

Carpenters ratify contract

BY PATRICK CASEY
STAFF WRITER

Sheet metal workers now represent the lone trade remaining on strike after residential framing carpenters ratified a new agreement last weekend.

About 2,000 members of the Labourers' International Local 183 returned to work on Tuesday for the first time in two months, following a marathon negotiating session that stretched into the holiday weekend.

The settlement calls for a 25 per cent wage increase over the next three years, with about 15 per cent arriving in the first year of the deal. In exchange for a compensation package, union members agreed to pay their own workers compensation premiums.

Mary Lawson, president of the Greater Toronto Home Builders Association, said news of the 77 per cent voting approval is a great relief to all new-home buyers. "The framers are absolutely critical to the industry because they are the backbone of the home. You just can't do anything without them," she explained.

About 500 members of Sheet Metal Local 285 still remain off the job since their strike began June 8. Talks quickly broke off last week after a short, unproductive meeting with the contractors association.

The summer of 1998 quickly became one of turmoil for new-home buyers as nine weeks of strikes resulted in a host of trades spending time off the job. Striking drywallers carried the bulk of the headlines in May and June after stalling 27,000 new housing units in greater Toronto.

The strike also erupted into on-site violence, including an incident in which a group of men smashed drywall and cut wires at a Kleinburg seniors housing complex, causing more than \$50,000 in damage.

Meanwhile, about 1,000 low-rise concrete formers and another 70 concrete and drain workers ended their strike last week, the same time as heavy equipment operators reached a tentative agreement.

The GTHBA estimates the series of strikes have resulted in more than 3,000 layoffs among companies that supply products to the new-home sector, including windows, doors and kitchen cabinets. Masons and roofers have also been affected.

One positive to come out of the crisis has been improved communication lines between builders, sales agents and purchasers, said Ed O'Brien, a Norman Hill Realty representative who sells new houses for Sundial Homes. "Right from the beginning, we were notifying our clients that work stoppages could become a reality and that purchase dates could be affected."



Delivering the news that matters most to your community

Economist & Sun • Stouffville Tribune

(905) 294-2200

(905) 640-2100



Summer Clearance Spectacular

up to 50% off

Storewide savings on selected merchandise. Hurry in for best selection.

ALL WEEKEND PAY NO GST*
ON ALL CLEARANCE & SELECTED REGULAR & SALE MERCHANDISE
AUGUST 7, 8 AND 9

up to 50% off

men's & women's selected designer sportswear & denim

Includes Tommy Hilfiger, Polo Ralph Lauren, Nautica, Nautica Marine denim, Gant, DKNY jeans, Polo jeans, Liz Claiborne, Jones New York & more!

60% off

- Summer acrylics.
- Eaton Home 'Dot' Pattern dinnerware.

up to 50% off

- Women's selected swimwear, dresses & Tommy Hilfiger sportswear.
- Men's selected Van Heusen sportswear.
- Children's selected spring & summer shorts, t-shirts, shorts sets, swimwear, co-ordinates & dresses.
- Outdoor furniture cushions & umbrellas.

40% to 50% off

- Women's selected spring & summer fashions.
- Men's spring outerwear. Excluding designers.

40% off

- All men's golf apparel.

30% off

- Selected fashion daywear from Arianne, Hanna & Papillon Blanc.

25% off

- All BBQs.
- Floor samples and in-stock

Saturday morning special 25% off

all regular-priced fashion jewellery
Excludes Fine Gold Jewellery & Estate Jewellery (Unlimited claim)

3 Days Only Extra Savings

(Specials until August 9th)

additional 30% off

- Previously reduced Liz Claiborne hats, scarves & belts.

additional 30% off

- Previously reduced men's & women's DKNY jeans, Polo Jeans & Guess Jeans.

additional 30% off

- Selected previously reduced handbags by Kenneth Cole, Liz Claiborne, Guess, ck & Nine West.

additional 50% off

- Previously reduced Attitude, Work Connection & Jones Wear jewellery



*We will deduct the equivalent of the GST from your total purchase price. Unfortunately the GST offer excludes Cosmetics and Fragrances, Bath & Body, shoes by ck Calvin Klein, DKNY, Nine West, Enzo Angileri, Easy Spirit, Vera Spica, Stuart Weitzman, Calvin Klein & DKNY handbags, Estate Jewellery, Watches by Swatch, Gucci, Yves Saint Laurent & Calvin Klein, sale, and clearance-priced Prestige Watches, sale, and clearance-priced Fine Jewellery, Jewellery by D'Arroux, Memoire Paris, Diamond Essence and the Royal Canadian Mint, Foots merchandise, regular-priced Women's Designer Fashions (consisting of sportswear, denim fashions and bridge classes), 359/118/654, Women's Claudie sleepwear, loungewear and robes, DKNY hosiery, \$14.99 3 packs party hose, Men's Designer Fashions (consisting of sportswear, denim, tailored clothing, shirts, ties, underwear and accessories), Jockey & Calvin Klein apparel & underwear, Hugo Boss underwear, Children's Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein apparel, Sunglass Hut, Mont Blanc pens, sale-priced bedding & bath, housewares, regular-priced major appliances, vacuums, home comfort appliances, microwaves, Maytag appliances & Viking appliances, sale, and clearance-priced home merchandise (furniture area rugs, outdoor furniture and accessories), BBQs sale-priced Home merchandise (consisting of Ralph Lauren, Polo bedding & towels, Liz Claiborne bedding & towels, Charisma bedding & towels, Royal Velvet towels), sale, and clearance-priced small electronics and personal care appliances, microwave appliances, Panasonic GAOO TVs, BBQs, Maytag appliances, pre-recorded video & audio tapes, CDs and film, greeting cards, Eaton Beauty Dolls, Beanie Babies, Lalique, Disney Classic Collection, Seagull Pewter, Swarovski, Lladro, Neo, Fine Bone China, Eaton Gift Certificates, Eaton Restaurants, concessions & services, Warehouse Stores & Clearance Centres (except for Factory Outlet and the Toronto Warehouse Store).

LAWYER

PETER J. LEWARNE

Matrimonial / Personal Injury
Commercial Litigation /
Small Business Law / Bankruptcy
Real Estate / Wills

Over 20 years experience

Low Rates - Quality Service

4701 Highway No. 7 (at Kennedy Rd.)
Unionville, Ontario L3R 1M7

Tel: 477-4381

Fax: 477-7601

24 Hour Availability