

# New separate school gets first principal

After five years of working for it, Catholic Acton residents will have a separate school, St. Joseph's, starting in September. Principal of the new school, to be located next to Robert Little School, will be Sean Briggs, a native of England with a lifetime of experience in Catholic schools.

Mr. Briggs came to Canada in 1968, having received his teaching degree from the three year teachers' program connected with Manchester University in England. All his education through this time was in Catholic schools. When he reached this country he took a B.A. in Geography from York.

Mr. Briggs' first Canadian job was at Holy Rosary in Milton where he taught from 1968 until 1971 when he moved to St. Paul's in Burlington. After two years of teaching there he moved up into the vice-principal's post for three years.

St. Raphael's in Burlington was his next stop, where for two years he divided his time between teaching and his vice-principal duties. At St. Gabriel's in Burlington he took a full time vice-principal's post for a year, and this year he is principal at St. Joseph's in Oakville.

Religion classes The biggest difference between the lessons at St. Joseph's and those at public school will be that 350 minutes a week of religion will be taught.

The school follows the Ministry of Education guidelines in such academic programs as math and language.

"Academically we are not all that different," said Mr. Briggs. Besides the religion classes, the only difference is in the behaviour expected of the students and their attitudes towards teachers, according to Mr. Briggs.

There are five classrooms in the building, and Mr. Briggs hopes to run eight grades plus Kindergarten



JENNIFER OLAH smiles as she is registered for Kindergarten at St. Joseph's School. Registration took place last Thursday at the church.

He is especially anxious to have the grade seven and eight students because "we can involve kids in sports against other schools, public speaking, and that sort of thing."

Enjoyable learning "Kids should be happy at school," said Mr. Briggs. Despite this, he feels that his "prime purpose is still to teach basics." When students are happy, he feels, they will learn "everything you throw at them."

"I see a child at school

being looked upon as a person who has to develop physically, mentally and spiritually. We want to educate the whole person," he said.

His training in geography has made Mr. Briggs aware of the advantages of St. Joseph's location. The school is within walking distance of Main St., Fairy Lake, and other places which the students might like to visit.

31-year-old Mr. Briggs is married. His wife Darlene is a teacher at Georges Vanier separate school, Oakville.

Hinton says

# Set priorities

Halton Board of Education trustees have to start setting realistic priorities instead of just continuing to expand the system since taxpayers simply can't afford costly education any longer. Trustee Bert Hinton says.

Thursday, Hinton told Halton Board of Education following the presentation of an \$81.9 million budget. "Our first priority is to establish priorities."

In the '60s and particularly the '70s everyone thought education was the answer to everything and societies top priority, Hinton said. In the past the impression was that good education would produce a new race of people who would all get good jobs and "fuel a constantly expanding economy."

"Under these circumstances education itself was the only priority. It had to be expanded to all levels at once. All programs that could be presented as having educational value must be introduced. All new thoughts must be tried. More and more money must be invested."

He said educators are facing a "rude awakening" as the public doesn't place the same importance on education as it once did and financial resources dwindle.

Hinton stated it was unfortunate but trustees don't seem to understand what a priority really is.

"We think that listing our priorities means listing all the things we want to do."

He said it seems that everything the board has done in the past and all programs already developed remain as priorities while only new ideas now receive close scrutiny.

"We cannot, it seems, get it into our heads that setting priorities is an exercise that hurts."

He told the trustees in his view setting priorities means reviewing programs and practices and deciding which ones must be cut in light of their expense and real worth.

"We must set ourselves resolutely and perhaps even ruthlessly to asking in what should we invest our resources, what can we do best, what can we do that is most important, what can we abandon?"

"And make no mistake about it. If we can't face the harsh reality and do the job ourselves it will be done for us," Hinton warned.

He said the public, which is paying the bill, wants the schools to get back to the basics and that is what the board should be doing. Hinton added some consideration should also be given to students with special needs but only with the board facing financial realities at the same time since it would be easy to slip back to thinking that anything worthwhile should be done.

"We can no longer afford such luxuries as expensive

academic training that is apparently intended to provide us with the most broadly and highly educated unemployed in the world."

He said technical and vocational training which takes a long time in the sheltered environment of the school should be cut back since the same objectives could be achieved "by simply seeking work and learning to perform a task on the job."

Hinton observed the people most dissatisfied with education today are the most recent graduates. The public is most concerned with costs and results.

He is also concerned about the hiring of more and more professional personnel since the "number of teachers who do not register a class in some schools now equals or nearly equals the number of teachers who do."

