

Severance too cheap committee claims

Halton Region's Administration Committee is annoyed with provincial treasurer Darcy McKeough's failure to approve requested increases for applications to the land division committee.

Both the administration committee and the land division committee agreed that fees for severance applications should be adequate to cover the cost of running the department.

But for over three years now, McKeough has rejected requests that the fees be increased to \$150.

Councillor Carl Eirksen noted that on one hand

McKeough tells councils to practice restraint and keep mill rate increases down, and on the other hand makes it impossible to operate the department as a self-sustaining operation.

As it stands the land division expects to collect \$23,500 but it will cost \$74,047 and until the planning act is changed, the committee or the region cannot increase fees or bump the revenue

figures. The last increase in the fees was six or seven years ago.

The administration committee voted to send a delegation to Queen's Park

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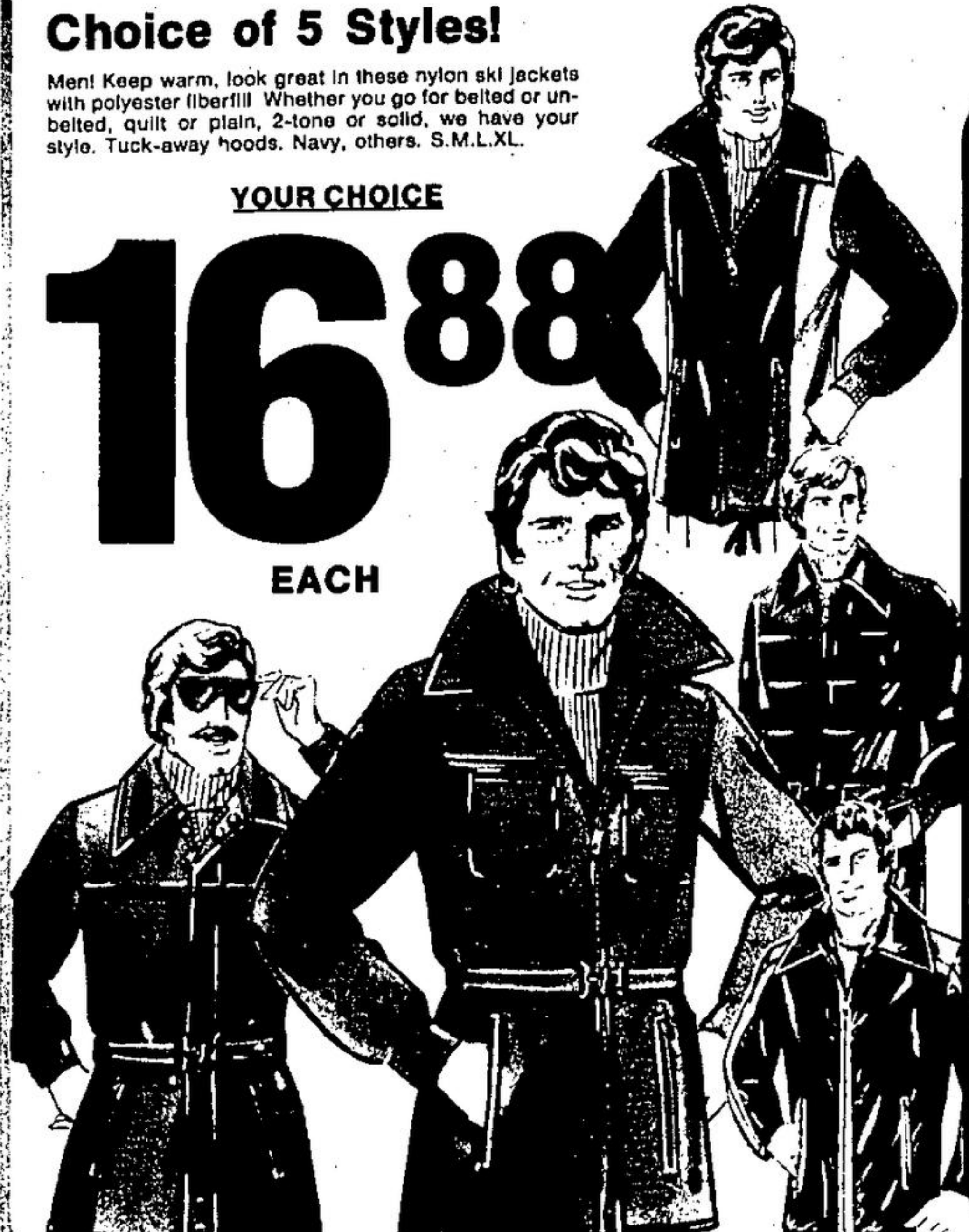
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ROBERT J. O'BRIEN, chairman of the Halton Roman Catholic School Board, wields the scissors that cut the ribbon that officially opened St. Joseph's school Sunday afternoon. He was assisted by the Bishop of Hamilton, the most Rev. Paul F. Reding, left, and Halton Hills separate school trustee Hartley Sherk, centre.

