

# Enrolment 1,081 below projection

Despite the fact enrolments at Halton schools last week were below projections, it doesn't appear there will be a surplus of teachers.

Registration is 1,081 pupils below Halton Board of Education projections but many of the missing students are expected to return to school by the end of September.

Director of Education Em Lavender and Superintendent of Instruction John Boich both assured trustees Thursday a teacher surplus such as the one which caused considerable problems last year won't be faced again.

Last year, even with large influx of students during September, enrolments fell well below projections and Halton had about 30 extra teachers. These teachers were placed in a special pool and used as supply until openings were created by others quitting or going on leave. It

wasn't until the end of 1976 that all these teachers were finally placed in full time positions.

This year the board was much more conservative in teacher hirings and didn't engage as many as the projections indicated were needed.

In North Halton enrolment so far is just 156 students below projections and the board expects the missing students will be back to class before the end of September.

Lavender noted there is always an increase in registration between the first day of school and September 30, especially at the high schools.

It appears he said that since summer jobs were so hard to find many students are hanging onto their jobs as long as they can.

Boich said if late arrivals show up by the end of the month in numbers like they have other years there won't be a teacher surplus.

He said there will be many teacher transfers in the next few weeks since some schools will have too many teachers. Others will not have enough.

In the north there were 7,935 elementary pupils last year and the board had expected that figure to drop to 7,869 this year. September 7 enrolment was 7,793.

High school enrolment is down from last year even though the board expected an increase in the north. Last year there were 3,979 pupils at secondary schools and 4,020 were expected this year but so far only 3,940 have showed up.

Across the region elementary school enrolment is 428 students below projections and high school registration is 653 pupils short. Enrolment is down 12 from projections at schools for the trainable mentally handicapped and the vocational schools are 62 short.



Orio Gilmore

## Gilmore dies

Long time Halton educator Orio Gilmore died after a long illness September 6. He was 61.

Halton Board of Education paid tribute to his memory Thursday with a moment of silence and Director of Education Em Lavender reviewed Mr. Gilmore's career and life.

Lavender said the former Superintendent of Instruction who had retired just last June, lost a long and "valiant" fight against cancer, complicated by diabetes.

Mr. Gilmore served Halton education for 20 years as a principal and as one of the new county board's first administrators.

"He was a quiet, competent professional, a good man, a staunch friend, who was denied the rewards of retirement," Lavender declared.

## Increase French use Halton 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 instruction 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 1976 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 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.

## Works force goes metric

The town works force will have a crash course in the metric system. Periodically through the day on Monday, members of the works department will take turns viewing a film entitled, "As the World Turns Metric".

This film was made available through the efforts of a committee formed by the Halton Region Municipal Officers Association.

The same film will be shown at the library September 16 and 23.

### Don't Miss!!

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## Long proposes pay cut

Halton Board of Education Trustees should cut their annual salaries by \$600, Georgetown Trustee Don Long says.

Long presented a notice of motion for this week's Thursday meeting calling for the \$600 wage reduction following the board's decision to reject Trustee Bert Hinton's call for a 200 per cent wage cut. It was the second time the board has turned down Hinton's idea. In July, he couldn't even get a seconder for his motion.

This time Hinton was able to get a seconder in Trustee Elsie Hinson who said she was opposed to the plan but wanted Hinton to have the chance to discuss his proposal.

Hinton announced his call that trustees serve without pay was not frivolous.

He pointed out he has served on many public bodies which received little or no remuneration.

Hinton suggested trustees' pay had risen quickly in recent years in competition

with regional and area council pay.

Hinson said being a trustee is a full time job and she had been hired by the people and paid by the people.

Long said he didn't support the 100 per cent pay cut because being a trustee is a demanding job, but thought the board should show some leadership and cut its pay 10 per cent.

He suggested a \$600 reduction as a good example for the entire Halton education system that the board really means business when it says costs must be cut.

Long said if trustees still received \$6,000 a year nobody would be hurt and board members would still be "adequately rewarded."

Chairman Garry Morton said Long's amendment that pay be cut \$600 was contrary to Hinton's motion and couldn't be accepted.

When no other trustees would discuss his motion Hinton said he was "discouraged" that nobody had any

comments.

He said he could even go so far as to accuse the board of making its decision prior to the meeting to which Morton replied "You already have accused us in the papers of that." In July when his motion went down the drain the first time Hinton told the press the board had decided to debate the issue of pay publicly.

After Hinton's motion was defeated Morton said there may well have been considerable discussion among trustees prior to the subject coming to the board.

Hinton said he was well aware of this but had wanted it debated publicly by the board.

Later he said since the board refused to debate the subject publicly he will drop it for now and bring it back next year, possibly at budget time.

"My motion was rejected out of hand," he said.

He said he would support Long's call for a \$600 a year reduction since even a small cut would give leadership to the administration and the rest of the system.

Mr. Gilmore served Halton education for 20 years as a principal and as one of the new county board's first administrators.

"He was a quiet, competent professional, a good man, a staunch friend, who was denied the rewards of retirement," Lavender declared.

Gilmore is survived by his wife Dorothy, daughter Diane, son David and grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday in Burlington.

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THE GIFT OF Beta Phi chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, a new baby scale will be used in the well-baby clinic at the Community Services Centre. Co-ordinator Terry Grubbe, left, says "thanks a lot, gals" to Margaret Oliver, Churchill N., who is representing her sorority sisters.

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