

Teachers removed from classes enrolment below projections

With elementary school enrolment over 1,000 students short of projections, Halton Board of Education has been forced to put 25 full time teachers in a special pool, from which supply teachers will be drawn.

The 25 teachers in this special pool, including three full time and one part time who teach at North Halton schools, have been removed from their regular classrooms because of the shortage of students. Based on projections which have proved to be far too high, the board finds it has hired too many teachers.

Thursday the board endorsed an administration plan which will see the 25 excess teachers take over supply teaching duties when needed, attached to work with children at various schools on special projects and simply wait for enough resignations to create openings for them in the Halton school system. They will continue to receive their regular pay.

Director of Education Em Lavender said projections of this year's elementary enrolment are between 1,040 and 1,050 students above the actual number that are attending classes.

He noted on only one other time in the seven year history of the county board have the projections been so wrong. In 1969 the board faced a similar enrolment crisis.

Projections called for 32,456 to attend elementary school this year while only 31,428 pupils actually showed up for classes.

Lavender explained during February, March and April of each year the board compiles its students enrolment projections for the next school year and hires teachers based on those projections.

"We have to make decisions then since we can't staff schools after the students arrive for classes," he said.

Lavender explained that each year somewhere between 27 and 32 teachers re-

sign, take leaves of absence on maternity leaves, and it is hoped that trend will continue so the 25 full time teachers, who have become supply teachers, will soon be back in the classroom full time.

"When these teachers aren't doing supply teaching they will be attached to designated schools and working with the children," Lavender explained.

Because of the tremendous shortfall in the number of students the pupil-teacher ratio in Halton has also had to be adjusted.

Instead of the normal 24.5 pupils per teacher ratio in Halton there is now a ratio of 24.2 pupils per teacher.

Lavender admitted the administration hasn't any clear answer why the projections are so far out although there are a number of factors which have contributed to the discrepancy.

One of the hand Lavender noted 1,045 pupils have left the Halton elementary system but 1,151 new students have entered. The board had anticipated the high number of new students entering the system but the number of departures has been a big surprise.

Lavender explained many more pupils were expected because of the many homes in Halton, especially in Milton and North Burlington, completed last winter and ready for occupancy but still empty.

Halton's public school system has lost 172 students to Halton separate schools while 74 have returned to Halton elementary schools from separate schools. The board suffered another big loss of students when 138 departed from the public school system for private schools and at the same time only 31 students returned from private schools.

Another factor which has forced the chopping of classes and the reorganization of many schools is the fact 1,500 pupils have moved from one Halton school to another this year.

"We have made these moves now because if it was left any longer it would have made adjustments for the pupils much tougher," Lavender explained.

He noted schools in North Halton have escaped the reorganization relatively unscathed compared to those in

Burlington and Oakville because uncertainties in the number of homes which would be occupied, particularly in Georgetown and Milton, forced the schools to hire fewer teachers than they were entitled to, according to the projections.

"We are studying this to see why our projections are so far out. We just don't know the answers. What has happened to the population of Halton in the last year? Regional Chairman Allan Masson may have part of the answer."

Trustee Tony Goodyear objected to the formation of the extra teacher pool and said he and many taxpayers believe it is just a way of paying people who aren't really

working. Superintendent of Instruction John Boich noted that under the collective agreement between the board and its teachers redundant staff can be let go but a board miscalculation in the number of teachers needed doesn't make the 25 extra teachers redundant, so they have to be kept on the payroll.

Lavender said he would cheerfully leave things just as they were but didn't think the board would have sat still for a pupil-teacher ratio of 23.3 pupils per teacher.

"Another factor in the lack of students is the completed homes in Halton is the high property taxes which the board is mostly responsible for," Trustee Richard Goodin

said. He continued that there is sloppy workmanship in many new homes which are being built and so people are reluctant to buy them.

"This all goes back to recent years in schools when proper standards haven't been stressed and the meaning of responsibility ignored," he said.

Boich assured the board the teachers who are in the pool now won't be there very long. He noted that since the report was filed with the board dealing with the crisis early Thursday, openings had been found for three teachers.

Trustee Tom Watson said he thought the pool of teachers plan was the only solution to a difficult problem.

Abandon site A

Drill on B and D - after F

In spite of demands from Halton Regional Council for full and fair comparisons of landfill sites, Halton Region's Public Works Committee has recommended drilling on sites B and D, only after drilling on Site F is complete.

Site F is the committee's favorite site at the Britannia-Tremaine Rd. area. Sites B and D are situated on Highway 5 west of Tremaine Rd. and east of Highway 25 north of the proposed Highway 403, respectively.

Council at its last meeting requested the consultants to prepare site one investigations of site D, drilling on sites F, B and D and conceptual designs at sites B, D and F subject to approving costs.

Reporting to the committee Wednesday, consultant Wally Wells of M. M. Dillon Ltd. said the work would cost an estimated \$86,850.

Costs of studies on landfill

and resource recovery now stand at about \$192,000. An additional \$86,850 to provide the requested information as well as another sum of about \$150,000 for environmental assessment board hearings will run the cost up to about

\$428,850 before the purchase of land or the development of a site. Although the matter was not on the agenda, the committee discussed it for more than an hour before passing a resolution.

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CORPORAL RANDY MORTON, 26, of Acton, receives a message on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force radio net at the force headquarters in Damascus. He is one of 150 Canadians serving with the U.N. force which separates the Syrian and Israeli armies on the Golan Heights. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Morton of R. R. 4, Acton. (Canadian Forces photo)

Policing Nassagaweya will cost Halton taxpayers

Policing of the former Nassagaweya Township will cost Halton taxpayers more money.

Discussing a take over of the last area of the region which isn't policed by Halton Regional Police, Halton Police Commission chairman Glenn Magnuson noted the force hasn't received any official word yet from Queen's Park that it must expand into Nassagaweya by March 31 of next year. However the commission believes press reports, saying the force must expand, are true.

Regional councillor Jack Raftis asked if it would be an added burden to the local taxpayer even though the province plans to up the police grant to Halton from \$12 per person to \$15 per person.

Mayor Harry Barrett said the expansion would certainly cost Halton taxpayers money since the extra \$3 per person grant would only cover 20 per cent of the expansion cost.

Commissioners Bill Hourigan and William Warrender both noted it was no surprise the regional force must expand into Nassagaweya since there have been broad hints warning this would happen from the province.

Barrett pointed out Halton was so sure this expansion would eventually happen the new communications network on which the police are spending nearly \$700,000 was designed so Nassagaweya could be tied in.

"We went into Esqueping and Acton at the request of Halton Hills but Milton didn't want us to go into Nassagaweya since Mayor Anne MacArthur thought the OPP was doing just fine. We aren't building an empire. Now we have been ordered in there

so Queen's Park will have to make peace with Mayor MacArthur," Barrett explained.

Skerrett pointed out Nassagaweya residents have been paying for regional police service and haven't been getting it.

He explained the regional force's plans now for serving Nassagaweya right now are based on what kind of service the OPP has been providing. He predicted four or five additional officers would be needed and two extra cruisers.

Barrett warned the police may discover that once the Halton police take over Nassagaweya residents may expect a greater level of service.

Skerrett said the force is aware this may happen and noted the initial impact of taking over an extra patrol area won't be the only factor which must be considered. "What develops once we are in there is important. It could mushroom. After we go in we will have to assess in we will have to add another detective for District One at the Georgetown headquarters. The OPP could always call on Toronto OPP detectives said.



BEAVER LEADER Andrea Sharples enjoyed the candy floss at the Acton Fall Fair.

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