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EDUCATION RESTRUCTURING OPTIONS

Parent groups question board calculations

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Georgetown Gemini

The Halton Board of Education's options for possible school closures will be unveiled this week as the Board's accommodation committee releases an update report.

Trustees were briefed on the options on Monday, school principals and a member of the school council or parent representative were briefed on Tuesday and tomorrow (Thursday) the report will be on the agenda at the Board's regular meeting. The report will also be the subject of a public meeting at Georgetown High on Monday night.

Faced with a mill rate increase of 12 per cent in 1997 because of declining Ministry of Education grants, the Board embarked on a restructuring program, including a look at accommodations in Halton Hills and Burlington.

A Board report indicates that there are 20 per cent more pupil places than necessary and that to have each school at 90 per cent of its capacity, 8 to 12 schools will have to be closed, resulting in operating budget savings of \$2 million per year. In explaining the need to close schools the Board also said that the sale of the excess properties will provide money to be used for renovations to existing

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PATTY CAKE? Members of The Weiss Blauw Bayren Dancers, a troupe specializing in traditional Bavarian folk dancing, were featured performers at Octoberfest - Harvest Time Celebration on Main Street, Saturday morning. The Weiss Blauw Bayren Dancers performed several dances, including the traditional wood choppers dance which has men with hatchets chopping at a piece of wood in time to accordion music. Other featured performers included George Kash and the Oktoberfest Express. (Jamie Harrison photo)



RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY! Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson was among almost 100 Georgetown residents who took part in the Terry Fox Run at Georgetown South Community Park, Saturday, raising about \$4,000. (Jamie Harrison photo)

Terry's dream lives on ...

BY JAMIE HARRISON
The Georgetown Gemini

Despite what sometimes seemed like a torrential downpour, over 90 people turned out to honour the dream of a man dead 15 years.

Just two weeks ago it seemed unlikely Georgetown would have a Terry Fox Run, until Bonnie Covert stepped forward to volunteer her time to organize the event, meant to honour the memory of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope.

Covert, whose own brother succumbed to cancer last summer, cobbled together volunteers from throughout Georgetown with 10 days to assemble the crew's group effort at the Georgetown South Community Park Sunday to honour Terry's dream of a cure for cancer.

Early estimates have the Georgetown run raising about \$4,000, not a bad figure given the weather and the short period of time Covert had to organize it.

"I think we did pretty well," Covert said. "It's hard to estimate because we're still waiting for all of the schools to get their pledges in."

One of the high points of the run for Covert was when Adam Green, a cancer survivor from the Hamilton area, was on hand to open the run.

"What a wonderful young fellow," Covert said of Green. "I would love to have him come around to the schools to talk."

Planning such a large event in a short period of time was a big challenge but not one that Covert found overwhelming.

"Actually, I didn't find the planning overwhelming. I had a lot of people helping me. I went to bed late a lot of nights," Covert said, adding, "Things just sort of came together. The volunteers I had were very good."

Covert also expressed her gratitude to
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