

Raise drinking age — trustees

Halton Board of Education has joined the Oxford board in calling for the drinking age to be raised.

Thursday trustees passed a motion supporting Oxford's letter to Attorney General Roy McMurtry, Liberal Leader Dr. Stuart Smith, NDP leader Stephen Lewis and five MPPs urging the drinking age be raised.

Trustee Ivan Armstrong noted Oxford didn't suggest a new drinking age but he favors 19. He said many felt 21 was too stringent an age and many probably feel the same way today.

Armstrong said 19 would probably solve many of the problems schools are having with alcohol consumption by students.

The Ontario Public School Trustees' Association has passed two resolutions which were sent to Education Minister Tom Wells urging the drinking age be raised, Trustee Judy Alexander told the board.

Trustee Bert Hinton said the more motions that are passed the better. He also urged calls for a higher drinking age should go to more provincial politicians than just Wells.

Halton agreed with Oxford's letter which said, "The present legislation has resulted in an unacceptable situation in terms of its effect on health, safety and morality."



STEVE PAPHILLON AND Bill Break caught these three chinook salmon last week down at Bronte. The fish averaged about 25 pounds each.

Hinton says

Fire drivers who won't stop smoking

If there is smoking on school buses, drivers should be fired according to Acton-Esqueing Trustee Bert Hinton. He says it is happening on buses in North Halton.

Thursday, Halton Board of Education received a letter from William Nurse, R.R. 1 Milton, complaining about smoking on buses his children ride. He claimed previous complaints to schools and the board had not solved the problem.

Superintendent of Instruction John Boich told trustees a sign at the front of the bus says smoking is prohibited. It also sets out other rules of behavior.

He said when students smoke on buses the driver should report them to the principal. Drivers can also order the pupil off the bus.

Boich said he hoped drivers would set a "fine" example and not smoke around students.

He also urged parents who hear from their children that students are smoking on buses to contact the principal.

Hinton said the problem couldn't be solved as simply

as Boich suggested. "We have to stop it."

He said something had to be done to ensure drivers report smoking to principals and the offending student is put off the bus.

"Adults can't smoke on buses and children might as well learn now they can't smoke on buses either," Hinton declared.

Hinton said a driver who won't enforce the board rules shouldn't be driving. He said he has heard of smoking on school buses in Halton Hills.

Trustee Ivan Armstrong said he has talked to Mr. Nurse and the problem has now been solved.

Superintendent of Business and Finance Bruce Lindley said drivers are trying to enforce the no smoking rule, but it is hard sometimes to catch offending students.

Drivers are told they can't smoke when students are on the bus, he said.

Trustee Cam Jackson said there are numerous reports drivers are smoking while waiting for students to board the bus.

Halton says keep grade 13

Despite rising costs Halton Board of Education doesn't want to see grade 13 dropped.

Thursday, trustees rejected a call from Peterborough Board of Education to eliminate the senior grade in Ontario.

Peterborough noted other provinces and countries don't have grade 13 and many boards have pre-kindergarten, kindergarten plus 13 grades totalling 15 years of public education.

The eastern Ontario board's letter to Halton pointed out there is great public concern about education costs and schooling eats up nine percent of Ontario's Gross National Product compared to just five or six percent elsewhere.

Peterborough asked Ontario trustee associations and boards to urge Queen's Park

to study "the educational merits' problems and impact of telescoping courses of study to 12 grades above kindergarten."

Study of possible cost savings and the social impact of dropping grade 13 was also suggested.

Superintendent of instruction John Boich voted Halton studied the viability of grade 13 in 1973 but rejected the idea of dropping it.

He said the study found there wasn't much relationship between education in Ontario with school ending at grade 13 and British Columbia where school ends with grade 12.

Boich pointed out 25 percent of Halton students are completing 13 grades in 12 years because of the credit system and added the figure is rising.

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