

Teachers learn the lessons on school P.D. days

While the students may relish a four-day weekend, their teachers took no such absence, instead buckling down to learn about new technologies in the school last Thursday and Friday.

"Teachers are still learning, too," said George Kennedy principal Rick Nodwell.

Nodwell's teachers and support staff spent the two

days learning about the Internet and its place in the classroom in the coming years. With each succeeding generation becoming increasingly media literate, teachers must avail themselves of every chance to learn how learning and educating will be done in the late 20th century and on into the 21st.

"It used to be that we would

have to look up the average weather in an encyclopedia from 1968," Nodwell said, adding that students can now access information for a locale a world away for up-to-the-minute weather conditions. Some Kennedy students have just completed such a project.

Kennedy is one of 16 schools in the Greater To-

ronto Area, the only in Halton Region, selected to have the computers networked, including access to the Internet. By the end of the school year, Nodwell expects the school will have 80 computers, with one assigned to each teacher.

As with any new medium, there is the constant worry that pupils might access a web

page on the Internet which, at best is not germane to school work, or, at worst, is inappropriate for children.

To guard against such instances, Nodwell preaches vigilance on the part of teachers, including having the appropriate web pages bookmarked. He has also sent home "appropriate use"

newsletters to parents.

"The students need to learn how to do things, but like everything else, you watch kids very closely."

The two-day workshop for teachers included such appropriate usage guidelines, as well as using technology to help build and maintain literacy.

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TEACH THEM WELL: Evan Robinson, a teacher at George Kennedy Public School, led a seminar teaching other educators about computers, the Internet and their places in the classroom, Friday during a Professional Development day. (Jamie Harrison photo)

Town expected to 'break even'

Relative to a lot of other municipalities in Ontario, it looks like the impact of the Province's mega week announcements on Halton Hills and Halton taxpayers "won't be all that bad."

Halton Hills Treasurer Andy Koopmans said that, "we will probably break even" once the cost of education is taken off the property tax bill and costs for other

services and revenue losses are calculated.

"All other things being equal, if we presume that we pay for all of that difference through property taxes we would have to increase them 21 per cent for Town purposes," Koopmans said, adding that the removal of the education component of the residential tax bill will result in taxpayers breaking even.

The 21 per cent tax increase for Town purposes would mean an extra \$104 for a property with an average assessment of \$6,400.

"People won't see a whole lot of difference on their bill, but the breakdown of the services will be a little different," Koopmans said.

He noted that they are still waiting to find out what the impact will be.



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CITIZEN of the YEAR



The Georgetown Lions Club is again looking for the "Citizen of the Year," someone who has given unselfishly to the community.



The Lions want your help in picking our most deserving citizen or group for 1996. Nominations are now being received. Please mail nominations with supporting resume no later than February 10, 1997 to: Georgetown Lions Club, Citizen of the Year, P.O. Box 73, Georgetown, L7G 4T1, or fax to 873-2477. The winner of the award will be announced by February 15. The public is invited to a special evening and dinner to be held in the Lions Club Hall, March 18, cocktails at 6:30 pm, dinner at 7 pm.

Tickets are available from any Lions Club member, the Carpet Barn or Pet Value store.

For further information, please call Doug Penrice at 873-0300