

Insurance for Halton schools cancelled because of vandalism

Rampant vandalism at Halton schools and two fires in the last three years at an Oakville school has forced two insurance firms to cancel their coverage and left the Halton Board of Education in the position of having to come up with a new insurer by next month.

Superintendent of Business and Finance Bruce Lindley predicted the insurance rates the board pays to cover its schools and equipment will greatly increase and the board may have to set up a surveillance system for the schools.

Lindley informed the board Thursday that Lumberman's Mutual and American Home have given notice they won't renew the board's insurance next month. The two firms each carry 50 per cent of the board's insurance which amounts to \$100 million in coverage. It costs the board \$47,000 in premiums each year.

"We are endeavoring to get another carrier. When we do it will probably mean higher premium rates and a condition of coverage could well be surveillance equipment," Lindley said.

Trustee Tony Goodyear said he hoped the new insurance deal was worked out by tender and Lindley said the board is forced to move quickly and tender for a new carrier.

Trustee Bill Lawson noted the board has considered surveillance systems for the schools before and wondered if it would help reduce the new premiums if the board took the initiative and set up such systems.

Lindley said it would no

doubt reduce the new premiums. He reminded the board surveillance equipment could be a condition of getting any insurance firm to cover the board's schools.

Since the two firms won the tender to insure Halton's schools three years ago, there have been two fires at an Oakville school with damages totalling \$400,000 plus costly vandalism and malicious damage costs which the firms have had to bear.

"The vandalism is a trend of the times. There is irresponsibility among some sectors of the public towards public property," Lindley stated.

He noted surveillance systems are quite common in schools in the United States and if current trends continue they will become common place in Canadian schools.



BRENDA NOSEWORTHY of the Looking Glass beauty salon presented Acton Fire Chief Mick Holmes with a cheque for \$200 for the Muscular Dystrophy fund. The salon held a special day on September 25 when all money taken in went directly to the M.D. cause.

Bodnar says:

Teachers shouldn't subsidize board

Georgetown Trustee Ernie Bodnar doesn't think teachers should have to help pay for the cost of having student computer programs transported to the computer centre at Lord Elgin High School.

During discussion of a Pure and Applied Sciences Program council recommendation that a fund of \$1,500 be set up to pay teachers travelling expenses to Burlington, Bodnar said the teachers should receive 18 cents a mile as established by board policy.

"This fund would amount to five cents a mile but the board approved rate is 18 cents a mile. I don't think teachers should be asked to help subsidize the board like this," Bodnar told Thursday's meeting of the Halton Board of Education.

The pure and applied sciences program council reported in the board the courier service is not taking the student programs from

In court

Horst Baron appeared again in court in Milton Monday and was remanded until next Monday. He is charged with attempted murder.

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Resolve recreation problems at 3 1/2 hour joint meeting

A joint meeting of Halton Hills Council's general administration committee and the recreation advisory boards for Wards 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 last Wednesday night resolved several differences, but because the meeting lasted until 11:30, a decision on structure of the boards for 1976 was postponed. Councillor Les Duly, chairman for the meeting suggested a meeting be scheduled for early January to discuss that matter.

During the 3 1/2 hour meeting it was resolved that the town engineer and recreation director be requested to submit a report on the cost of using town personnel to mark out playing fields, that the advisory committees make known to council's works committee through the recreation director their priorities for work needed to be done, that the recreation department initiate a new survey to ascertain the town's recreational needs and that the advisory committees be invited to contribute suggestions for names for the town's future recreational facilities.

Colin Wilde, a Ward 3 and 4 advisory committee member and minor soccer enthusiast made the main pitch to have some department take over responsibility for marking out playing fields. He said that in Mississauga and Oakville, the works departments look after this.

"It's the evening games that beat us," he explained. "Weekends are not so bad."

Pointing out that with the recent ward from provincial treasurer Darcy McKeough that government spending at all levels must be cut back, Councillor Duly warned that council might have to "creep before they crawl" on such requests. He wondered if the arena staffs in the respective wards could take off hours from their jobs during the summer to mark the fields.

Ward 2 advisory committee member Pam Sheldon said she'd like to see the works department used for more important jobs. She felt someone from the recreation department could give up an hour to do the marking.

