

# Halton board, public school teachers pledge co-operation

A new era of teacher-board of education co-operation may have begun in Halton last week when spokesmen for the board and the region's male public school teachers agreed to throw open lines of communication between the two groups.

Chairman Mrs. Judy Alexander of the Halton Board of Education urged a meeting of 140 male teachers to attend board meetings and to invite the 20 trustees who serve on the board into their classrooms and staff rooms.

She said "the crucial point isn't mutual agreement but rather mutual dependency. We need each other," she told the teachers, "and for the sake of the kids we'd better bridge the gap between us."

To applause Mrs. Alexander spoke to a meeting of the Halton District of the Ontario Public School Men Teachers' Federation held in Milton. The



Mrs. Judy Alexander, Chairman

Federation represents all male elementary teachers in the province.

The board chairman was roundly applauded for her recommendation of increased communication between the board and the teachers.

Neil Davis, provincial president, used the word

"partnership" to describe the new relationship when he rose to comment on Mrs. Alexander's remarks.

Davis said that "in future, the only relationship between teachers and trustees can be partnership."

The bearded and well-spoken Federation president from Peel Region said this partnership was "essential".

## Liberals won't help HEAL

Ontario Liberals won't be getting involved in the battle between the Halton Board of Education and Halton Education Action League (HEAL).

HEAL President Betty Fisher said this week that she has talked to Liberal shadow cabinet education critic John Ferris and while he sympathizes with some of the group's problems he won't get involved.

"He said reserve funds have always been a problem and he fought against them when he was chairman of the London Board of Education but they are legal so there isn't anything he can do about them," Mrs. Fisher said. She noted reserve funds set up by Halton Board of Education and made up of money destined to be spent on students is a key aspect of HEAL's battle with the board over its \$900,000 building expansion at board headquarters, Burlington.

Mrs. Fisher didn't hide her disappointment in Ferris' decision not to interfere when she said, "They aren't there just to stop illegal actions. In a minority situation they should be pressuring the government to change the education act to abolish reserve funds."

She says MPPs aren't sent to Toronto just to look at things from a legal standpoint but also to make changes and examine things to see where reform is needed.

"One interesting thing he said was that when he was a trustee in London he visited the Halton Board and was amazed how quickly things happen. He said he was amazed an entire budget could be passed without much debate and observed the meetings were very cut and dried and sterile."

He told them to forget Renaissance "because you don't attack minority groups head on."

Instead, he said, the federation has the public relations personnel and the funds to wage a publicity campaign to "promote the positive aspects of what's going on in our schools."

He said Halton District teachers should also take publicity steps to inform the public about the teachers' position on prominent issues of the day.

The board has been attacked this fall by Halton Renaissance for permitting alleged indecent books like "Go Ask Alice" and "I Never Loved Your Mind" to be used in Halton schools.

The Halton board has refused to remove the books, but stressed alternative material is available if a student or parent objects to a particular book.

Neil Davis, provincial president of the male public school teachers, then offered his Halton members some PR advice.

He told them to forget Renaissance "because you don't attack minority groups head on."

Instead, he said, the federation has the public relations personnel and the funds to wage a publicity campaign to "promote the positive aspects of what's going on in our schools."

He said Halton District teachers should also take publicity steps to inform the public about the teachers' position on prominent issues of the day.

## Benefits go up

The Government of Canada last week announced it was giving a Christmas present to the 725,000 Canadians who receive Canada Pension Plan benefits.

It announced Canada Pension benefits are to be raised by 11.2 per cent effective Jan. 1, to reflect the increase in the cost of living this year.

The new maximum full retirement pension will be \$154.86 a month. The maximum disability pension will be \$157.59, and monthly benefits for children of the disabled and orphans will be \$41.44.

Maximum monthly pensions for surviving spouses will be \$99.51 for persons under age 65 and \$92.92 for those over 65.

Dave Peterson of London, Stuart Smith of Hamilton, Pat Reid of Rainy River and Larry Condon of Strathroy.

MPPs in the race include Mark McGulgan of Windsor and Jim Breithaupt of Kitchener.

According to alternate delegate Judy Savage, the upcoming convention holds the key to the future of the Liberal party in Ontario.

She warned Halton must band together to choose a person. "If the right man isn't chosen, the Liberal party in Ontario could sink into nothing."

She said she was prepared at this time to support Smith, the Hamilton physician who was elected for the first time as an MPP in the September election.

