



LIBRARIAN EILEEN New lettered scroll honoring Mrs. Isabel Watson, and signed by all the Halton Hills library staff. It was presented Monday to Mrs. Watson.



ADMIRING THE new plaque which designates the Isabel Watson room in the library are Mrs. Marguerite Taylor, councillor G. W. McKenzie and chief librarian Betsy Cornwell.

OSSTF embargo on . . .

(Continued from Page 1) additional schools by the Halton Board of Education," the federation officials declared. Members of the federation are reminded in the memo going out to each teacher of policies, by-laws and laws which prevent them from disobeying the embargo.

"Until such time as this embargo is removed, any member of this federation who applies for, or accepts a position of responsibility arising from the attempted reorganization of additional schools by the Halton Board of Education will not receive any support from this federation in any professional difficulty in which the member may find himself or herself until such time as the provincial executive may declare the member once again receive support," they said.

Primeau indicated possible penalties facing teachers who might violate the embargo include expulsion from the federation or even recommendation by the federation to the Minister of Education that their teaching certificate be revoked.

Norman noted the topic of reorganization is vitally important to Halton's 1,200 high school teachers and the confrontation situation has now arisen because of "early polarization" of views on the subject when discussed by local federation officials and the board.

He said the presence of provincial officials does not represent a threat to the board's right to manage the education system.

"As teachers we are obligated to take an interest in what happens in the school which could effect what happens in the classrooms," Norman declared.

He said the provincial executive action isn't a smokescreen for an attack on the board's rights and are looking only for a solution acceptable to both trustees and teachers. Norman noted the OSSTF is investigating the legal implication of various forms of action against the board and believe the teachers have rights as employees.

He said reorganization represents no cost saving to the board, has no proven value to the students and has little support among teachers. He observed it is an example of the board's wish "to continue the grand experiments in education which have now been rejected by parents."

Primeau observed people are tired of experimentation in education.

He vowed OSSTF will tenaciously fight for its members against something 72 per cent of Halton teachers are opposed to and will continue to try and work out a solution with the board although that appears to be a more and more difficult task.

Primeau stated the OSSTF is considering more action, besides the embargo. Suits and injunctions are being examined.

Judd said the federation isn't saying there aren't any benefits to reorganization but simply there isn't any evidence it will work in every school. He added there are some problems now at some schools which voluntarily reorganized.

"This system of school organization has faded out fast in other parts of Ontario where it has been tried but it's still going strong in Halton," he observed.

Judd said the local and provincial OSSTF officials have been trying to meet with board officials but can't since the board is supposedly awaiting legal advice.

The federation representatives said they aren't trying to have anything changed at the schools which have reorganized even though they suggest a review, but simply want the reorganization of the other schools delayed until a proper study is conducted.

They said they have served notice to the board the topic of reorganization will be a primary subject next year when it comes time for contract negotiations.

The 200 positions of responsibility held by department heads, minor department heads and assistant department heads in Halton's high schools will be replaced by about 120 chairmen and associate chairmen.

Acton high school has implemented the new chairmanship program.

While those in positions of responsibility after reorganization will receive more pay than they do now, about 80 teachers will lose money for holding positions of responsibility.

The federation spokesmen said they don't view the reorganization as a salary action and don't believe it comes under Bill 100 but is an issue because of the mandatory deadline and since there has been no review of its effectiveness.

This is the first embargo of a strike the federation officials would only say that bridge will be crossed when and if that option presents itself.

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MOTHER'S AID

The last few days before Christmas are probably the busiest of the year for the average housewife—and her task is not easier because of the excitement the coming holiday generates among the children in the household.

Mother will find it easier to get things done if she first takes the time to give the children something interesting to do and get them from underfoot.

Pre-school youngsters, for example, will greatly enjoy soap painting. It's easy. Add a small amount of water to soap flakes or granulated soap and whip thoroughly. Using dry paper, children can make designs with their fingers, as is done in finger painting.

Embargo doesn't halt board plans

Halton Board of Education chairman Judy Alexander isn't saying much about the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation embargo on members applying for or accepting chairmanship positions with the board.

She and other trustees maintain the OSSTF actions in trying to scuttle the board's plans to have all Halton high schools reorganized by next September is "an infringement on democratic process and a violation of the collective agreement."

Mrs. Alexander said Thursday the board isn't discussing the dispute with the teachers until a legal opinion is obtained. She said getting a legal opinion is a "true practical problem" for the board.

She admitted the embargo could disrupt the board's plans but trustees and administration officials are waiting until the advertising program for hiring chairmen starts to see if teachers will obey it.

Mrs. Alexander emphasized the board is going ahead with its plans to reorganize the schools. She said she thought it would be another week before legal advice is available to the trustees.

She also said she doesn't expect the board will launch a suit against OSSTF although a grievance against the embargo might end up before the Education Relations Commission.

Mrs. Alexander said she wouldn't be surprised if reorganization becomes a big issue when it comes time to work on a new teacher contract.

In a prepared statement the board indicated the move to chairmanships was "intended to move away from a top-heavy administrative structure in secondary schools, in which one out of every four teachers had a position of responsibility. This will reduce the number of people in the hierarchy."

The board noted six years ago a new school was opened in Burlington under the chairmanship system and it was thoroughly evaluated and deemed successful by local high school teacher federation officials, Ministry of Education and the board. The evaluation was completed in 1975.

In 1973 the board adopted a policy for changeover to chairmanship and allowed time for a smooth transition but this was misinterpreted by many schools as meaning reorganization was optional.

"We regret that our teachers have invited the provincial OSSTF to take over their discussion with the board. We recognize the seriousness of this action. However the trustees, as elected representatives of the people, must accept their responsibility to strive for the best possible education for Halton students," the board statement said.

SYRIAN OBSERVANCE
The holiday season in Syria extends from December 4, Saint Barbara's Day, until January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany.

on Epiphany Eve every tree bends its trunk and inclines its branches in homage to the Christ Child.

The Christmas observance is relatively quiet, but January 1 the Day of the Circumcision—is a day of rejoicing marked by the exchanging of gifts. January 2 is a visiting day for women.
An old Syrian belief is that

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Fed. of Ag. head hits increases in hydro

"The 25.6 per cent increase in rural Hydro rates is going to have a very serious and, in some cases, crippling effect on Ontario farmers," said Peter Hamann, President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, in reaction to a recent announcement by Ontario Hydro.

"It is no help to farmers that this increase is blessed by the Anti-Inflation Board and, therefore, presumably only reflects increased costs of production. Not only does the A.I. Board not grant farmers increased prices to offset their increased costs of production, but farmers, during the past year, have been taking a severe drop in net income.

"But, even leaving that aside, farmers are, in fact,

now paying too much for their hydro. Not only do they pay more than the urban rate, they even pay more than their non-farm rural neighbours.

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