

Singleton warns

Boards to face ceilings

Ceilings or financial constraints of some kind will be a factor boards of Education will have to face for the foreseeable future, Halton County Board of Education was told last week in a report from Director of Education Jim Singleton. Singleton was reporting on the priorities and expenditures committee report.

He indicated the ceilings were forced on boards as a result of public demand over the rapidly rising cost of education.

Other demands
The past three year period of financial ceilings was imposed on the province by public demand. Other demands and other priorities are beginning to rise as the public looks with special interest at pollution control, health and welfare, etc. For this reason, we can expect financial constraints upon boards to continue for some time. Some refinement of weighing factors will be developed, but board members must be prepared to accept "ceilings" or some similar device, on a long range basis," he warned.

"The ceilings have not been an entirely adverse innovation. Aside from some minor loss of board autonomy and some conflict over the rate at which programs can be developed, the constraints have forced boards and administrations to examine their operations and to evaluate their priorities. Some boards were already doing this but many more have now been forced into this activity."

Collisions course
He noted that in both elementary and secondary panels the Halton Board had managed to stay within the ceilings but felt that by 1974 the board would be under considerable strain to stay within the ceilings.

Suggesting that administration cutbacks was the cause of the Halton Board being able to withstand the pressures of the ceilings, Singleton noted the number of assistant superintendents were being cut back from 13 to nine.

Since the county board was formed the number of consultants, primarily French and music, have been cut back substantially. The third area where Singleton suggests cuts were made is in attaching small

schools to larger schools and having one principal do the work of what two did in the past.

In a press release Tom Ramautarsingh, president of Halton District Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, disputed Singleton's claim that administrative cuts were key factors in staying within guidelines.

Overload classes
He argued the board saved money by having teachers work with one of the highest teacher-

pupil ratios in the province. Adding the board saved an estimated \$1,148,000 by boosting the ratio above what some boards have, he indicated the savings there were at the teachers' expense and amounted to six and a half times the total savings in administration.

The president expressed a fear teachers in Halton may be replaced to a certain degree by paraprofessionals in the future and he argued paraprofessionals should be used in a supportive role only.

Six new members of figure skate board

Six new members were elected to the board of the Acton Figure Skating Club at the annual meeting recently.

Edward McGiloway, Harold Townsley, Mario Baginaki, Mrs. L. Smith, Shirley Rosenbersky and Marilyn Kunz were elected to the board and Pat Streets was appointed as assistant to the costume chairman, one of the

demanding jobs of the club.

Arrangements were made for three national figure skating test nights, the first to be held on a Saturday, December 18. A skating party for club members is set for Friday, December 22.

Plans for a St. Valentine's Day dance are well underway; tickets are to go on sale in January.

Low education cost rapped by president

The low cost of education in Halton county is alarming, according to Tom Ramautarsingh, president of the Halton District 9 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation.

"The cost of education in Halton is low because of the high pupil teacher ratio for any Board our size in the province — 18.5:1 and Halton ranks as one of the highest in the province," he states. "Toronto has a pupil teacher ratio of 16.5:1. In Halton, we have 224 classes with 36 or more students per class as reported by assistant superintendent D.R. Kemp for 1971-72."

"District 9 maintains that the quality of education is high in Halton and this is due to the high sense of responsibility and dedication shown by the over-

worked teachers," claimed Mr. Ramautarsingh.

"We find it alarming that in Halton, the board takes pride in stating that Halton has the lowest cost per pupil in comparison with 17 other boards of education as far as the actual ordinary expenditure is concerned.

We cannot afford to be penny-wise and pound foolish when other boards are utilizing to the limit funds allocated for education and Halton does not. Mr. Ramautarsingh says in a statement prepared for the press.

Board dines

The annual fair board banquet is tomorrow night (Thursday).

Slight damage farm fire

Less than \$100 barn damage resulted from a late Thursday afternoon fire at Halton Turkey Farms on the Esqueusing-Nassagaweya town line, just south of 22 Sideroad.

The fire is believed to have started in a chick brooder on the third floor of the four storey barn. There were no birds in the barn at the time, but a new shipment of chicks had arrived by truck shortly before and were ready to be transferred to the barn.

The fire was first noticed by a Mr. Curtis, who attempted to extinguish it with a garden hose. He informed a neighbor who called Acton Firefighters.

Firefighters spent most of their time clearing smoke from the barn. Chief Mick Holmes ordered two trucks to the scene as a precautionary measure to ensure a good supply of water.

Fowl to have open water

Concluding it is in fact "in the bird business" and responsible for Fairy Lake's waterfowl population, Acton parks board has decided to keep a portion of water near the waterfowl area open this winter.

At Thursday night's meeting, parks manager Harold Townsley was authorized to purchase an aerator at a cost not to exceed \$150 to keep water open.

Besides the group of swans, geese and ducks that normally inhabit the park area, Mr. Townsley reported he has counted between 80 and 100 mallard ducks which have taken up at least temporary residence at the lake.

The board's swans and geese spent last winter at the Beardmore sanctuary.

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ACTON FIREFIGHTERS clear smoke from a building at Halton Turkey Farms on the Esqueusing-Nassagaweya town line, where a small fire Thursday afternoon caused minor damage. No turkeys were destroyed. (Photo by D. Gibbons)

December 4th Vote

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New routes for trucks

Limehouse residents will have to wait until 1975 before gravel trucks stop rolling through the village.

Halton County Council has approved the improvement of the Fourth and Fifth Lines Esqueusing north of 22 Sideroad to Highway 7 in an attempt to deter gravel truck operators from using 22 Sideroad to reach Highway 7.

Council has also approved turning over 22 Sideroad to Esqueusing Township so the municipality will have control over its use by trucks going through Limehouse.

Residents of the area claim quarry trucks from Indusmin Ltd. and J.C. Duff Ltd. race through the village on their way to and from the two quarries. Residents have threatened to blockade the road.

At a meeting in Limehouse earlier this month between residents and members of County Council's roads committee, a firm of consultants presented 14 different routes which might be built to keep the gravel trucks out of the village.

Council decided to approve the reconstruction of the Fourth and Fifth Lines at a regular meeting last week. However councillors learned the work couldn't start until 1975.

Chairman of the County roads committee, Nassagaweya Deputy Reeve Don McMillan, said the delay was due to a lack of money. "There's nothing in the capital budget for the work until then," McMillan told Council.

Plans to improve the Fourth and Fifth Lines in 1975 had been pushed back for a year in order to fit in new bridges needed

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