



NDP CANDIDATE Bill Johnson joined a group of people protesting the expansion of Halton Board of Education headquarters Monday. Only a handful showed up for the demonstration.

## Parents picket . . . Lavender defends board

(Continued from Page One)

saved should be used to put more teachers into the schools.

Mrs. Fisher told the chairman about class sizes of 35 students in Georgetown schools where some other classrooms stand empty.

Mr. Johnson said he understood some of the administrators were having to work out of portable classrooms. He claimed that while that wasn't a good situation, he'd rather see adults doing it than the children attending the schools.

Mrs. Alexander tried to explain that the expansion was planned to provide more working space for audio visual facilities, adult education employees and other areas that had become overcrowded. She said the expansion would provide more room for visitors at the board meetings.

**Called inadequate**

That explanation was of no comfort to the parents who feel the Halton system is providing an inadequate education for their children.

The parents also expressed concern about paraprofessionals being brought in to replace teachers. Mrs. Alexander acknowledged that there could be a danger of having the ratio of teachers and paraprofessionals get out of balance.

She argued the paraprofessionals were not to be perceived as replacements for teachers but rather as assistants to the teachers.

The chairman explained there would be a need for remedial reading even if there were 16 children in each class. She assured the parents that the remedial reading program had not been shelved indefinitely but rather postponed pending the result of further investigation into the need for special education areas.

**Program needed**

She had the group the board had delayed making a decision until all of the facts were available. "We realize there is a need for remedial reading."

At Mr. Johnson's request Bruce Lindley joined the group for a few minutes. He explained the financing for the new addition was arranged by the use of a sinking fund that had been set up several years ago.

Why does the board boast of the lowest per pupil cost? he was asked.

Mr. Lindley said he didn't feel the board did boast. "Why does the board have the lowest per pupil cost?" the parents asked.

"It could be good management," Lindley replied.

Mrs. Fisher told Mrs. Alexander that the Halton Board faced a terrible situation. She claimed that teachers were being pushed down and they felt intimidated by the administration.

"It they could speak up they would remedy the situation, but they are afraid. They fear for their jobs."

"Who's the big bad wolf?" Mrs. Alexander asked.

"The administration," three women chanted.

In front of the building the picketers walked back and forth carrying signs that berated the administrators.

"Poor quality education makes jobs for more administrators," one sign read.

Another said "Surplus \$\$\$ Education Deficit." One even tapped former director Jim Singleton. "Singleton's expensive hierarchy continues while our kids suffer."

Christine Louth of Georgetown said the board was saving dollars in the classroom and spending money on administration that isn't needed. "We have rotten education and we pay through the teeth for it," she charged.

Ken Anderson of Oakville said his child was going into grade four but he didn't feel the child was prepared for it. "The teacher said they have to just push 'em on." He said his daughter is in a class of 40 students.

Marmie Stout of Burlington recently moved from the Ottawa area and has become disenchanted with the Halton Education system.

She cited overcrowding, the lack of a French program in kindergarten and the lack of a kindergarten for four-year-olds among other drawbacks.

**More stimulating**

"Teachers can't deal with it. They rely heavily on mother volunteers. Kids don't get a fair share. The program for kids in the formative years is a lot more stimulating than what is offered here," she said.

Mrs. Fisher termed the parents' fight as a battle of endurance. "We'll win."

She spoke forcefully against a system that she says is top heavy with administration but continued to produce children who can't read.

The board turned a deaf ear to our concerns," she said. "They boast of a low pupil cost—no wonder, standards keep sliding and sliding, down, down."

**Take tours**

Local school children have been enjoying tours of Fudgeleigh's apple orchards again this fall.

## Lavender defends board

Halton Board of Education Director Em Lavender Tuesday defended the board from attacks launched by a small group of people describing themselves as concerned parents. The verbal attacks were launched during a protest in front of the Board's Burlington office Monday.

During an interview Mr. Lavender explained that the ratio of teachers to administrative personnel in Halton is in line with other Ontario Boards of the same size. He said he had conducted a survey and learned Halton was in the middle, with as many boards, having more administrative help as those with less administration.

He pointed out the board employs 2,800 people and of these, 2,200 are teachers. The other 600 takes in administrators, caretakers, payroll clerks, purchasing departments and all of the other people required to operate the board's 90-odd schools.

**Actually reduced**

He noted that if administrative people were to include only those of supervisory positions in the academic end of things, the number of administrators had been reduced since the board went regional or county-wide.

