



ONLY ONE LADDER in the background remains as workmen do last minute painting and odd jobs in the new high school. A huge skylight in the ceiling lets the sun shine in an already-bright foyer.

Board asks

Are school principals teachers or managers?

Are principals teachers or managers? This was one of many questions raised by Halton Board of Education members when they received a report Thursday from a committee looking into board expectations of principals and vice-principals, submitted by the chairman Dean Fink, principal of Acton High School.

Trustee Jim Clelland wondered why the report said principals are educators and managers. He said in his view the job of being an educator is simply part of the managerial role.

Fink said the principal's job is duality of responsibility. They are managers since they handle budgets and people, but at the same time they are firstly teachers and must know how children learn and understand the programs.

He said teachers consider principals are teachers while the board views them as managers.

"We want to be both," Fink declared.

Clelland said he considers principals to be managers and doesn't believe they should be members of teachers' federations. He said everyone just assumes principals are also teachers since it is "obvious."

Trustee Bill Priestner noted a principal, being both a manager and teacher, is not unique and this type of dual role job is common in industry.

Trustee Don Long noted some principals also teach and wondered if Fink thought this was a good idea.

He said he was lucky to be in a small school where he can teach but principals of large schools rarely have the time. Fink said he teaches and enjoys it. He described teaching as his "ego trip."

Trustee Ivan Armstrong said he was glad to see maintaining discipline in a school is considered to be one of the principal's functions. He noted the trend today among parents is a desire to have schools discipline their children like they used to.

Trustee Bert Hinton blasted the report and suggested principals are nothing more than managers now and since there is a lack of principals who are the top teachers in their schools a large administration is needed.

"A principal should be so well chosen that the school ends up reflecting his character and personality," Hinton declared.

He said everything would be so simple if the board would just follow the Education Act where the expectations of principals is spelled out.

"We shouldn't be paying principals the kind of pay we are giving them if we don't give them the proper job to do," Hinton stated.



Increase French trustees told

Halton Board of Education is being urged to increase the teaching of French by the National Association of Canadian Parents for French.

President of the national group, Pat Webster, of Oakville, who is also head of the Halton Home and School, asked the board to increase the time devoted each day to French instruction and also urged immersion classes be offered.

She suggested increasing French instruction from 20 to 40 minutes a day would give students a "general acquaintance" with the language and culture but probably not many would become bilingual. Mrs. Webster said at least 1,200 hours of in-

struction is needed to become very functional in the language.

She said the suggestion of late immersion teaching, where students start taking instruction in at least 50 per cent of their courses in French, would also be helpful.

The best type of immersion training would begin in Kindergarten or grade one but immersion could still be effective if started in later grades.

Mrs. Webster said there is considerable evidence that

shows immersion doesn't hurt a student's use of his first language or other studies and they can develop "native-like proficiency" in the second language.

She noted four-and-a-half per cent of children entering school in Halton in 1978 are prospects for integration, according to a recent survey of parents.

Superintendent of Program Bruce Mather said this was enough pupils to warrant consideration of one immersion class in each of the three education areas in

Halton, including the north. Trustee Ivan Armstrong said in response to public pressure the board has developed core-curriculum to meet the needs of a basics oriented education. He wondered what Mrs. Webster thought should be dropped to make room for more French. She said nothing would be

dropped with immersion since students take their regular courses, except instruction would be in French. Mrs. Webster said she was sure 40 minutes could be found by trimming time from other subjects. She said remedial education wouldn't be a problem either and predicted study of a second language might help spelling and grammar in the first language.

Trustee Bert Hinton thought it was up to parents and children to work on becoming bilingual, and not the school system. He suggested the number of government jobs requiring bilingualism is decreasing so there won't be as much of a demand in the future.

NOTICE

TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Refuse normally picked up Monday, Sept. 5, 1977 will be picked up Tuesday, Sept. 6, 1977, and further refuse picked up Tuesday, Sept. 6, 1977, will be picked up Wednesday, Sept. 7, 1977.

