

Late French Immersion on the block

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Georgetown Gemini
As of September Georgetown students may have just one chance to enter the Halton Board of Education's French Immersion program.

Top Board staff recommend cancelling the Extended (Late) Immersion Program in order to save the Board as much as \$175,000 a year, most of it in bussing costs.

Currently students have the option of entering the French Immersion program in Grade 1 or Grade 7 and the existing Late Immersion program for students from Acton, Milton and Georgetown is held at Stewarttown Public School.

Although the Extended Immersion program ran steadily for a number of years, numbers have been dropping recently.

Stewarttown principal Peter Vidler said that cancellation of the program would have little effect on the school since for all but four of this year's class of 23 students, Stewarttown is their home school.

The Board's Superintendent of Education Services, Kit Rankin, said that if the program is cut, students already in Extended Immersion would continue in the program until graduation.

"If a student is already in Extended French, that program would be offered right

through to the end of high school," Rankin explained recently.

"In the north the students would continue to attend Stewarttown, but if trustees accept our recommendations, next year for students going into Grade 9, we would have to look at whether we continue to run Extended Immersion centres or whether we integrate students into their home high school with early French Immersion students," Rankin said.

There are 500 French Immersion students region-wide and the Board receives \$650,000 a year for the programming from the Province, making it a break-even program.

Preliminary capital budget approved

The lion's share of next year's \$3.6 million preliminary capital budget, approved by councillors last week, is earmarked for engineering and public works projects.

Included in the \$2.5 million engineering and public works budget is:

- \$720,000 for reconstruction of Main Street from Maple Avenue to Church Street to urban standards, including storm sewers;
- \$711,000 for reconstruction of 10th Line north of 22 Sideroad;
- \$70,000 for reconstruction of Armstrong Avenue from Mountainview Road to the CNR tracks;
- \$150,000 to reconstruct the Fourth Line

from the 10th Sideroad to the CNR tracks.

Included in the Recreation and Parks Department budget is:

- \$160,000 for development of the Barber Mill Park;
- \$28,100 for improvements to the Georgetown Indoor Pool;
- \$50,000 for the Smith Drive Park.

Vehicle and equipment purchases are included in the \$266,000 budgeted for the Fire Department, which includes \$175,000 for a heavy rescue vehicle to replace a 15-year-old unit, \$27,000 for a support vehicle to replace an existing 13-year-old vehicle and \$10,000 to replace radio equipment.