Official opening of St. Joseph's school

Fifty years to the week after Acton's old stone school was converted to classrooms from a residence, it changed its function for a third time. Sunday, it was officially opened and blessed as St. Joseph's school by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Hamilton and officials of the Halton Separate School Board.

The building was first converted into a continuation school in 1927, changed to a high school after World War II and converted to part of the Robert Little public school after a new high school was built on Acton Boulevard.

Through a co-operative venture on the part of the Halton Separate School board and Halton Board of Education it has been leased for Acton's first separate school. It opened officially Sunday in front of a large crowd of officials, clergy, teachers, parents and well-wishers.

Bishop Paul F. Reding blessed the new school and Robert J. O'Brien, chairman of the separate school board, cut the ribbon to officially open it, with the assistance of Hartley Sherk, Halton Hills separate school trustee.

A program in the adjacent Robert Little school auditorium was arranged with the co-operation of the Halton Board of Education, which has made facilities available to St. Joseph's school such as the auditorium and resource centre. Separate school board trustees expressed their appreciation for the co-operation from public school board, and also for the scout hall arranged through Don McDonald of the Rotary Club.

Halton Hills trustee Hartley Sherk also paid tribute to the work of Dr. Leno Braida, former chairman of the Halton Separate School Board, an Acton native who did much of the spadework on Acton's first separate school at the behest of parents who requested a school here.

Mr. Sherk's remarks were echoed by board chairman Robert O'Brien who paid tribute to parents who persevered in their efforts to have a separate school in Acton. He pointed out the initiation for the school must come from parents, not from the board.

Greetings from the Ministry of Education were brought by Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed. He said education was a responsibility, right and privilege, the first onus as adults, the second on all the elected members dedicated to protecting their rights, and the third a privilege for children.

Reed said it was up to the young people to work out a new tradition in the old school, which has already many traditions behind it. Director of Education C. J.

Byrnes spoke briefly and the school's principal J. H. (Sean) Briggs gave a brief address and introduced the school's five teachers and secretary. He said enrolment of 116 was larger than anticipated the first year but it was fitting the school's opening should coincide with the 120th anniversary of St. Joseph's parish.

Mr. Byrnes said the new school would assist the growth of Acton, providing the diversity of education and choice in a pluralistic society. Is there any other school so unique? he asked.

(Continued on page 11)



PRESENTATION OF A framed copy of the goals and philosophy of the Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board to Father James Smye, pastor of St. Joseph's church, was made by St. Joseph's school principal J. H. Briggs.



MPP JULIAN REED brought greetings from the provincial Ministry of Education to Sunday's official opening of Acton's first separate school. Mr. Reed emphasized the school was the right, responsibility and privilege of parents who wished a religious education for their children and members of the Legislature were committed to defending that right.



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TOURS OF CLASSROOMS of the new St. Joseph's school in the old Acton stone school preceded Sunday's official opening and blessing by the Most Rev. Paul F. Reding, Bishop of Hamilton.