

It's official — elementary school starts Sept. 13

It's official now. Halton's elementary school pupils will get an extra long summer holiday this year since Halton Board of Education decided Thursday to delay the start of school until September 13.

School was to start September 7 but Trustee Ernie Bodnar's plan to delay the opening until the 13th to accommodate four professional development days has been accepted.

Elementary school students will also get out of school June 24 since June 27, 28, 29 and 30 will also be taken up with professional development.

The teachers ninth professional development day will be held January 31.

Bodnar's plan was not favored by the administration because it left very little time and meant there would be inadequate staff to instruct

teachers in the essentials of core-curriculum which is supposed to be implemented by 1977.

In addition his plan didn't leave any free time for teachers to conduct daytime parent interviews. Extra

days out of school at the start of the year for elementary pupils didn't correspond to the days high school students will be in school so it was feared many secondary school students would be kept home to care for younger brothers and sisters. The administration also fell Bodnar's plan would force regional teacher sessions while it had been hoped the sessions dealing with core curriculum could be handled in smaller groups.

The only advantages the administration could see in Bodnar's proposal is it is easy to explain to the public and it is a simple and clear system. Bodnar complained previously that when professional development days are scattered throughout the year parents' regular routines are

disrupted for what they view as simply another day off for teachers.

Bodnar said he couldn't understand why there wasn't enough staff available at the start of the year but was available when the days were spread out through the year. He said this argument on the part of administration was weak.

He said principals must be the prime movers in the implementation of core-curriculum and thought by handling development days the way he suggested would set a pattern for the future.

In a revised report to the board the administration suggested professional development days should be held September 7, November 29, January 27, 28, 29 and June 27, 28, 29 and 30. Originally administration

had requested professional development days be held September 7 and 8, October 8, November 29, January 31, February 21, March 7 and June 29 and 30.

In semestered high schools the board decided professional development days will be held September 7, January 27, 28 and 30, and June 24, 27, 28, 29 and 30.

Non-semestered high schools will hold professional development days on September 7, January 31 and June 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29 and 30.

The winter break will run from March 19 to 28 and Christmas holidays will start December 23 and pupils will return January 3.

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NEW SIGN indicates Acton Y.M.C.A. and the Community Services Centre. It was installed last week.

Tennis lessons soon to begin for summer

Tennis lessons will soon begin at the Acton courts, according to new recreation co-ordinator Anne Pickering. Registration was last week, and there is still room in the adult intermediate and the junior beginners' classes.

Junior beginners, ages eight to 15, will be taking lessons every Tuesday from July 6 to August 10 from 4

p.m. to 5 p.m. Adult beginners, 16 years old and over will also play Tuesdays on the same dates from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Thursdays from July 8 to August 12, adult beginners will again have a class from 7 to 8 p.m., and adult intermediate from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Mark Clem will be the instructor.

Block parents meet in July

Organization of a block parents program in Acton took another step with a meeting in the Y Wednesday of last week. About eight interested parents attended and made plans for another public meeting in July.

At this meeting, Cons. Keith Woods of the police force will speak and show films. The organizers expect to have this meeting in one of the schools.

They are not waiting for fall, because any applicants must sign forms which go to Ottawa to be processed. This apparently takes between six

and eight weeks. With a good turnout and good response, the block parent plan could be in operation in the fall.

Organizer Lonnie Harkins is especially hopeful of a good attendance at the meeting next month.

Guarantee . . .

(Continued from Page 1) said no matter what government the only change would be the number of elected people meeting in rooms, but the staff would have to be accommodated.

Only Councillors Maltby, Levy, and Morrow voted for asking the province for a 25 year commitment. All council except Armstrong voted to ask for the \$500,000 grant.

Stolen

Theft of turkeys from a turkey farm at R.R. 3, Acton, was reported to Acton police June 16.