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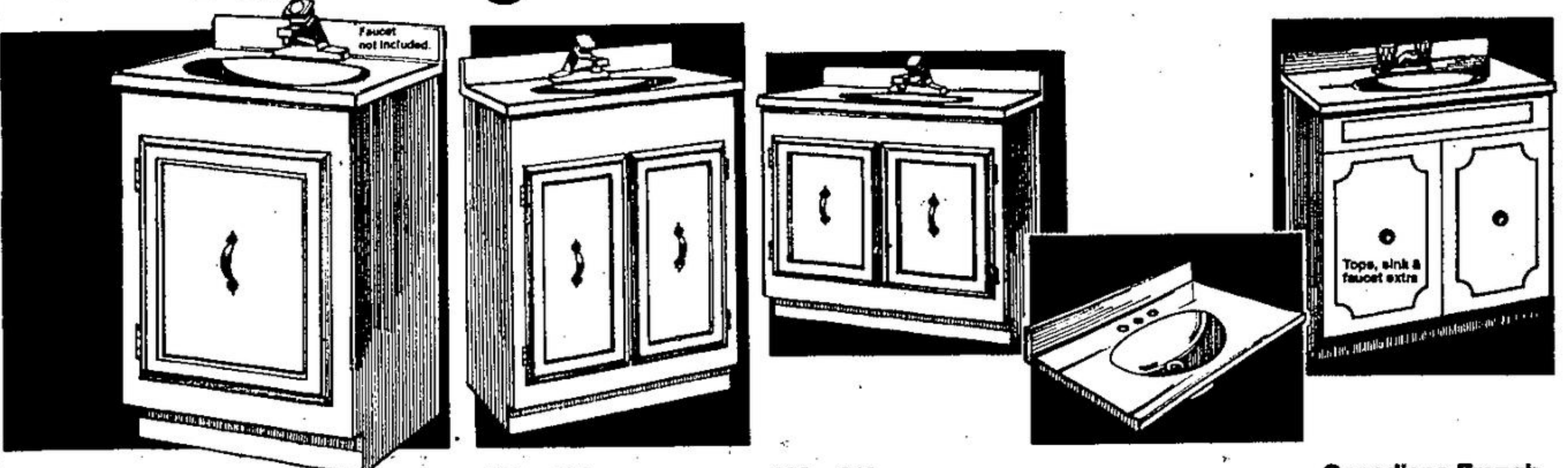
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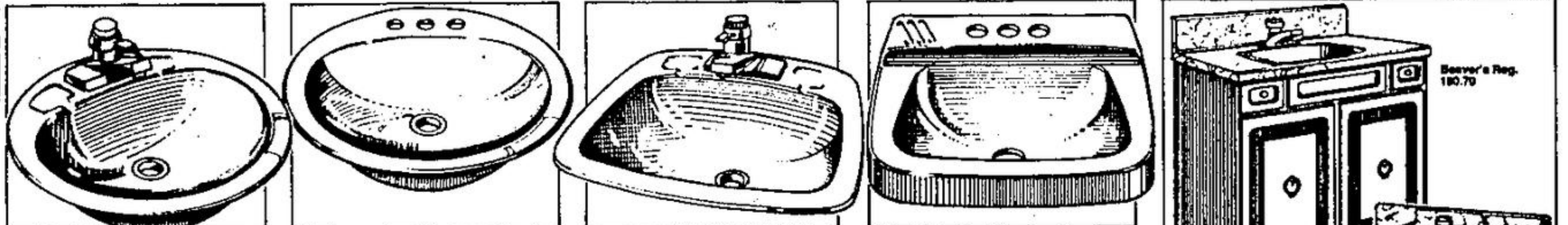
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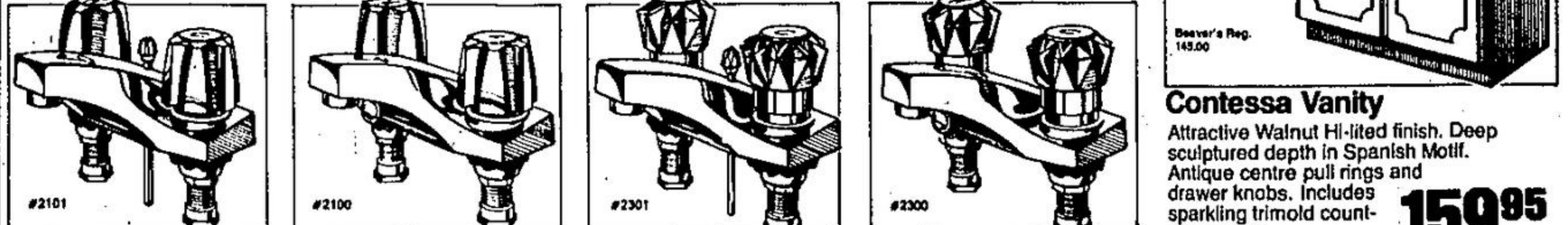
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Sod turned for centre

Construction on Milton's first major youth and community centre is expected to begin in about two weeks.

Bob Ives, president of the Milton Optimist Club which is sponsoring the \$375,000 project, said the centre has been the dream of the Milton Optimists since the club's inception in 1967.

Herb Higgs, charter president of the club and life member, said, "The older members have been digging to get this going and it's been the younger ones who have come along to help make it possible."

Mr. Ives said the building committee has already put over 4,000 hours into the project.

On Saturday the official sod-turning ceremonies were held and were attended by members of the Optimists, Mayor Don Gordon, Halton MP Dr. Frank Philbrook, Rev. Arnold Bethune from Maplehurst, Colin Best representing his deceased father Brian Best after whom the park was named, and representatives from the other service clubs in Milton.

The centre will become the headquarters for the Milton Air Cadets who are sponsored by the Optimists. Other facilities will include squash courts, a health centre, an auditorium and coffee shop for teenagers.

"Outside of the new McDonald's, nothing has caused as much discussion from Milton's youth as the youth centre has," said Mayor Gordon. "It's second on the list of their priorities. Al Logan, building committee chairman, said the centre which is scheduled for

completion in mid-December, will be available to all youth groups and community service clubs in Milton. He said the Boy Scouts have already expressed interest in using the facilities.

The Optimists are hoping to find a Lancaster Bomber or similar type of aircraft to place on a pedestal outside the centre.

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