

Re-elect Morton chairman

Financial restraint is going to be a significant word for the Halton Board of Education this year, according to Rev. Garry Morton, re-elected chairman of the board at the 1978 inaugural meeting last Thursday, his second term in office.

Len Auger (pronounced Oh-Jay) was elected vice-chairman of the board replacing Noel Cooper who held the post in 1977.

Rev. Morton, minister of Strathcona Presbyterian Church, Burlington, is a trustee from Ward 7 of that city, while Auger is Halton Separate school board representative on the board for Oakville-Georgetown.

In his end of the year address Rev. Morton said the increasing sense of appre-

hension and galloping government spending as well as 15 per cent cutback in provincial grants had made 1977 a difficult year for the board. Indications are there would be further cutbacks from the province this year. He predicted the cutbacks and declining enrolment will force the board to spend much time on this year's budget.

Morton told the board the most important task facing them in 1978 would be developing, reviewing and revising policy to meet the new situation. He used the analogy of a football game to make his point, suggesting the board must act like the coaching staff, revising the game plan to suit the occasion.

He said they can't ignore the players or the fans but must realize they are there to set policy, not to carry the ball.

Morton was the only candidate to stand for the chairman's post despite some questioning of his leadership ability through 1977. He was nominated by Trustee Fred Armitage and seconded by Ivan Armstrong.

Trustee Len Auger was opposed for the vice-chairman's post by Trustee Jim Clelland. Auger was nominated by former chairperson Judy Alexander and seconded by Bill Lawson. Clelland was nominated by Trustees Len Crosier and Ivan Armstrong.

Five trustees missed the 1977 inaugural including Long, Bradley, Priestner,

Herd and Meares.

Chairman Morton, looking back at 1977, felt the 8 per cent mill increase was a responsible measure for which the board deserved credit as well as the special education programs which had special emphasis on early remedial measures.

Declining enrolment presented problems were partially offset by opening of new schools and the disposal of pieces of "redundant" property. Rev. Morton named the new high school in Acton and conversion of the old high school to the McKenzie-Smith middle school; the addition to the Robert Baldwin and W. I. Dick schools in Milton; and the new Sir Ernest McMillan school, Burlington, as highlights of the year.

41 page brief invites reaction

Director of Education Em Lavender presented a 41 page report on declining enrolment in Halton schools at the 1978 inaugural meeting of the Halton Board of Education last Thursday, indicating it would be discussed at subsequent meetings over the next six weeks.

The report was prepared to provide the board with a comprehensive long-term analysis, examining population trends, current and anticipated problems and to develop a set of recommendations to submit to the Commission on Declining Enrolments, by February 28, 1978.

Halton's 51,047 school population is expected to decline by 6,000 students within five years. The report suggests it means closing some schools, twinning others, closing and sealing some vacant classrooms in schools that remain open.

The report says job security is basic to a teacher's

motivation and it is hoped the board will not have to terminate the contract of any teacher now on staff because of teacher redundancy.

In a summary of recommendations, the report suggests:

1. That the Ministry of Education continue to recognize the need for additional pupil places where new areas of population growth are unreasonably far removed from existing facilities.
2. That present legislation with respect to teachers' individual contracts be revised to allow appointment of qualified teachers on "term" contracts.
3. That increased Ministry expectations with respect to special education be matched with increased Ministry grants, not to be achieved through reallocation of existing grants.

Lavender told the board the report was by no means complete and it invited reaction

Separate schools

Halton Separate School teachers and board still have a long way to go before a 1978 contract settlement is reached, but introduction of a provincial mediator, Toronto lawyer Jane Devlin, has speeded up the process.

The two sides met last week and both made significant concessions, according to board negotiator Hartley Sherk. The board agreed to give up demands for transfers and staff reductions, while the teachers dropped demands for retirement gratuities.

Both sides in the dispute also considered Devlin's suggestion the contract be two years in length rather than one, when they come to terms.

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St. Joseph's

by Carol Chaisson, Vera Van Item and Tatjana Jansen

On February the first Mrs. Maronese is planning a trip for the grade seven and eight class to Hamilton Place. We will be going there in the afternoon to see the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra.