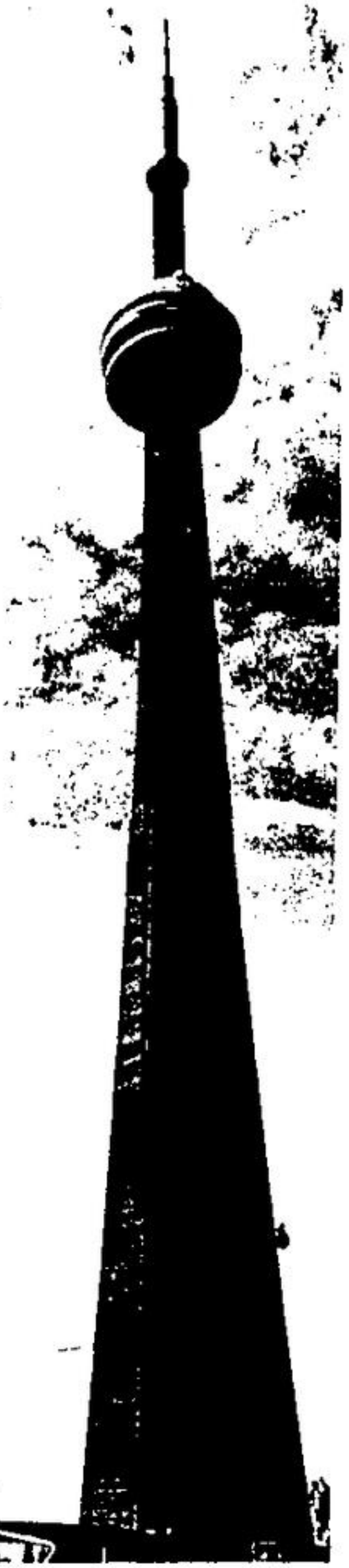
Per capita debt lowest

Halton Hills has the lowest per capita debt of any of the municipalities in Halton, according to Treasurer Ray King.

Including debentures sold and approved, the per capita debt is \$46. This figure compares favourably with the other Halton municipalities whose debt ranges from \$65 to \$98 a head.

If \$600,000 debenture for a municipal complex is added it would raise the per capita debt by an additional \$6.50 making the debt \$52.50 a head.

The \$600,000 would not be the full cost of the proposed municipal complex, but only the portion which may be debentured. The estimated total cost is \$900,000.



CN TOWER is soon to be open to the general public. Last weekend CN employees and families lined up to be whisked to the top of the world's tallest free standing structure. Free Press reporter Eric Elstone was there.

Hyde defends tender system

Councillor Ern Hyde strongly defended the tendering method used for the works garage, and termed a letter by masonry contractor Bob Reynolds to all councillors and newspapers, "completely wrong".

Hyde said Mr. Reynolds made an unsuccessful bid for the masonry contract. Holding the Reynolds tender in his hand, Hyde said "Mr. Reynolds is contending that we didn't ask for a bond unless he was the successful bidder, but everyone else was aware they had to supply a bond. But in his tender he countersigned, he says he is including an agreement to bond for 50 per cent of the amount. Now we have a letter saying they were not asked to put up a bond."

Hyde emphasized no-one had questioned Mr. Reynolds' workmanship, and no changes had been made in conditions of bidding. Hyde answered the charge by Mr. Reynolds that one person had not submitted a bond, by saying plumbing contractor Bill Garbutt had agreed to bond, but the bond had not arrived by the tender closing time.

Explaining the reference to the roofing contract, made by Mr. Reynolds, Hyde claimed the roofing contractor refused to submit a bond, forcing the committee to accept the higher bid.

Hyde said the town was acting as general contractor in the case of the works garage, and they didn't consult the purchasing agent because he didn't know where to get some of the materials. "But he did issue the purchase orders, you can't expect a purchasing agent to be a building contractor."

Councillor Russell Miller claimed the purchasing agent said if he had been consulted he might have saved the town the \$4,000 or \$5,000.

Noisy!

A nearby resident complained to police this week of the noise of motor bikes at the Dufferin Quarry property in the Speyside area. Police said bikers must have the written permission of the owner to use the property.

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