Recreation director Glen Gray said he's considering hiring persons, whose responsibility it would be to mark out fields during the summer.

On the subject of preventive care and maintenance of grounds, engineer Bob Austin made it clear the works department can carry out just about any job, given the guidance.

"The big thing is the budget," he said. "We need a priority list."

Earlier, Colin Wilde charged that a health problem could result from a septic tank draining on to the Stewarttown school grounds. He also suggested someone could break a leg on the rutted ground there and that at Centennial school grounds girls have been injured playing soccer.

Councillor Roy Booth said the town and Halton Board of

Education have an agreement whereby the town maintains school fields in return for use of school facilities after hours. He insisted the major problem was a communication gap.

"The problem is how do we have information transferred from the committees to the recreation department, to the town engineer, to council for perhaps a major capital expenditure," he said.

To demonstrate the time already being spent in parks by the works department, Austin pointed out that last summer he had two men spending two hours every morning picking up glass from broken beer bottles at Fairgrounds park.

"I don't like to read that we're hard-headed and don't listen," said Austin. "We're approachable and more than willing to listen at any time."

Resolution to have a new needs survey taken resulted from a host of suggestions proposed by members when the topic switched to future development.

Wilde asked about the possibility of developing one field in town for field hockey only. Mary McKeown reminded the meeting that construction of running tracks would be a good idea. Ed Wood of Ward 1 wondered about tennis courts at the proposed new high school in Acton or an outdoor rink for Acton.

A member of the Georgetown Little Theatre group, John Rowe wondered if the advisory committees could

Cameron St. sewer

Halton Region's Public Works Committee has recommended the tender for the Cameron St. sanitary sewer in Acton be awarded to William Hollingworth and Sons.

Among other things the sewer will serve the Acton Legion. The contract was for \$16,965 but the entire job will cost \$19,472.43.

Tenders for that work had been called last year and at that time the low tender of \$23,000 was rejected.

Boy hurt in crash

Acton friends were shocked to learn of an accident which badly injured Richard Smith, 11, of Campbellville, and in which a volunteer firefighter was killed. Cape Smith, Ticky's father, is a well-known coach and manager of hockey and ball teams in Acton and Nassagaweyn.

The car being driven by his mother Lynn Smith was struck on its way to a shed fire in East Flamborough. The accident happened Saturday, Nov. 8 at Centre Rd. and 11th concession of East Flamborough.

The vehicles collided right at the middle of the intersection. The volunteer firefighter, Leslie Wyse, was thrown from the truck and killed.

Ricky was taken to McMaster University Medical Centre. He was able to come home, but is now in Joseph Brant hospital for further treatment.

Town offers \$35,000 for Norval schools

Norval school may yet become a village community centre.

Hope was revived Monday night, when Halton Hills Council voted to try to rent it for a year on a trial basis, then offer \$35,000 for the buildings and a portion of the property. The offer does not include the highway frontage or a part of the back.

If the year's rental period shows there is a need, the \$35,000 offer will be made 90 days before the end of 1976. According to the offer to be made to Halton Board of Education, which owns the vacant school, the rent will be applied against the purchase price.

Negotiations have continued between the school board, a committee of council, and representatives of Norval Community Association for some time, Mayor Tom Hill told council, as he asked Hugh McFarlane of the Norval Association to outline the events to date.

Mr. McFarlane said the board wants to sell the land and buildings. He said while the Norval residents would like use of the whole 4.3 acres

and buildings they were willing to settle for the buildings and a small strip of land behind the old and new school, as an access. He admitted the original appraisals done by the board ranged from \$140,000 to \$190,000 but said the representatives suggested the town make an offer.

Mr. McFarlane said Norval desperately needs a community centre, but insisted he was not talking about a sports complex, or soccer and baseball areas. "We need a meeting place for groups such as arts and crafts, dances, scouts, guides, and a centre to keep the kids off the streets."

He said the old school built in 1853 and the newer school, plus a strip of land at the back of the building would suffice. "So on behalf of the Norval Community Ratepayers I ask you to make an offer to the board."

Councillor Roy Booth said (Continued on Page 3)

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