Attempt to steal 'dead' car

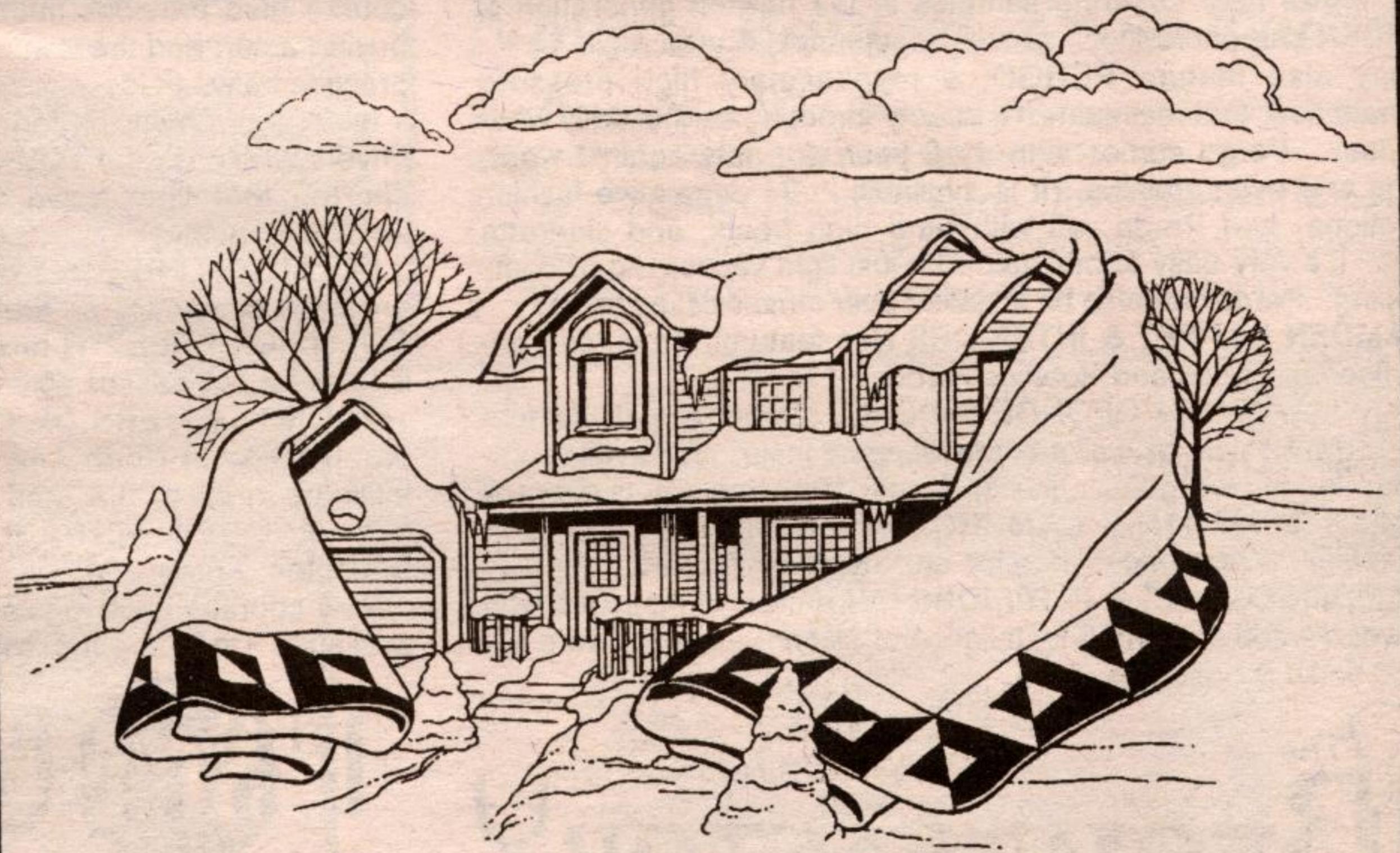
Halton Regional Police reported that unknown suspects tried in vain to steal a car parked on Mountainview Road North, sometime between Nov. 15 to 18.

Police report that the car, a 1985 Mercury Topaz, was disused, waiting to be

scrapped, when someone entered the car and tried to "punch" the ignition in an attempt to steal the vehicle.

The would-be thief was unsuccessful and left the vehicle.

Police have no suspects in this crime.



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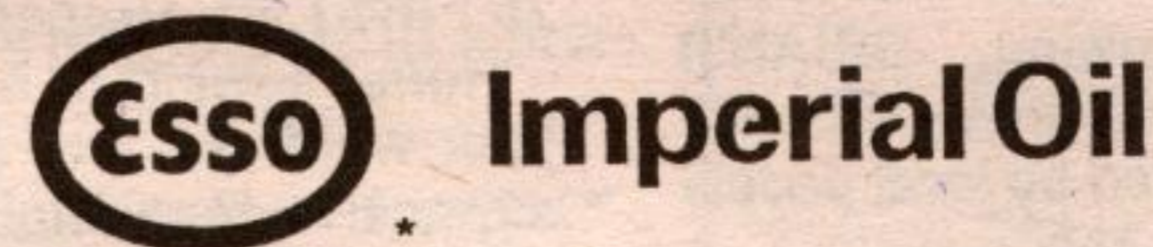
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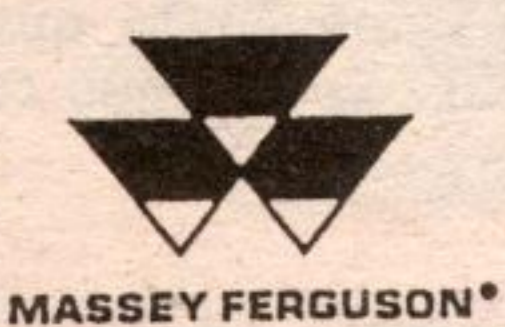
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