

Campbell invited to meeting

Renaissance Committee leader Ken Campbell will be invited to meet with the Halton Board of Education, the board agreed during a regular meeting Thursday.

Campbell has led almost daily charges against education and educators in recent weeks. His first charge concerned the presence of two ashtrays in M. M. Robinson High School and the need for censorship of books in school libraries.

What action
Campbell had asked Board Chairman Bill Priestner what action he and the board would take in connection with Director of Education Jim Singleton's behavior.

In his reply Priestner reviewed the incident which precipitated Campbell's attack on moral pollution and supported Singleton's action.

The chairman reviewed some of the religious programs and programs that deal with morals and ethics now being taught in the schools.

"As a result of the Mackay Commission Report, The Halton Board set up a committee to study religion in the schools. It was composed of parents, clergy, teachers, students and trustees. Their work resulted in the offering of a course in World Religions, producing an Anthology of Opening Exercises, the development of a Values Inquiry and further programs being developed at present embracing Morals and Ethics. I suggest our responsibility is to the children. We have a long way to go and we need all the help we can get in handling this very delicate area for the good of the kids entrusted to our trusteeship.

"All the trustees know there are undesirable literary works in school libraries but are also aware of the inhibiting nature of censorship. The Spanish Inquisition had noble goals but no one was proud of the results. The way we handle specific complaints about offensive literature or practices is to quietly have the administrator investigate and deal with the matter. This is more effective in my opinion than the Darrow Bryant approach.

Give trustee chance
"In your recent statement you mention operating through the elected trustees as the proper means to achieve educational change. We of course totally agree. However, when this incident at M. M. Robinson occurred, I believe after contacting the school, your next contact was with the press. Your trustee should have been the next step. While he may not have been able to get you the results you wanted, he should have at least had a chance. For indeed it is often said that the trustees are powerless against the educators and they will be if they are not allowed to act for their constituents.

"In summary then, we all know that the educational system is far from perfect. If we all pull together using our various talents, a better, more vibrant and useful school system for our children will result. We need your input as well as that of all segments of society so that we may have a public school system which can be a positive influence on all the students whatever their beliefs," he said.

The report indicates the open concept plan makes it possible to facilitate co-operative planning and teaching and to provide more flexibility in program.

The report recognizes the idea that not all students are suited for open concept schools but noted on the other hand that many thrive in the open concept.

The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education is currently undertaking a major study on the subject and the board agreed to watch closely the outcome of that study.

The open concept plan ran into considerable parent opposition at the Robert Baldwin School in Milton. Parents of children in the area recalled unfavorable experiences children had had in other areas before coming to Milton.

Alter PD days only 9 this year

Professional development days in Halton will be cut from 12 this year to nine next year, Halton Board of Education agreed at a meeting Thursday.

David Barber, president of the Halton Home and School Association relayed the reaction from parents to the modified school year where children were home from school 12 days last year teachers attended P.D. days.

Barber told the board parents wanted more notice of when the children would be home. He pointed out some of the reaction might be overcome if the professional development days were tucked on the end of regular holidays.

According to Assistant Director of Education Em Lavender's proposal, all schools would be off on professional development Sept. 3, Jan. 31 and June 23 to June 27.

Two more
Elementary schools will be off Nov. 25 and March 10 in addition to the five days already mentioned. Non-semestered secondary schools will pick up two days June 19 and 20 while semestered secondary schools will take Jan. 29 and Jan. 30 to make up those two days for P.D.

The board received 16 letters from parents. Most of those complained about P.D. days during the year. A survey conducted by the Separate School Board showed most people were not inconvenienced by the days off. Forty-three per cent of those answering the survey felt there was some educational value in professional development programs.

Favors open architecture

Open concept schools won endorsement of the Halton Board of Education at a meeting Thursday. The board agreed to continue building open concept schools where and when it was deemed advisable.

A report from Assistant Director of Education Em Lavender noted that optional attendance areas made it possible for youngsters in one area to move to another area.



BRIGHTENING UP SCHOOL walls was a project converted into a contest at the Acton High school recently in which many excellent designs were created by students. The selection of which one would be used finally came down to three designs and the one seen being applied as a wall mural was chosen by the students with Gary Martin, the proud artist supervising. Assisting are senior art students Alex Pitt, Janet Allan and Luanne Gurak as they apply their abilities to the brush.

Library finances handled by town

Halton Hills treasurer Lloyd Peterson dispelled any fears the library board may have had concerning the new method of handling the board's finances when he attended the Halton Hills Library Board meeting Thursday night.