The Director noted that one of the key priorities identified in a massive study in 1972 was to develop a core curriculum in elementary schools. "You need people to do that."

The Director commented on a suggestion by Betty Fisher that the money now being spent on an addition to the board offices should be spent on more teachers.

Mr. Lavender explained the building expansion was a one shot affair but if that money was used for more teachers it wouldn't even be enough to bring one teacher for one year into each of the elementary schools.

**Crowded now**

Lavender said the addition was necessary because of crowded conditions in several areas. He noted the addition would result in a larger board room and an office for the chairman and would alleviate crowding in a number of departments.

He questioned the timing of the protest. "Mrs. Fisher has been at enough board meetings to know that this addition was being planned. This is the first protest I've heard of," he said.

## Night school flying start

First sessions of night school began Monday evening at the high school, more people registering at the last minute. Other classes are still seeking a few more participants to make them profitable.

The fitness and recreation class with Bruce Andrews started out in the gym with basketball, murder ball and other games, but people involved must come up with more participants or the class will have to be cancelled.

Another class seeking a few more people is French conversation.

Just four English as a second language was wanted by just four people, so organizer Boris Shean is going to try to make arrangements to have them join a similar group in Georgetown.

Monday saw some classes off to a flying start. These are Sewing I, Sewing II, Typing and off-loom weaving.

Due to begin last night (Tuesday) were Stretch and Sew for knits, Landscaping and Horticulture and Skin Diving.

Beginning Wednesday are Bookkeeping, Typing and Office Skills, General Shopwork and Skating.

Yoga—a popular favorite—begins Thursday.

Anyone wishing more information may phone the high school, Boris Shean says.

He's very pleased with this year's beginnings.

Another class which will join the others if there is enough interest, is Cake Decorating with Mrs. Mansell Nellis. It is advertised today in the Coming Events.

## Winter garbage days back again

Beginning this week, Acton reverts to once-a-week garbage pickups. There are now collections Mondays and Tuesdays only, omitting the Thursday and Friday pickups.

## Johnson wonders where's our MPP?

The election campaign is over and Liberal Julian Reed is the winner but NDP loser Bill Johnson is determined he'll have the last laugh.

"Wicked Willie" and Reed had both agreed to join picketers protesting the standard of education in Halton Monday. The protesters picketed at the site of the \$900,000 expansion of Halton Board of Education headquarters. Johnson showed up in Burlington but Reed had not showed up by 2:30 p.m. and the picketers were expressing disappointment in the new MPP.

Johnson showed up on the scene in his usual enthusiastic mood and asked those present, "Where's the song and dance man?" (Reed is a professional actor.)

"I thought he'd be here. He's concerned about education. He talked a lot about it during the campaign," Johnson quipped.

This newspaper tried to contact Mr. Reed to see why he did not attend the protest and if he did support these protesting. Mr. Reed was unavailable for comment on Monday and on Tuesday.

## Registration good for fall

The Acton Y's fair registration results were good for fall programs. Programs which will definitely take place include Yoga, Ladies Take A Break, Pre-school Gym and a baby sitting trainers course.

There are still openings in each program except the baby sitting course, which had reached its limits of 25.

**Boys' sports**

Peter Morrison began boys games and sports Monday night. The boys enjoyed an evening of floor hockey and gymnastics.

If more boys are interested in this program, they will be welcome on a weekly basis.

More plans are being made for the second annual crafts sale which is to take place November 22.

Ticket sales on the crocheted table cloth went well at the fair. Tickets can

still be purchased from Y board members. The draw will take place at the crafts sale.

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## Saturday walk is for good cause

Walkers are limbering up their muscles for this Saturday's Olympathon.

A walkathon, sponsored jointly by the local Lions Club and Coca Cola, will see half the proceeds going towards Olympic athletes in training and the remainder towards the local club.

Application forms are now being picked up by children at their schools. Pledges will be needed for each mile the child walks. Adults may pick up forms wherever Coca Cola is sold.

**Safer**

The track at Prospect Park will be the course, as organizers felt this was safer than walking on highways. Each complete trip around the track is a half a mile. At the two ends of the course, special assigned cards the walkers will be carrying will be punched by volunteer workers to designate the amount of miles walked.

Trophies will be given to the youngest, oldest and farthest walker, and free hot dogs and drinks will be available to every person trying their hand at the track.

Because of the unpredictable weather of late, alternative plans have been made in case of inclement weather on Saturday. In the event that this should happen, the walk will be held Sunday.

