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20-Man School Board Replaces 70 Trustees and 10 Boards

Today 10 school boards with a total of 70 trustees run the public education system in Halton county. Replacing them on January 1st will be one board with 20 members.

The Halton County Board of Education, which was elected Monday, will be in charge of 73 elementary and 12 high schools with a total enrollment of 45,222 students. It will employ over 2,000 teachers plus 500 other persons.

The super board will have a budget in excess of \$27 million of which \$10 million will be used to pay salaries. Its total fixed assets in land, buildings and equipment will amount to over \$52 million.

Across Ontario on Monday 76 regional boards, like the one in Halton, were elected to assume the duties of 864 smaller boards.

It was about a year ago that Premier John Robarts announced the individual school boards would be rearranged into county jurisdictions.

The primary objective of reducing the number of boards is to provide equality of educational opportunity.

Halton Board

When the Halton board meets for the first time it will not have to start preparing information on how many schools it controls, the number of buses used to transport students and other such facts. This groundwork has already been done by the county's Interim School Organizations Committee (ISOC).

The 12 members of ISOC, made up of trustees from the 10 local boards, completed a massive four volume report on education in the county for the Halton Board.

The county board's first move will be to elect a chairman. ISOC has suggested that those elected to the board who wish to be chairman complete a form listing their experience on school boards and other organizations. Following nominations, the board would then choose its chairman by secret ballot.

The salary of the chairman will be approximately 15 per cent more than the other trustees will receive.

New Administrator

The hiring of administrators will be one of the board's first problems. Top post will be director of education. Trustees are expecting a scramble among the local board's administrators for the key positions.

ISOC has suggested that all business administrators and secretary-treasurers be retained in their present positions until other arrangements are made by the county board.

ISOC also recommended that all office space in use at the end of the year be retained for a period of at least two months to accommodate secretary-treasurers and staff members.

The present local boards will act as ad hoc committees of the Halton Board for 6 months.

In its report ISOC said that it is not possible to expect that all schools and staff will be on the same course within a year.

"Long range plans (three, four or five years) will be needed so that at the end of a given period of time all schools and staff have reached a common goal," the report states.

First Year

The first year the county board will probably concentrate on providing some degree of uniformity in such areas as teacher's salary schedules and transportation costs.

The ISOC report states that salary policies in effect now throughout Halton show few discrepancies in basic salary rates.

"The problem of realigning these into a common schedule will be small compared to the problem of adjusting allowances for special teachers, coordinators, supervisors and consultants."

Fringe Benefits

The reports also says fringe benefits will demand considerable attention as will salary policies for non professional staff.

Concerning the cost of transportation of students by bus, the report states the cost per mile and cost per pupil varies widely and should be reviewed. Policies regarding school trips for various purposes also vary greatly and should also be studied.

The county has been divided into six areas for the election. Oakville has six seats on the county board to eight for Burlington, Georgetown, Milton, Etobicoke, each have one representative as does the combined area of Nassagaweya and Acton. The other two members were chosen at large by separate school ratepayers to take care of their interests at the high school level. Trustees were elected to a two year term.

Six Major Criminal Cases on County Court Agenda

Chinguacousy Township constable M. Chesterman, investigated the accident.

One of the longest county court sittings in the history of Halton opened on Monday, with Judge Alan B. Sprague sitting for the general sessions.

The judge will hear six major criminal cases, and nine major civil cases.

The criminal cases include hearing charges against three accused who were sent to trial for the armed robbery of a coin collector; two accused involved in a medical centre break and enter; and charges against three accused who were involved in the September jail break at Halton county jail.

Armed Robbery

One of those who participated in the break will face armed robbery charges along with two other accused men, a second prisoner who joined the break will face a separate robbery charge, while the third who surrendered recently in the United States will be tried on a breaking and entering charge.

Four men took part in the jail break, including a convicted murderer. All four were being held in Halton jail at the time of the break, and one was waiting to be transferred to Kingston penitentiary to begin a life sentence.

The other three who joined the break were awaiting trial on several charges including robbery. Two of these being

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held will come to trial before Judge Sprague on the robbery counts against them.

Special crown prosecutor for this session will be W.H. Langdon, Q.C. of Toronto. Among the leading defense counsels who will appear during the session will be Douglas A. McConachie, of Oakville; Peter K. McWilliams, former Halton town attorney; and W. J. Luchak of Hamilton.

Judge Sprague is senior jurist in Halton County.

Head-On Crash, Two Men Escape Injury

Two men escaped injury in a head-on collision on the Streetsville Road north of Huttonville Friday.

Robert Lowdner, 36 of Clarkson, and William Nuttall, 25 of R.R. 4, Georgetown, walked away from the \$1,800 collision at 6:55 a.m. Lowdner was travelling north and Nuttall was heading south.

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LET'S PLAY BRIDGE

BY BILL COATS

The average bridge player may feel like leaving squeeze plays to the experts but they should be familiar with end plays. These are plays where you put an opponent on play to make a favourable lead for you.

You can spot the type of hand where an end play may help you if you have suits with intermediate cards in it that need leading up to rather than through.

Here is a hand that was played at the Georgetown Bridge Club a few weeks ago.

The dealer was West and neither side was vulnerable.

NORTH
 S-A 10 3
 H-J 10 4 3
 D-K 7 4
 C-A 10 3

EAST WEST
 S-Q J 7 S-O 8 4 2
 H-K 8 H-6 6
 D-Q J 10 3 D-A 9 8
 C-K 9 6 2 C-Q 8 7 4

SOUTH
 S-K 8 5
 H-A Q 7 5 2
 D-8 6 2
 C-J 5

The bidding:
 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
 Pass 1 N.T. Pass 3 H
 Pass 4 H All Pass

Opening lead, ace of diamonds.
 North-South were using weak no-trump opening bids. Any other opening bid would have been a problem.

South has quite a problem. His hand is not really worth a game try but there is nothing in between. As it turns out 3 no trump is easier to make than four hearts.

West opened the ace of diamonds and made an excellent shift to spades. In end play situations it is often necessary for one defender to take the pressure off his partner. Dummy played low on the spade and declarer won East's jack with the king. Dummy was entered with a diamond and the heart jack was led. East covered and

NOTICE TO MOTORISTS
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Your 1969 licence plates are now available and must be on your car no later than midnight, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH.

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 1968 plates expire midnight, Friday, February 28th.

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A CERTIFICATE OF MECHANICAL FITNESS
 1969 plates cannot be issued when ownership of a used motor vehicle is being transferred unless the prescribed certificate of mechanical fitness is produced.

REMEMBER:
 Your 1969 licence application is on the 1968 permit. Make sure you complete fully the application for renewal and insurance questionnaire. Those who do not have proper vehicle liability insurance must pay in addition to the registration fee a further \$25. to the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Fund. Payment of this fee does not provide insurance coverage of any kind.

For registration dates and fees for trucks, buses and trailers, consult your local licence issuing agent.

Licence plates and permits may be obtained BY MAIL. Send your completed application form and fee to the Ontario Department of Transport, Ferguson Block, Queen's Park, Toronto 5. DO NOT SEND CASH.