Mr. Peterson explained the town would now pay all bills, do the bookkeeping and pay salaries. In the past the board has been completely autonomous.

He explained that all purchases should have a purchase order. When questioned about delays on purchases which must be made in a hurry, Mr. Peterson said purchasing agent Hugh Patterson should be phoned and a purchase order number obtained.

"You are still in control of your own destiny," Mr. Peterson reassured the board.

"You will still draw up your budget, and once it is approved by council, will proceed as you always did."

In reply to a question from Mrs. Joan Lister, a board member, Mr. Peterson said normal office supplies would be issued from the town office. He suggested a petty cash fund of \$25 should be on hand for small items.

Chairman Ben Boyle pointed out that the act establishing regional government did not change the Public Libraries Act. "We could remain autonomous, and handle all our own money," he commented.

Mr. Peterson said that was true, but said he contacted the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, and they strongly supported the position taken by Halton Hills council to retain financial control.

The treasurer explained the same system now applied to the parks board, arena board, committee of adjustment and planning board. He admitted parks, arena and cemeteries were now really departments of the town.

In answer to another



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Marcel Delorme new assistant Agricultural Rep.

Marcel Delorme, a 1973 graduate in animal science from the University of Guelph, is the new assistant agricultural representative for Halton.

He replaces Mac Armstrong who leaves May 3 to be married to Dr. Alma Coan in Langenburg, Saskatchewan. Mac has been the assistant rep here for the past year and a half.

Mr. Delorme is from a dairy farm in Sturgeon Falls and has worked several summers as an assistant rep. He has an extensive 4-H background.

Mr. Delorme is married and lives in Acton. He officially began his new appointment Monday, April 16.



GETTING SOME POINTERS for his new job as assistant agricultural representative for Halton is Marcel Delorme, left. Mac Armstrong fills Marcel in on his duties before leaving in May to marry

Five forums for Renaissance

A series of five public citizens' forums will be held in Halton between April 22 and 30, Halton Renaissance Committee announced this week. The first is next Monday, April 22 at Ontario School for the Deaf in Milton.

Additional forums are planned for April 23 in Georgetown District High School, April 26 at M. Z. Bennett School in Acton, April 29 at General Brock School in Burlington and April 30 at Queen Elizabeth Park School in Oakville. All are scheduled for 8 p.m.

Renaissance campaign leader Ken Campbell, a Milton evangelist, announced that Ronald Damude of Burlington, a retired high school principal with 40 years of experience in education, will be the featured speaker at each of the forums.

Damude's witty but concise summary of the ills of education emerged as one of the highlights of the Renaissance Committee's first mass rally in Milton late last month.

Invites criticisms
Campbell said he hoped all who are concerned for the improvement of the public educational system will participate in "this constructive quest for solutions to the most pressing problems in the system." He also urged citizens to give criticisms of the system in either written or oral form, which will be studied by a committee of consultants to be appointed by the Renaissance group.

The evangelist said he hoped the consultants' studies would bring forth "positive alternative proposals reflecting parental and taxpayer insight" to be presented to Halton Board of Education.

Meanwhile the local movement is attracting nationwide attention. On Monday of next week Campbell will appear on the CTV national program "Canada AM" for a discussion on the problems in public education, and on Wednesday, April 24 the Halton Committee will be featured on CBC's national radio show "Concern" at 8 p.m. Campbell participated in a Hamilton radio station talk show one morning last week.

Board eyes increases in education budget

Halton Board of Education delayed approval of or cuts in the \$32,274,093 budget until the board's April 25 meeting. The board met Thursday.

Grant regulations were released by the ministry late last week and administrative officials worked over the weekend to incorporate the grant schedule in a budget.

Provincial grants will account for \$31,331,847 and the municipalities will be requested to pay \$20,243,607.

If the budget is approved as presented Burlington will have to pay \$10,534,940, Halton Hills \$2,559,913, Milton \$1,694,682 and Oakville will pay \$47,533,994.

Mill rate up
Those figures represent increased costs to the municipality of an average of 2.15 mills or an average of 6.5 per cent. Milton will face a 2.3 mill rate increase while costs will increase by 4.2 per cent.

Oakville's education mill rate jumps by close to seven per cent and 2.1 mills and Burlington will face a mill rate increase of 1.96 mills or an increase of six per cent in dollars.