Peter Mathews, another who had hoped to be a delegate, explained the political realities of the convention.

"Whoever you choose, he has to be a man who is able to win. He can be the most competent guy in the world but if he can't win, what good is he to you?"

Halton-Burlington Liberals will choose delegates to that convention at a meeting slated for Ernest C. Drury School tomorrow night (Thursday).

Halton area delegates attended a meeting in Oakville last night (Tuesday) to hear from seven committed or likely contestants for the race.

Announced Of those either committed to running or expected to announce their commitment in the next few days are MPPs Albert Roy of Ottawa,

and referred to the "legitimate right of the teaching community to be involved in the decision-making process affecting the children."

Not taking over But Davis qualified himself at this point to say this doesn't mean the teachers want to take over.

Said the Federation president: "We believe very strongly in and respect the autonomy of the school boards to govern."

And he went on to praise the province's decentralized boards of education "which give Ontario a strong educational system."

However, Davis said decisions affecting boards and teachers such as terms and conditions of employment "must be negotiated together." He said the Federation has approached

such negotiations "responsibly" to date.

The Federation president said every board of education committee should have his representatives on it "to get the teacher input."

He said the Halton Board of Education would be "stronger" if there was more serious co-operation from organizations like teacher federations.

Find out "And you must attend board meetings and find out what's going on!" he told the teachers crowded into a steamy church hall.

Davis also said teachers have to work hard to interest parents in school developments, rather than just having an open house at the school once a year.

He said there is "public ignorance" about what is happening in schools today

and many parents are "bewildered."

"The schools are the public's schools and they have a right to be there," he said. "There has to be an introduction to the school, followed up with further communication."

Not all on strike In a reference to the month-old strike by 8,600 high school teachers in Metro Toronto, Davis said it would be "unfortunate" if all teachers were condemned by parents because of a strike by one group.

He noted that only 8,600 of Ontario's 34,000 secondary school teachers were on strike, and none of the province's 65,000 public school teachers were off the job.

Said Davis: "Strikes can be avoided if both sides can maintain an open-minded attitude to each other."

Building permits in Halton Hills are down \$2 million dollars from the same time last year. The '74 total at the end of November was \$15,696,207, while this year's total is \$13,698,511.

Permits in November this year, were up over \$100,000 from last year, but only half of the October total.

## Board reviewing question period

Halton Board of Education decided last week to review the types of queries they have received during question period to see if the board should continue or cancel question period.

Question period is a 15 minute time allotment at board meetings set aside to allow the public to ask trustees and officials questions. It was started last summer.

Trustee Noel Cooper suggested board chairman Judy Alexander prepare a report for the board dealing with the types of questions asked by residents.

He noted it was time to review the question period's usefulness and said the report will show if "the questions are falling within the boards intentions for setting it up."

Cooper stated the question period was designed to give taxpayers a chance to get clarification matters which concern them. He added if properly used the question period can be very useful.

"After we get the report and examine the kinds of questions which have been asked we can either continue it or cancel it."

Mrs. Alexander agreed to prepare the report for the trustees consideration.

Since the question period first started last summer many parents have asked questions on a variety of topics.

Complete Selection of CHRISTMAS CARDS by Carlton

Beautiful Assortments of Boxed and Bulk Cards ...

- Religious • Winter Scenes
- Children's • Holly Hobbies
- Personal and Relative
- Calendars

RIDE THE FREE CHRISTMAS BUS

We're HERE to serve you 24 HOURS A DAY

MILTON NATURAL GAS Heating, Air Conditioners and Natural Gas Rental Water Heaters

SALES — SERVICE — INSTALLATIONS

Phone Milton (No Toll Charge) 878-3281

## Teachers like hard line on Renaissance

Last week's meeting in a jammed Milton church hall was an hour old, and the 140 male public school teachers from Halton Region were in a good mood.

Chairman Mrs. Judy Alexander of the Halton Board of Education had been saying things they agreed with, and their own Federation president had suggested future dealings between the two groups looked rosy.

Then the questions started, with many concerning items of little interest to the average citizen such as pupil-teacher ratios.

Then a six-footer stood up, addressed himself to Mrs. Alexander, and said he had had his fill of reading newspaper articles in which "minority groups" like Halton Renaissance were criticizing the educational system.

The determined speaker accused the Halton board of being "too democratic by letting minority groups monopolize the meetings and the press."

