

Gordon warns

Don't close school parents tell trustees

Campbellville residents want their school kept open because it is an important focal point of the community and they believe it is a waste of time and money to subject their children to riding on buses every day for two hours to attend classes at Brookville School.

Campbell said three new homes built in the village not long ago have already produced eight school age children. "If there is a rise in the birth rate and the board has closed the school and sold the land where will these children go and at what price. It seems to be a most unwise decision to close the school. It will be a devastating blow to parents, pupils and the community if the board closes our little school," she declared.

They said a small school is much more personal and helps develop a person's identity much better than a large school. "Within the Campbellville school, the children are very much looked upon as individuals as the teachers can become familiar with both the child and his family." The parents see no advantage in having their children at Brookville where there are better gym and library facilities and find facilities at Campbellville adequate.

If Halton Board of Education closes down Campbellville School, trustees will have quashed part of the Nassagaweya plan approved by several agencies, Milton Mayor Don Gordon warned the board Thursday night. He and planning director Bob Zsadyani made a presentation to the trustees in a bid to persuade the board not to close the school down and bus Campbellville area pupils to Brookville School.

since before regional government, has just started. He pointed out considerable development is contemplated in Brookville, Campbellville and Moffat. Zsadyani noted a number of plans in the hamlet areas approved by Nassagaweya are coming on stream soon. Most will be completed in the next three years. Zsadyani explained the four developments, Brookville Estates, Moffat Estates, McLaren, R.R. Higgins, and several lots slated for development, will produce 166 single family units and a total of 664 people.

two more subdivisions are on the drawing board for Campbellville, which will be close to the school and are expected to produce another 90 single family homes. The planner wondered what will happen to Brookville school when this development materializes if Campbellville school closes. He predicted Brookville would be crowded. "The board should seriously look at these schools and keep them open," he stated. Director of Education Em Lavender said the development information wasn't new to the board but the emphasis on hamlet development had not been given the prominence in administration deliberations about Campbellville it maybe should have been.

Beverly Campbell, that parents are happy with the school and find the facilities are "quite adequate". With a small school the children receive a lot of personal attention including gym class, she said. Trustee Bert Hinton said he has yet to find a justifiable reason to close any small schools and urged Campbellville be kept open. Gordon told the trustees there was no possibility of another government agency preventing development outlined to the board from materializing. He added Campbellville was taken out of the Niagara Escarpment Commission planning area so it could grow. Gordon said when people consider moving to an area they look for churches, commercial facilities and a school. "If the school is closed the board, without having the legislative power to do so, will quash part of the official plan which has already been approved by two higher levels of government," Gordon warned.

Board keeps Palermo open

Palermo School will stay open. At a meeting Thursday, Halton Board of Education rejected administration plans to close the school this June. Director of Education Em Lavender said a survey of parents in the J. M. Denyes School area showed six families producing nine pupils might consider sending their children by bus to Palermo. He said the final decision must be the trustees' and they must weigh the school's community identity with the educational issue of keeping a school open which has dropping enrollment. Trustee Bill Lawson was asked if it was possible to keep Palermo area pupils at the school for grades seven and eight to build up the population. Lavender said it was possible but not very desirable. It would mean even more mixed grades, he said. Trustee Jim Clelland said with population growth in Milton and schools being forced to use portables it wasn't sensible to close Palermo. He predicted

Queen's Park wouldn't authorize money for school expansion in Milton when there was a closed school just down the road. He noted parents in the Palermo area want the school kept open and accept the problems they will have to contend with having a small school, including mixed grade classes. Trustee Judy Alexander said if it was kept open she hoped parents wouldn't come back to the board asking for special staffing considerations as they have in the past. Trustee Bert Hinton said it wouldn't cost the board that much to keep Palermo open. He thought all small schools should be kept open because they produce fine pupils. Only \$25 damage was done in a Thursday afternoon crash between Gary Foster, 53 Roseford, Acton and Grant Hamilton, Moorefield. There were no injuries reported in the accident, which occurred on Mill St.

Closing C'ville School will ruin part of plan

Free Press

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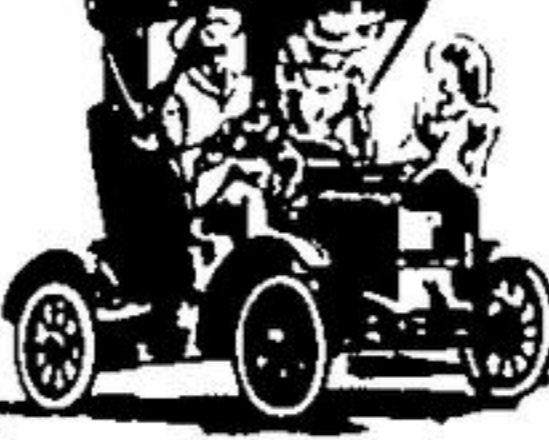
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