"A priority is not simply an item on a shopping list. It is not an extension of wishful thinking. It is a hard-headed, tough minded decision to throw one of our babies to the wolves so that we may escape with the rest. Which of the babies are you willing to sacrifice?" he asked.

# Low income elderly may get tax break

For the first time in Halton Hills, elderly residents who are receiving the income supplement to the old age pension might also get a break in their taxes.

Monday night Halton Hills finance-administration committee recommended a reduction of \$100 in property taxes for those who qualify for the income supplement.

Treasurer Ray King who made the report, pointed out three other municipalities in Halton have set \$100 as the uniform amount.

The reduction would have to be applied for, and proof of receipt of the income supplement to the old age pension made available.

The treasurer explained this should not be confused with the Municipal and School Tax Credit Assistance Act, which is already in effect all

over Ontario. This program can reduce the property tax 50 per cent, or a maximum of \$150, but a

lien is put against the property to be paid, either when the property is sold or passed on to heirs.

## Cable 4 this week

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2nd

6:30 The Bible's View

7:00 Rud Whiting Show

Guests:

Dr. Betty Stephenson

Minister of Labour

and Mr. George Gray

7:30 Karate in Action

8:00 The Questors



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9th

7:00 The Rud Whiting Show

7:30 Karate in Action

8:00 The Questors

## NOTICE

ALL THOSE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THE FORMATION OF AN . . .

### Acton Business Association

THERE WILL BE A MEETING . . .

Tuesday, March 8th — 7:30 p.m.

at the

Acton Fire Hall

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**ST. PATRICK'S DAY**  
CARDS, NOVELTIES, ETC.

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## GOLF CLINIC

Enjoy a free evening out and see your golf swing on video tape. Watch the Masters on film. Get a few helpful hints for the coming season.

Mr. Max Thompson of Toronto will be on hand to help you out.

WHERE: Gordon Alcott Arena

WHEN: Tuesday, March 8  
7-9 p.m.

In addition you can register for the Recreation Department's golf lessons starting Tuesday, March 15. (\$20/8 weeks)

NOTE: Bring your own golf iron.



# Approve zoning change 12.5 acres residential

By a one vote margin, Halton Hills planning board approved the rezoning of 12.5 acres of land at Main and Wallace Streets, Acton, from industrial to residential Tuesday night.

The vote overruled a planning department recommendation which said the residential designation would not conform to the official plan, and instead the developers, North Halton Real Estate, should be encouraged to develop the land industrially.

Planner Mario Venditti pointed out there are homes in the area surrounded by industrial land. He said the homes are presently a non-conforming use.

He said the proposal calls for a mixture of single family homes, semi-detached and townhouses.

Explaining the planning department's refusal for recommending against the residential zoning, the planner said the area is cut off by the railroad and the highway.

He said school facilities are at the other end of town, causing children to walk right through the town.

Favors residential Councillor Pat McKenzie termed the area ideal residential land and said he lived there for years. He pointed out there are more than 20 houses in the area, including Scene Street.

"If the recommendation is adopted what is going to happen to these homes?" he asked.

The planner said Scene Street would be left residential but the rest would be non-conforming.

Continuing Mr. McKenzie said if the railroad is hazardous in that area, as the report

claimed, it was hazardous down farther where it crosses Mill Street. He claimed this development was simply infilling.

Councillor Peter Marks pointed out there is a great deal of industrial land in Acton, and the loss of 12 acres would not be felt. "There is more than ample," he stated. He suggested the density should be reduced and perhaps another plan submitted.

Later sold Councillor Les Duby said he recognized the planner did a good job on the report, but said his recommendations were based on the present zoning in Acton.