## Minor fire

There was a minor fire last Thursday morning in the kitchen at Acton Canadian Fried Chicken. Firefighters were called but things were soon under control.

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We're building a future today.

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Rockwood 856-4788

## Wins \$1,000 buys ticket

One Acton man is \$1000 richer this week, thanks to a Knights of Columbus draw Friday evening.

Jim McDonald held the winning ticket for the monthly Share the Wealth draw made in Guelph. He purchased his ticket from another Acton resident, Andy Williams.

With part of the money, Mr. McDonald plans to buy some season tickets to Maple Leaf Gardens for NHL games.

## Request more voices to keep group together

The Acton Chorallers are still looking for voices, according to Jim Higgins, leader of the group.

It was hoped that volunteers would come forth after an article in last week's Free Press explained the plight of the group. However, Mr. Higgins said, no one stepped forward.

He explained that he understands some people might be shy, and his group will lead anyone by the hand who shows any interest at all in the choir.

The group sings at various places throughout town and the area such as senior citizens' homes, hospitals, etc. They are usually associated with the legion, although Mr. Higgins says anyone at all is welcome to join.

New members are the group's last chance to play together. Breaking up is the last thing the remaining men in the group want to do.

## One taker

The proposed night class course didn't get off the ground. Only one person signed up for belly dancing.

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Tender

**Shoulder & Chuck Roasts \$1.10 lb.**

Lean

**Short Rib & Blade Roasts \$1.19 lb.**

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**Prime Rib Roast Bone in \$1.59 lb. Boneless \$1.89 lb.**

Choice

**Sirloin Tip Roast \$1.89 lb.**

Boneless

**Point Brisket \$1.39 lb.**

**CHOICE VEAL**

**Shoulder Roasts \$1.29 lb.**

**Loin Chops \$2.29 lb.**

**Veal Cutlets \$2.49 lb.**

Boneless & Rolled

**Breasts of Veal \$1.39 lb.**

Lean

**Ground Chuck \$1.19 lb.**

Fresh

**Small Link Sausage 95¢ lb.**

**FOR YOUR FREEZER**

**RED BRAND BEEF HINDS \$1.39 lb.**

**SIDES \$1.13 lb. FRONTS 89¢ lb.**

Lean Ground Chuck 10 lb. Freezer Pac \$11.00

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**SPECIAL EVERY TUESDAY FAMILY NIGHT BRAZIER BURGERS 4 FOR \$1.00**

From 4:30 p.m. to Closing

**Dairy Queen brazier.**

VA KNOW SOMETHIN' I HAVEN'T BEEN TO DAIRY QUEEN SINCE YESTERDAY

Everybody's going to DAIRY QUEEN to take advantage of this great offer. Get a charcoal-broiled beef patty topped with BRAZIER sauce and served on a toasted bun... Take the whole family out and take advantage of the best deal in town.

**Scrumptious!**

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**ERIN FALL FAIR FAIR DAYS**

**THANKSGIVING WEEKEND OCTOBER 10-11-12-13**

**Don't miss the Happyland Midway!**

**FRIDAY, OCT. 10**

9.00 a.m. WEST CENTRAL ONTARIO CHAMPIONSHIP HOLSTEIN SHOW PLACING & JUDGING HALL EXHIBITS

9.00 p.m. TEEN DANCE featuring "ALL IN ONE BREATH"

**SATURDAY, OCT. 11**

12.30 p.m. MINI TRACTOR PULL by popular demand.

1.00 p.m. JERSEY SHOW & DAIRY 4-H SHOW

3.00 p.m. HEAVY HORSE DRAW

3.00 p.m. CROWNING MISS ERIN FAIR

8.30 p.m. SHOW & DANCE Country & Western music featuring "ALFIE FROMAGER"

**SUNDAY, OCT. 12**

1.30 p.m. COLISEUM OPEN

1.30 p.m. PONY & WESTERN HORSE SHOW

2.00 p.m. MISSISSAUGA DRUM & MAJORETTE CORPS

2.00 p.m. GREYHOUND DOG RACES

2.00 p.m. SHEEP SHOW

**MONDAY, OCT. 13 THANKSGIVING DAY**

HEAVY & LIGHT HORSES, BEEF CATTLE SWINE, INTER CLUB 4-H FERGUS PIPE BAND — ERIN MAJORETTES

MEALS SERVED IN DINING HALL

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