



BALLINAFAD SUMMER playground children worked hard last Wednesday to decorate the community hall for Monster week. A chamber of horrors was made under the stage and the youngsters drew scary pictures on a mural to form the entrance way. Left to right, Cathy Portelli, Bobby Wilson, Jeff Walker, and Joy Bates all work away on the project.



CAROL ROGERS WAS like a pro as she kept the hula hoop swinging on her hips for 35 seconds at the Ballinafad summer playground last Wednesday.

Parents protest Sept. 13 opening

Despite a strong protest from two Halton parents Thursday it doesn't appear Halton Board of Education will likely change the dates of this year's professional activity days which will delay the start of elementary school until September 13.

One mother, Norma Gomes, told the board its decision to lump professional activity days at the start and end of the school year in 1976-77 has killed phasing-in programs for kindergarten pupils and lengthened a summer holiday already too long.

She also complained about the way parents were informed of the change in school opening dates, noting it would be a big inconvenience to working mothers. Mrs. Gomes said many parents didn't see a note which was sent home with report cards, noting school would not start until Sept. 13.

Maureen Cass said the public hasn't been properly educated as to the importance of professional activity days and should be. She said the change in dates of professional activity days makes it impossible to co-ordinate kindergarten to grade 13 programs since the elementary schools and high schools don't have common professional activity days.

Trustee Ernie Bodnar, who hatched the plan to have professional activity days at the start and end of the school year said the pupils will still receive 185 days of instruction.

"The main thrust of the plan in my mind was to put the professional activity days

in a block to make them operate smoothly in terms of planning, organization and improved methodology. We had been receiving many complaints about professional activity days being spread out through the year," he explained.

Concern about the loss of teacher-parent interview time during the daytime was dismissed by Bodnar.

"Whenever we negotiate a contract with our teachers they say it is 2,000 hour a year occupation and that means a lot of work after school hours. Holding parent interviews in the evening will give taxpayers a chance to see some of those extra hours of work and effort," Bodnar suggested.

Trustee Jim Clelland said he thought professional activity days should be cut back in Halton next year as they have been in Peel. He told Mrs. Cass she was biased. Her suggestion that more professional activity days be added was dismissed by Clelland since he said she is

married to a Halton principal. Trustee Tony Goodyear said there was little wonder the public is confused about professional activity days since they have been abused so much in the past few years.

He said one reason the professional activity days have been lumped together is to accommodate the many single parent families in Halton. Parents won't lose a day's pay while home taking care of the children because the teachers are having a professional activity day.

Trustee Len Crosier suggested teachers should come back in August and have their professional development days then. Mrs. Cass said she thought Halton teachers would be receptive to the idea.

Trustee Edna Robinson said parents would be very happy to see all professional activity days cancelled or at least reduced. She added most parents seem pleased to see the days blocked together

at the start and end of the year.

New faces high school

Many new faces will be seen around Acton high school in September when classes resume, but many familiar ones will no longer be around.

Vice-Principal Ian Downie, reading teacher Sue Baker, French and German instructor Gene Kriksennas, home economics Bev Rowley, English Johan Wilkinson and French and Typing Jennifer Yust are leaving for new destinations.

Lyn McLaren will replace Mr. Downie as vice-principal, with Nancy Clark teaching English and French, Pat Kastner as reading teacher, Ross McGill, English, Eva Sanson, science, Aileen Spencer French, and Ruth Wilson as the home economics teacher.

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MARCELLO CARRA watches the other children at the MZ Bennett playground as they work away on their valentines for their parents. This week is Holiday week at the playground and Monday was Valentine Day. Santa Claus is coming on Friday when Christmas Day will be celebrated.

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