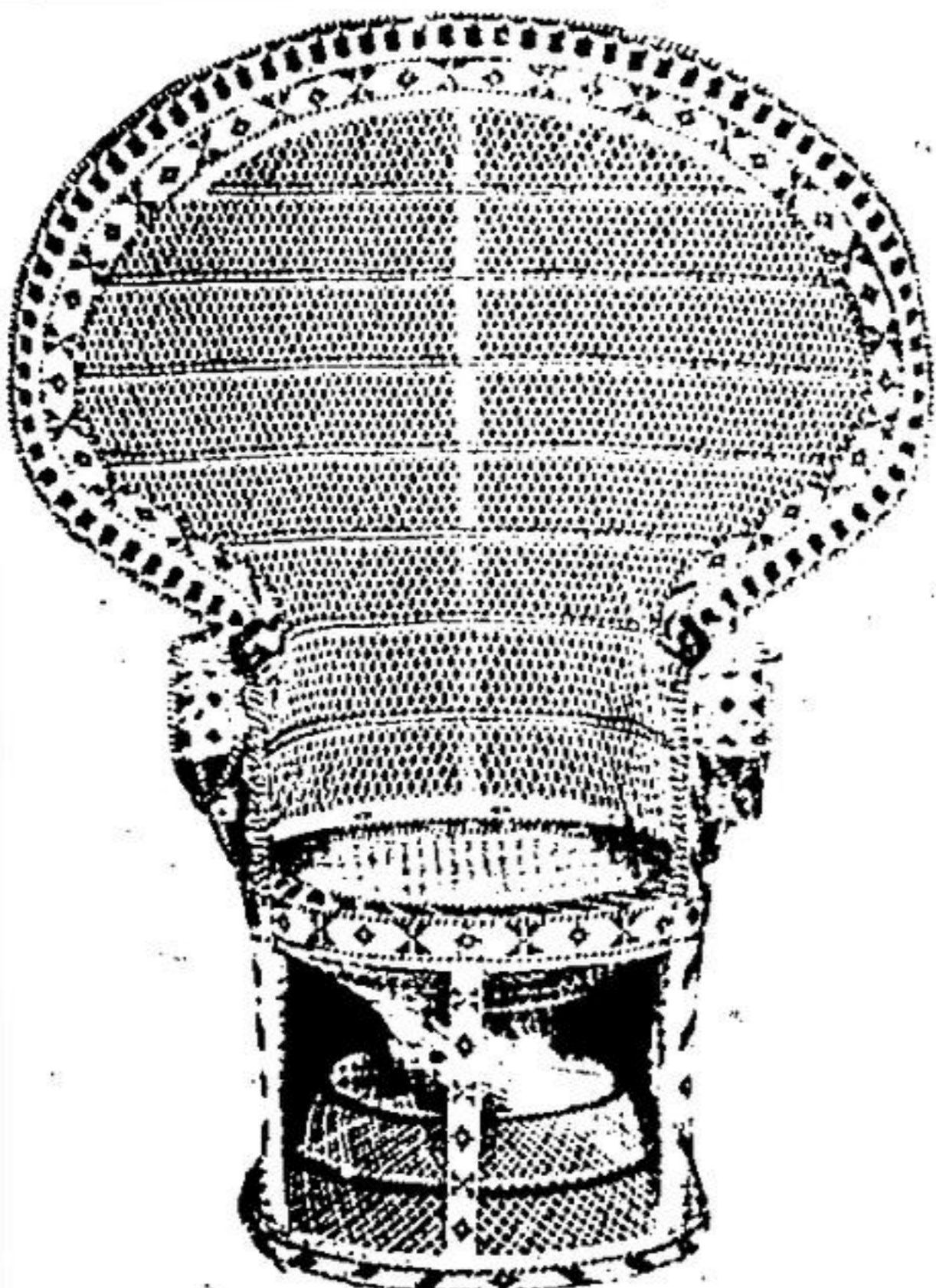
He said this is the only proposal for this area, and pointed out the town owned the land for ten years and could not sell it to any industry no matter how hard they tried. He said it was sold to Gino Civiero, who is now trying to develop it.

Mr. Duby said it is simply infilling and that he was concerned for the people in the area whose homes are termed a nonconforming use.

Poor planning He said it was poor planning to have so much industrial land in Acton, and claimed the industrial land should be in the south-east area, where it is easier to service and can take advantage of prevailing winds.

The motion by McKenzie and Duby to rezone the 12.4

acres residential, was passed on a five to four vote, with four members absent.



## Gifts

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## The Gift Cupboard

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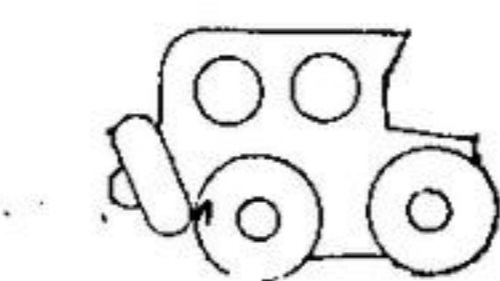
★ SATURDAY, MARCH 5th ★

To thank our many customers for their support during our first six months of business we are having a preview on Saturday March 5th of the Newly Arrived SPRING MERCHANDISE.

There will be 'Free Roses' and a Draw for a bath soap group.

Plan now to see our fantastic Spring Stock!

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