The finalists for the grades four, five and six handball teams were as follows:

For the girls, the Leafs coached by Carol Chaisson won the championship.

The Jets (also a girls' team) coached by Vera Van Item won the league championship.

The boys' team known as the Flyers won the championship coached by Frank McGrath and Greg Cowan.

School pictures will be taken on the first of February. We hope that everyone will be looking their best.

The exhibition games for the girls' volleyball team were held at St. Francis School in Brampton. Unfortunately we lost all the games. Better luck next time, girls!

Good profit is still being made on our hotdog sales.

Mrs. Maronese (the kindergarten teacher) is hoping to plan a skating trip for our kindergartens.

Our grade one and two teacher, Mrs. Munkacsi has started an environmental program for her class. Right now they are learning about snow and making paper snowflakes.

Mrs. Graham (the grades three and four teacher) is very shortly going to have a celebration on prayer in her religious class.

Mr. McGeragle's grade five and six class is now starting floor hockey as their new program in physical education.

Students in the upper grades are writing their speeches. All speeches will be said on January 30.

Mr. McGeragle is coaching basketball every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Right now we are learning all thirty of the plays which our team will be using in the county playoffs.

Brookville News

By Lynda Whiffin

To start off the volleyball year right, the girls' school volleyball team played the boys' team on Jan. 3. Both teams fought hard but the girls managed to win, 29-22.

High scorers for the girls were Lynda Whiffin, Linda Osso, Janet Diamond and Chantel Hebert, each with five points. Higher scorer for the boys was Helmeth Kainz with five.

In the boys' intramural volleyball the champions are the Panthers. The first captain is Jeff Wood and

second captain is Steve Currie. Others on the team are Ian Corson, Rick Heinrich, Helmeth Kainz, John Nicholson, Todd Kirkby, Mark Dredge, Luke Thibodeau and Paul Matthews.

Champion girls' intramural volleyball team is the Hornets. Members are Janet Diamond, Brenda Buchanan, Debbie Magno, Marg Summerfield, Tammy Hunter, Sandy Smith, Joanna Scott, Jackie Bahr, Cheryl Howard, Vinnie Vangrootel, Diane Dilybey, Ilya Lehrer, Lesley Hurren and Lucy Hebert.

One tier Halton?

Regional chairman Ric Morrow of Georgetown brought greetings from the Region to the 1978 inaugural meeting of the Halton Board of Education.

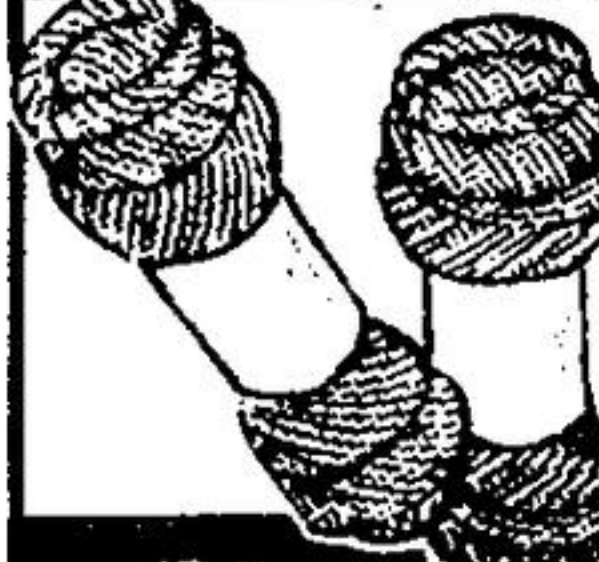

He noted the region operated differently than the board by electing a chairman for the full period of office—two years.

Morrow also noted some people would like to see the operation of Halton Region a single tier operation such as the board. He has indicated in the past he shares these views, also held by the past chairman of the region, Alan Masson.

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For further information, call Humber College at (416) 675-3111, extension 553 or 554 or write Elizabeth Ashton, Director, Equine Studies Program, Humber College, P.O. Box 1900, Rexdale, Ont. M9W 5L7.

\$50 million

First action for the Halton Board of Education at the 1978 inaugural meeting was to pass the necessary motion to borrow \$50 million to meet current expenses until revenue is received to cover costs.

Planning a wedding reception, anniversary party, afternoon meeting?

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