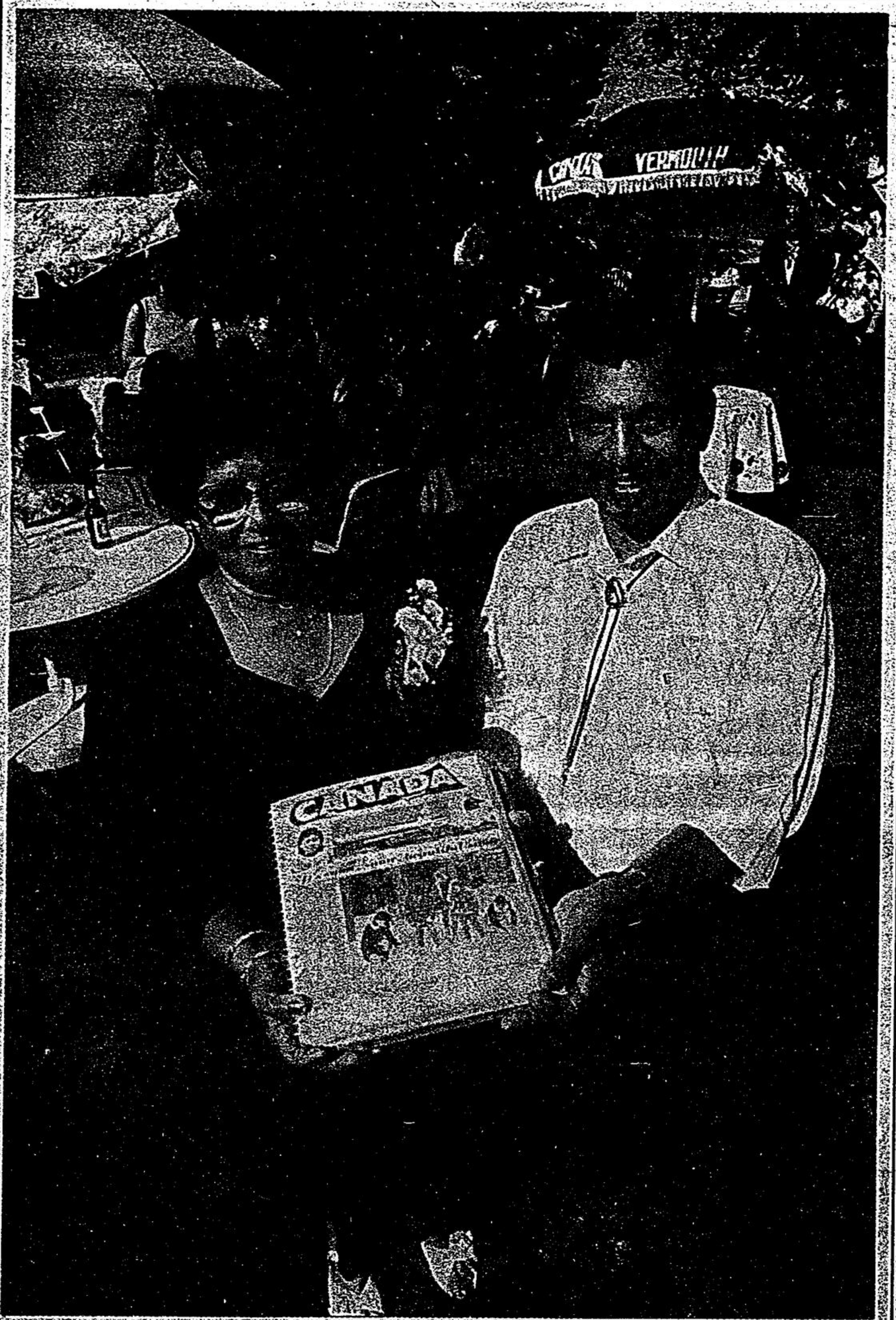
Both the federation, representing about 1,700 high school teachers across the

region, and the York Region Board of Education presented their final contract offers to provincial mediator Mort Mitchnick in July. Mitchnick had to choose one offer or the other, and he sided with the teachers.

Negotiations between the two sides had been going on for more than 18 months. The teachers have been working without a contract since Aug. 31, 1993.

In April, the teachers began a work-to-rule campaign in the schools which lasted for seven weeks. It appeared an agreement was reached in May, but the sides couldn't settle four areas of dispute which were left to Mitchnick.

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Investigation still on at Willow Springs

The York Region Health department is now working with the Hamilton Health Department after children who attended Willow Springs Camp two weeks ago continued to exhibit symptoms of food poisoning.

"At this point we're suspecting it may be viral," said York Region health inspector Darlene Keates. "We have received reports that some of the children continued to get sick after they returned home."

Some children who weren't among those who went to the hospital, and in one case the parents of a child who attended the camp, have also exhibited flu-like symptoms such as vomiting and fatigue, said Keates.

She said the health department has narrowed down the search for the ailment which sent 21 campers and counsellors from the Hamilton Christian ministry outreach group to Markham Stouffville hospital on Aug. 26 with severe vomiting.

"The preliminary results from the lab indicate that the food and the water (at Willow Springs) were clean," said

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Celebration

Doreen and Oodit Singh celebrated 25 years in Canada and in Stouffville on Saturday at the home of their daughter Pamela. They hold a clipping of a picture from The Tribune dated 1969 of their first experience with snow. The couple has six children (Pamela, Allan, Michael, Leroy, Dave and Annie) and eight grandchildren. They also celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary this year.

Photo: SJOERD WITTEVEEN

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