

High winds caused extensive property damage in Mississauga and surrounding areas last Thursday, blowing around debris and knocking down tree branches and signs. Above, a Mississauga Hydro crew attempts to repair pole and equipment felled by the gales on Burnhamthorpe Rd.

Cost of Credit River project up \$15,900 from estimate

Word that the project to stabilize the bank of the Credit River at Erindale Woodlands would cost \$37,000 — a \$15,900 increase in the estimated cost — has upset Mississauga's general committee.

Committee heard the news last Wednesday. Councillor Grant Clarkson, a town representative on the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, blamed the price hike on poor administration on the part of the authority and the consulting engineer involved.

'I think there was bad engineering,' he said.

'It was lack of proper administration on the part of the conservation authority, plus a lack of administration on the part of the consulting engineer.'

NO SUPPORT

'We got no support from the people downtown; the Department of Energy and Resources — they seemed a bit in cahoots with the engineers.'

He said the engineers had not properly conducted work on a series of test holes at the start of the project and had not anticipated later flooding.

He said if the tests were properly carried out the job

could have been done without the extra cost.

Mississauga's share of the total stabilization project is 44 percent, as the benefiting municipality.

Mayor Robert Speck said if the cost hike was due to lack of supervision at the conservation authority level, the authority should pay for it.

SPREAD COST

'The cost should be spread over the whole watershed,' he added.

Reeve Chic Murray said the authority should pick

up its share of the 'overage' involved.

'The town had nothing to do with it,' he said.

Councillor Clarkson said reasonable overages on costs would normally be allowed but in this case the overage was too high.

Committee is recommending town council refer the matter back to the conservation authority with a request that the overage be spread over the entire watershed instead of being placed on the shoulders of the town.

Rexall workers strike; holding firm in bid for pay increases

Striking workers continue their 24-hour picket of Rexall Drug Co. Ltd. in Cooksville and are holding firm on their demands for a pay increase of 60 cents an hour over two years and additional hospital, pension and holiday benefits.

'We're going to hold our ground,' promised Norm Richard, president of the 150-member Local 279 of the International Chemical Workers Union. 'There's no way we'll settle for anything less.'

The strike, which took effect at midnight Thursday, came after two months of contract negotiations after which the company and the union failed to come to terms.

REJECT OFFER

The union is asking for a 60-cent per hour pay hike over two years, 30 cents the first year and 30 cents the second year. It has rejected a company offer of a two-year increase of 38 cents per hour which would be divided into four increases.

When contract negotiations began in January, the union had asked for a one-year increase of 50 cents per hour.

Basic labor rate at Rexall starts at \$2.58 per hour, Richard said. He said women who make \$2.16 per hour at Rexall, would be making \$3.17 at Tamblin's a drug firm in Willowdale, after the two-year contract there matures.

FIRST STRIKE

It is the first time in 24 years that the union has had a strike at Rexall, Richard said. He said the strike vote was 96 per cent in favor.

Most of the striking workers, which Mr. Richard said numbered 110, are machine operators and warehousemen.

Rexall President Howard Vander Linden said Monday his plant was operating on a limited basis with supervisory help on the first regular work day since the strike started Thursday.

'We hope to continue negotiations soon,' Mr. Vander Linden said. 'But as of yet we've had no communications from the union.'

COPS in Ottawa

Thirty-one boys between the ages of 13 and 17 went to Ottawa with police constables last week.

Members of Cadet Organization Police School, accompanied by constables Tom Crosson and Walter Richardson, spent five days in the capitol.

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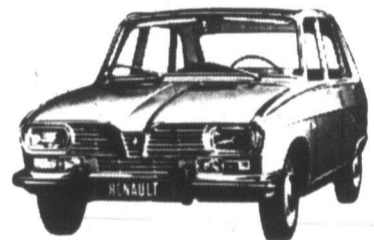
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