

Local people display wares in Georgetown



MELANIJA BRAY, Elizabeth Dr., displayed her colorful preserved floral arrangements at the 35th annual Arts and Crafts of Georgetown show and sale Saturday. Huge crowds attended.



NINE YEAR OLD Lisa Lidbury of Division Street, Acton, minds the store at Ann Lidbury's dried flower picture stall at Georgetown Arts and Crafts annual display and sale Saturday.



STUFFED DUCKS were one of the best sellers for Nellie Beatty, of Church Street, Acton, at the Arts and Crafts of Georgetown exhibition Saturday at North Halton Golf and Country Club.

Glen, Wigglesworth upgrading maybe in 1979

Halton Board of Education will be asked Thursday to approve spending \$594,000 to upgrade facilities at Glen Williams and Howard Wigglesworth schools in 1979.

The administration will bring in a report calling for the board to add a library at Wigglesworth and a general purpose room at Glen Williams.

Wigglesworth school is listed number five and Glen Williams number six on a ten school list of upgrading projects to be carried out over the next three years. The upgrading project at Wigglesworth and Glen Williams is expected to cost \$247,000 at each school.

Upgrading of older schools in Halton has been examined several times in recent years but always shelved because of lack of funds.

The board plans to use money raised through the sale of closed schools, like

Chapel Street, and unneeded school sites throughout Halton to pay for upgrading.

The administration reviewed previous lists of upgrading projects, which always included Glen Williams and Wigglesworth and also examined other schools in preparing the new list. Both schools which lacked facilities altogether and others whose facilities don't meet program needs were looked at.

Stewarttown school was examined but rejected for upgrading.

Drastic decline in enrolments at some schools forced some schools not to be considered for upgrading despite need.

Enrolment at Wigglesworth went up from 267 to 278 pupils this year. The board had expected a drop in student population of one at

the old Georgetown school. Glen Williams enrolment dropped from 240 last year to 222 this year. There are 11 fewer students at the hamlet school than the board expected.

Stewarttown enrolment slumped from 484 last year to 453 this year. The board had expected a drop of only seven students from 1976.

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Town pix

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Halton after \$176,500 for education research

Halton Board of Education hopes Queen's Park will foot the bill for four research projects worth \$176,500.

Thursday trustees approved applications for the research grants despite objections from some members who thought the proposals were extravagant regardless of who was paying for them.

The province had already approved funding of the Basic Thinking Skills Project but formal board permission for the study was still required. This research project will cost \$51,000.

Three other projects must still be approved by the Ministry of Education and two deal with language arts, including an evaluation system development, and the other testing of grade 13 students' math skills. These three research projects will cost \$126,500.

Trustee Bert Hinton said the money could be better spent on things related to Halton's schools.

Research grant funds are set up in a special Ministry of Education budget Director of Education Em Lavender said and noted it would be useless for Halton to ask for money from the research budget for

school equipment. He explained the province wants to use the money for research so board can develop things for use at home and all across Ontario.

Trustee Bill Priestner said just because the money comes from Toronto instead of Halton doesn't mean spending it would be a wise investment. He said if the board spent \$176,500 on research projects it would mean a 0.2 per cent increase over last year. Priestner pointed out the projects would still cost tax dollars and he couldn't support any more unnecessary spending.

At the urging of Trustee Len Crosier the board passed a motion stating no Halton funds would be spent on any of the projects. In the event they were approved, He wanted the motion as a safeguard.

Trustee Fred Armitage said the board would have "poor priorities" if the research projects were approved. He said his observations were that much of the education research taking

place was being duplicated time and again and just because it was provincial money didn't mean it should be wasted.

If Halton didn't get the money another board would Lavender warned.

It would be "high folly" to let another board get Halton's research grant money Trustee Edna Robinson said and suggested other boards might not carry out as important research.

She said if the board had any quarrel with the concept of research grants it should be taken up with the province for giving them out in the first place. As long as they were being given out Halton should take advantage of them.

Armitage countered just because Queen's Park has set up a fund doesn't mean Halton should dip into it. He urged leadership on the part of Halton. He said if Halton didn't go after grants maybe other boards would also apply for grants.

All projects were approved by the board.

Best dressed

Who says students don't know how to dress these days? Acton High was dressed for the occasion on Thursday when Boris Shean took his grade 12 Marketing class out to sell advertising. The students were clad in their finest attire and were successful in selling advertising to local merchants for the school yearbook.



ED AND DEL HOWSE flank a three level table centre wedding cake in their display at the craft show in North Halton Golf and Country Club.

Enrolment down in Halton schools

Halton Board of Education expected a drop in enrolment this year but the decrease turned out to be more than expected.

A report was presented to trustees Thursday showing enrolment has dropped 1,247 students from last year. There were 52,488 pupils in Halton public schools last year.

The board were out 328 in their estimate of this year's student population.

In North Halton enrolment at elementary schools dropped by 90 students from 7,935 to 7,845. The board had expected a drop to only 7,869. Enrolment at high schools in the north jumped from 3,979 to 4,028, an increase of 47 pupils.

There was a two pupil drop in enrolment at the trainable mentally handicapped classes at Park and Sunshine schools. A four pupil increase to 34 had been anticipated. It was also revealed the Halton student body makes up 21.9 per cent of Halton's estimated 233,000 population.

Enrolment has dropped drastically at Acton schools following the opening this year of the McKenzie-Smith middle school where 458 pupils are enrolled. The board had expected there would be 469 students at the new school.

Robert Little enrolment has plummeted from 743 pupils last year to 465 this year, just three more than the board

expected to attend the school in 1977.

At M.Z. Bennett enrolment dived from 615 last year to 410 this year. The board had expected there would be 419 students at the school this year.

Limehouse school enrolment has slipped from 191 last year to 189 this year. Board projects had called for no change in enrolment.

Enrolment at Speyside school has dropped off more than expected. Board forecasts had called for enrolment to drop from 197 to 177. There are actually 170 pupils at the school.

There are 39 more students attending the new Acton High School than went to the old school. Enrolment has jumped from 681 to 720, five shy of the board's projected total of 725.

Superintendent of Instruction John Bolch praised administration projections of enrolments which were close to the actual figures.

Last year when enrolment dropped the board was caught with a number of excess teachers but a "conservative attitude" resulted in just a few excess teachers this year.

There are only 12 more teachers in all of Halton's public schools over the number the pupil-teacher ratio requires. Bolch noted the administration anticipated a drop in enrolment and cut back on teacher hiring

this year. There were only three teacher transfers this year and because of the enrolment drop five paraprofessionals were let go.

Trustee Bert Hinton contended with a pupil reduction, Halton should be employing 40 to 45 fewer teachers.

The board is expected to discuss the enrolment figures again this week.

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