

Supply teachers protest

30% pay cut claim 'not right' says Supt.



ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS' vice principals Al Zanatta, M. Z. Bennett; and Gary Bateman, Robert Little, centre, received a trophy for each of their schools from Mike DeJong to be presented to the student in each school who is considered the best safety patroller. The money used for the trophies was left over from a bank account the Acton Safety Council had several years ago. Constable Keith Woods of the Halton Regional Police was also on hand when the trophies were given. Students will be picked sometime in June.

The Halton Board of Education has denied that a pay cut for supply teachers which took effect April 1 amounts to a 30 per cent monetary loss, as the 200-member Halton Elementary Supply Teachers Association (HESTA) has claimed. Superintendent of Instruction Orle Gilmore said Tuesday in a telephone interview with this newspaper that "I don't think it's right", when informed HESTA claims its members now earn 30 per cent per day less than beginning teachers in levels one and four.

He said the pay cut amounted to 16.2 per cent for supply teachers in levels 1 to 3, and 24.4 per cent for those in levels 4 to 7, compared with the earnings of beginning teachers.

The HESTA statement was made last week in a news release to this newspaper and was reiterated Tuesday morning in a telephone interview by Mrs. Adrienne Becker of Georgetown, who chaired a policy meeting of 50 supply teachers in Milton Monday night.

Mr. Gilmore, while agreeing with another HESTA statement that all supply teachers are fully qualified, experienced and approved by the board, cautioned they sometimes work only a half-day or one day while beginning teachers have a long-term commitment to the students.

The superintendent of instruction said, for example, that last November—"a fair month for such statistics"—59 per cent of supply days worked were either for a half-day or one day at a time.

21 days, regular pay And he said when a supply teacher for some reason works 21 school days in a row, that teacher "goes on schedule" and earns full pay based on his or her level, educational background and years of teaching experience.

On March 18, trustees of the Halton Board of Education voted to cut the pay of its supply teachers in an effort to save \$102,000 between April 1

and the end of 1976. Principals critical too The move, which has been criticized by HESTA members as well as many North Halton public school principals, was designed to save money in a year of provincial restraint.

What it did, however, was effectively cancel out a pay raise which the Halton supply teachers only received last fall.

Using levels 1-3 for example, a supply teacher making \$29.84 early last fall was boosted by the raise to \$38.53 daily. The new April 1 pay cut drops the daily figure back to \$30.00 plus four per cent vacation pay of \$1.20.

Levels 4-7, \$40 daily For level 4-7 supply teachers, they were making \$40.62 early last fall when the raise boosted daily wages to \$55.03. The new pay cut drops that rate back to \$40.00 plus four per cent vacation pay or \$1.60.

More than 50 members of

the Halton Elementary Supply Teachers Association met Monday night in a Milton public school library to "discuss the options open to us and what we can do", according to meeting chairman Mrs. Becker of Georgetown.

Press barred On a motion by the Georgetown supply teacher, the women voted unanimously to bar the only reporter present from the meeting.

Mrs. Becker said the women discussed their displeasure over the fact that they

heard of the impending pay cut from the news media, and not from the board itself.

She said the women present were from all parts of Halton, including Georgetown, Acton, Milton, Burlington and Oakville.

Asked why only 50 of HESTA's 200 members were present at a time of crisis for the organization, the meeting chairman said those present were acting as representatives of other members unable to be present, and decisions taken were to be communicated this week to the others by phone.

The Halton Board of Education has 500 supply teachers, but spokesmen for both the board and HESTA were unable to explain why the other 300 supply teachers did not belong to the 200-member organization.

A second meeting for HESTA members is to take place next Tuesday night, April 13, at 8 p.m., in the auditorium of the E.C. Drury School in Milton. It, too, is closed to the news media.

Councillor seeks seat

Marion Chambers, municipal councillor for Erin Village, has announced her intention to contest the nomination for NDP candidate for the Wellington-Dufferin-Peel constituency. In a letter to the Constituency membership, Mrs. Chambers outlined her long involvement with the NDP, being one of the founding members of the riding association some 15 years ago.

During her period of involvement, she has occupied positions of president, vice-president and secretary of the riding. She is presently the area 3 co-ordinator for the 92-mile long riding.



Marion Chambers Mrs. Chambers was born in 1928 on a farm in the hamlet of Strathaven, Grey County.

She is presently an executive of the Erin Arts Council and village councillor. In July, 1975, Girl Guides awarded her the "Citizen of the Year" Jubilee Award for Erin Village.

As of this date, no other persons have declared their intentions of seeking the nomination.

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Osprige

Hawaii, Costa Rica on holiday itineraries

By Doris Fines When children, noisily playing in another room, suddenly become quiet, it is time to investigate. The same rule applies to our sump pump. It had been noisily working for a week or more, when one morning the house seemed ominously quiet. It was time to investigate. Just as I feared, the pump had gotten tired and gave up the ghost.

The water, enjoying its new-found freedom, was sneakily creeping up into boxes, which when moved, promptly fell apart. Upon contacting a plumber, I proceeded to bail until he arrived and got the situation under control.

I can assure you, there are other things I'd rather do on a nice spring morning. One of them is watching the red winged blackbirds in the trees, and the kiltdeer darting here and there on the ground, and listening to the call of the robin. They all have arrived back from their winter holiday.

Hawaiian holiday Other residents have been enjoying holidays, too. Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Fraser and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Peavoy had a grand holiday in Hawaii. They flew to the island of Oahu and were given the traditional lei greeting on landing. There they spent two wonderful weeks, staying at Waikiki Beach and sightseeing. They visited the Polynesian Culture Centre, and the fabulous Kodak show, where they were entertained by the Hula dancers and the Tahitians, which are two separate cultures.

A thrilling two hour ride on the Sea Flight took them to the Island of Maui. The Sea Flight is an air boat, put into service last summer, and carries 190 passengers. It skims over the water on pontoons. Maui is called the Valley Island, and is noted for its pineapples, which grow on stalks. They were permitted to bring home as many as they wanted of this juicy, delicious fruit.

To go to Kauai Island took a little more than two hours. There they toured the Fern Grotto cave, and saw the Waimea Garden Island canyon, which is a small replica of the Grand Canyon. They say it was a marvelous trip, despite the fact that bacon was \$2.50 a pound, and a loaf of bread cost 79 cents.

Visit former resident Dr. and Mrs. Ben Wingrove and Mr. and Mrs. Duncan McPhedron have returned from their two week holiday in Costa Rica. They say it is a very beautiful country where it is spring all the time, with lovely flowers and fine dairy farms. Three days were spent in Belize, which is British Honduras. There they called on Lady Joan Roberts, who used to live in Rockwood, having moved away three years ago.

They went snorkling in the bright blue water off San Pedro, a key, which is said to be an extension of the Florida Keys, and saw the coral reef there. Fishing was also a memorable part of their holiday when Ben caught a barracuda, and Mable a trigger, from the Caribbean Sea.

Eden Mills

Craft Club visits Hespeler plant

By Mrs. Georgina Wright The Tuesday afternoon Craft Club enjoyed a tour through the Artek Woolen Industrial Plants in Hespeler last Tuesday afternoon. Twelve of the group were able to go, and came home with a lot of information on the

manufacturing of woollens etc. which they will pass on to the rest of the club. Mrs. G. Wright and daughter-in-law Beryl were in E. Rochester last week attending the funeral of Mrs. Wright's brother John Tougher, formerly of Guelph.

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