

Chaos in Toronto

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STAFF REPORTER

The Star was at Bermondsey transfer station yesterday, the second day of Toronto's civic workers strike.

11:15 a.m.: Sam Attia arrives at the station. His cargo: two bags of garbage from his Baskin-Robbins franchise; a cardboard box filled with other boxes; and his daughters Veronica, 10, and Barbara, 9.

"I have a business. I can't keep my garbage longer," Attia says. "Especially when it's in the summer."

Union members say they will allow one person to deposit garbage every 15 minutes. Attia's silver sedan is sixth in line.

11:39 a.m.: A group of men pushes away the first car in line, which would not start. The girls cheer.

11:45 a.m.: Attia inches into the third spot in line.

11:53 a.m.: The girls walk cautiously up to the picket line. A picketer raises his fist and shouts, "Union!" The girls do not reply.

11:55 a.m.: Veronica, fanning herself: "When I go home, I'm going to take a shower."

Barbara: "A *cold* shower."

12:03 p.m.: Attia explains he brought the girls as an educational experience. Asked what she has learned, Veronica says, "Garbage is smelly." Asked the same question, Barbara says: "That it takes one hour just to put garbage away. And also that you should bring your garbage in just one time, so you don't always have to wait one hour in the hot, boiling sun."

12:13 p.m.: A union member gives the Attias permission to walk to the trucks behind the picket line.

12:15 p.m.: They complete their mission. "It wasn't fun at all," says Sam. Says Barbara: "But it was better at the end. Because we're done."

12:45 p.m.: Carrying two garbage bags, Ivan Powell, 22, arrives at Bermondsey. Without glancing at the line, he struts around picketers. They shout at him to stop. He shouts back he is doing nothing wrong.

12:47 p.m.: Powell asks a senior citizen in line if he wants help. The man says he does. Powell picks up his bags. "We've got rules in place, young pal," a picketer tells Powell.

"You can talk to me later if you want," Powell responds. "I'm helping an old man right now. Bye."