In view of the inflationary trends the ministry has increased ceilings on per pupil expenditures. Ceilings for elementary pupils jump from \$683 to \$704 and for secondary students from \$1210 to \$223. Halton is within those ceilings.

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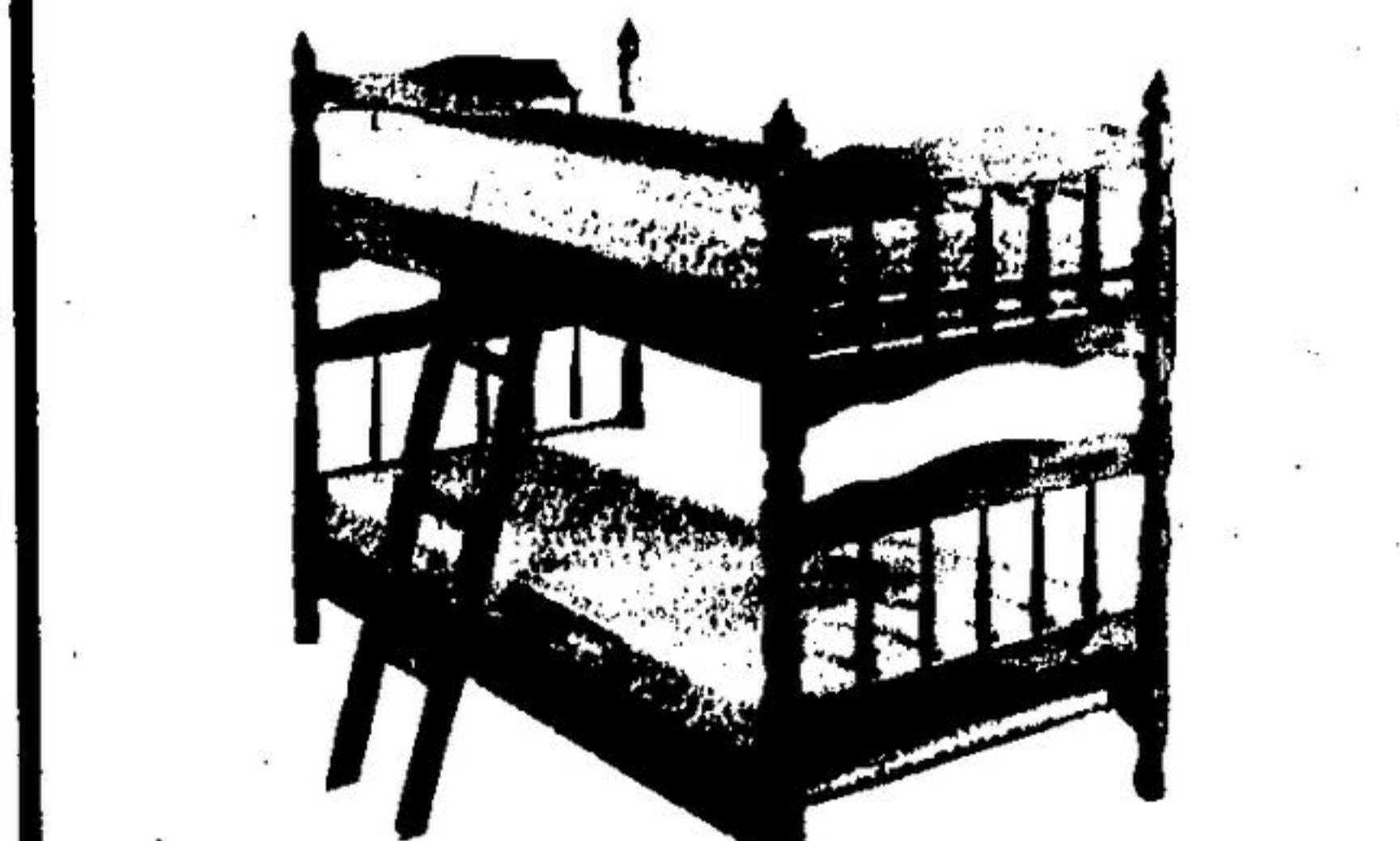
2. Bring to Inner Fashion Department and deposit form in the entry box provided at the Daisyfresh display.

3. Be sure to qualify your entry by stating the style number of your favorite Daisyfresh Belle Ringer body fashion.

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CHANGE OF OFFICE HOURS

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This is to conform with the office hours of the town of Halton Hills.

W. McEACHERN
Chairman

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