The teacher told Mrs. Alexander that the board should "back up the teachers."

"The board should say 'so you've got 30 dirty books in your library—we're backing you.'"

Fellow teachers clapped and roared their approval.

The board chairman appeared moved by the response, and began to reply

by saying the board was "reluctant" to cut off access to te public, but then Mrs. Alexander stopped and said "the board is moving in the direction that the teacher asked." More applause.

She continued, "we've been supportive of the programs of ours on which we've been attacked" and the teachers shouted and clapped again.

Alternatives The board has been attacked this fall by Halton Renaissance for permitting alleged indecent books like "Go Ask Alice" and "I Never Loved Your Mind" to be used in Halton schools.

The Halton board has refused to remove the books, but stressed alternative material is available if a student or parent objects to a particular book.

Neil Davis, provincial president of the male public school teachers, then offered his Halton members some PR advice.

He told them to forget Renaissance "because you don't attack minority groups head on."

Instead, he said, the federation has the public relations personnel and the funds to wage a publicity campaign to "promote the positive aspects of what's going on in our schools."

He said Halton District teachers should also take publicity steps to inform the public about the teachers' position on prominent issues of the day.

## Liberals must choose winner

Halton's Federal Liberal Riding Association hopes to help finance the next Federal election from funds raised through the newly organized Century Club.

Association president Walter Elliott of Oakville told a group of Liberals Friday night that the executive hoped to sell about 150 \$100 memberships to the Century Club.

He pointed out the membership fees are considered tax deductible. Century Club members would be entitled to attend certain functions through the year at no cost, while non-members would pay \$15 or \$20 for tickets.

"There are a lot of Liberals in this riding, but most of them have not renewed membership dues," he said.

Delegates During the meeting Elizabeth Robson, Mrs. Laurie Harris, Peter Walker and Slim Streak were elected as delegates to the provincial Liberal leadership convention. That convention will be held at the Four Seasons Sheraton Hotel in Toronto Jan. 23 to 25.

Halton-Burlington Liberals will choose delegates to that convention at a meeting slated for Ernest C. Drury School tomorrow night (Thursday).

Halton area delegates attended a meeting in Oakville last night (Tuesday) to hear from seven committed or likely contestants for the race.

Announced Of those either committed to running or expected to announce their commitment in the next few days are MPPs Albert Roy of Ottawa,

and many parents are "bewildered."

"The schools are the public's schools and they have a right to be there," he said. "There has to be an introduction to the school, followed up with further communication."

Not all on strike In a reference to the month-old strike by 8,600 high school teachers in Metro Toronto, Davis said it would be "unfortunate" if all teachers were condemned by parents because of a strike by one group.

He noted that only 8,600 of Ontario's 34,000 secondary school teachers were on strike, and none of the province's 65,000 public school teachers were off the job.

Said Davis: "Strikes can be avoided if both sides can maintain an open-minded attitude to each other."

Building permits in Halton Hills are down \$2 million dollars from the same time last year. The '74 total at the end of November was \$15,696,207, while this year's total is \$13,698,511.

Permits in November this year, were up over \$100,000 from last year, but only half of the October total.

Building permits in Halton Hills are down \$2 million dollars from the same time last year. The '74 total at the end of November was \$15,696,207, while this year's total is \$13,698,511.

Permits in November this year, were up over \$100,000 from last year, but only half of the October total.

# No Money Down NO PAYMENTS til FEB. 1976

## 26" Giant Color Console PRICES STARTING FROM \$509.50

**FREE Xmas Turkey** With any purchase of \$100 or more. One to a family.

### 19" Color Portable \$359.50

### Modern Bedroom Set \$219.50

- Headboard • Double Dresser • Mirror
- Footboard • Chest of Drawers

RIGHT TABLES EXTRA

### 2 Piece Living Room Set ONLY \$329.50

### BRAND NAME HOME ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTS

### DIGITAL CLOCK RADIO \$14.88

- AM RADIO • DIGITAL CLOCK
- WAKE TO MUSIC SETTING • SOLID STATE

# 878-2373 826-5371

HWY. NO. 25 JUST NORTH OF 401

### WELCOME SERVICE

If you are new in town or know someone who is

PHONE 853-3902

# OPEN NIGHTLY TIL 9:00

Saturday 10 to 6  
Sunday 12 to 5



FARMER JACK'S

Collect Phone 826-5371 878-2373

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

PROV. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Q.L.K.