

The Mug opens Saturday evening

A few short months ago the plan of having a coffee house for teens in Acton was just the dream of some adventure-some, idealistic teenagers in town. However, hard work and determination have seen this dream turn into a reality.

The dedication of workers and hopes of the youth have created in Acton a coffee house in the Y basement known as The Mug. Since September the group have worked long and hard and are now ready to open The Mug this Saturday evening for the first night.

The Mug will open about 8, Saturday evening with live

entertainment provided by Phil Sykes. A disc jockey will also be on hand to perform before the entertainment begins and during breaks. The coffee house will close at 1 a.m. Beef on a kaiser, coffee, hot chocolate, tea and soft drinks will be sold at the Mug.

Organizers are hoping for a good turnout on Saturday. They are grateful to all the community and for personal financial support they have been given.

Eventually they are hoping to build a Mug membership so that activities can be run every evening for a few hours.



JOHN WATSON supervises as Mark Beaton saws wood at The Mug work party last weekend. Organizers are hoping for a good turnout on opening night.



GARY HINKLEY works on the finishing touches for The Mug before opening night. The Mug is a student organized project for building a coffee house in the Y basement. Live entertainment and a disc jockey are planned for opening night Saturday, March 4.

Two people vie for board position

At least two people, H. J. Van Gouch, and Barry Shepherd, will vie for the vacant Georgetown seat on Halton Board of Education.

Three other people from Halton Hills who have shown past interest in a board seat won't be applying.

Long time Acton representative Tom Watson who lost the Acton-Esqueving seat to Bert Hinton in the last election said he won't be applying. He noted Halton Hills wards three and four aren't his area and even though anyone in Halton Hills can go after the job he isn't interested.

Douglas Pierce, who also went after the Acton-Esqueving seat in the last election, won't be in the running either.

He and his family moved from Terra Cotta to Chatham last summer.

Betty Fisher, Georgetown, an out-spoken critic of education in Halton who had announced she would run in the last election and then pulled out when Long entered the race, said she wouldn't be applying for the job.

Former board chairman Ernie Bodnar who represented Georgetown for many years was unavailable for comment.

Halton Board of Education will interview applicants for the post behind closed doors prior to the start of the March 9 regular board meeting. Applicants must be submitted to Morton by March 8.

The vacancy was created when Don Long resigned last week citing business commitments.

Paper delivery

A Free Press subscriber from Neepawa, Manitoba, writes "the delivery of our paper is very irregular, to say the least. We received the Dec. 14 paper on Jan. 31. To date (Feb. 21) we have not received the Jan. 11 paper. Then sometimes we receive the paper the Friday or Saturday of the same week. It is difficult to understand." Indeed it is.

Sue Burns appointed

Susan Burns has been appointed chairman of Student Services at Acton High school, effective from February 1 to August 31.

Halton Board of Education approved the appointment at their meeting last Thursday evening.

French immersion approved

French Immersion programs for both grade one and seven pupils will be started next fall but it is doubtful any will be operated in North Halton.

Thursday after months of debate and study Halton Board of Education approved French immersion and while there are enough interested pupils in Burlington and Oakville to set up classes for next

year there isn't enough interest in Halton Hills and Milton.

Superintendent of Programs Bruce Mather noted applications are still coming in and parents have until March 15 to sign their children up for immersion. He said the last time he checked application figures for the north there weren't enough to set up immersion for either grade one or grade

seven pupils and he doubts their board will receive sufficient applications.

He said when next year's grade sevens reach high school in two years they will take French and possibly one other subject taught in French. In both elementary school immersion programs students will spend no more than 50 per cent of their time speaking and learning in French.

Mather said all studies the board has examined support immersion and those which don't had flaws which will be eliminated in Halton. One point in the Halton program's favor is it isn't compulsory and parents are involved throughout.

All students applying for immersion will be screened with principals, teachers and parents all involved in the decision. Mather warned if screening reduces the number of eligible students below the number needed for a class there won't be a class.

Trustee Bert Hinton warned immersion will add heavily to costs and said he would hate to see children coming out of immersion with as poor a mastery of French as they do now of English. He asked why with the poor performance the board has with teaching English it is adding French?

Hinton warned immersion will do more harm than good to French education in Ontario. Halton's core curriculum isn't strong enough yet for teachers to be giving instruction in French, Hinton declared. He added he supports French language instruction but not in the manner Halton wants to

Principal acquitted of drug charge

A Burlington elementary school principal has now been acquitted of all drug charges laid against him last fall.

Ronald Kearns was found not guilty recently of trafficking in a controlled drug, Chloridiazepoxide. He was acquitted a month ago on charges of possession of marijuana and cultivation of the drug after plants were found in his backyard. A boarder at his home later came forward and admitted the plants were his. Kearns said he didn't know what had been growing in his yard.

The trafficking in Chloridiazepoxide charge was dropped after police admitted there was no proof Kearns sold the drug which is used in the treatment of anxiety.

When he was arrested last fall Kearns was removed from his post as principal of Maplehurst school in Burlington. He was reassigned to an administrative post.

Halton Board of Education will now have to decide if Kearns will return to the post of principal.

Vandalism on buses

Vandalism on Travelways school buses seems to be climbing according to company officials in Oakville. Damage amounted to about \$100 per bus last year.

Travelways has 84 regular routes and carries 12,000 Halton students each day.

So far this year the company has 16 broken windshields. Officials are at a loss to explain the increase. Examples of damage to property include: writing and cigarette burns on seats, ripped seats and glass. Fire extinguishers have also been stolen.

A student loses his bus privileges after two warnings from the school principal. A bus driver can not put the student off the bus.

Study optional courses board objectives this year

The face of public education in Halton could change drastically over the next few years as Halton Board of Education prepares to study its programs and its stated objectives.

Thursday trustees approved the setting up of a special committee to review optional courses and all special courses offered in Halton.

In addition Trustee Fred Armitage has called for a special meeting to be held so the board can review its 10 year old objectives and education philosophy.

Trustee Edna Robinson, who suggested the special committee to study options, noted many parents as well as board members are concerned about the "smorgasbord" of courses offered to middle and high school students. "Is it really necessary to offer such a variety? Does this smorgasbord of courses increase the costs?"

Noting tough decisions will need to be made because of declining enrolment she said study is needed now so changes can be phased in.

She predicted the committee will be able to provide the board with needed answers and give the board future direction.

Robinson defined special courses as those which aren't required by the Education Act and that includes many high school courses. Adult education, community relations programs, summer school, family studies and industrial arts programs would also be reviewed.

Trustee Bert Hinton instantly came out in support of the committee study calling it "very responsible". He said the board can manage the education system better and more economically if it "cleans house".

Some optional courses are

contributing to small class sizes and also causing large classes in other courses

Trustee Bill Lawson declared.

Trustee Bill Priestner said a review of options with some being cancelled will bring the board closer to a core-curriculum for all grades. He suggested the committee get input from industry and business to see what programs they think students need.

Director of Education Em Lavender said the study could result in substantial changes in Halton education and suggested a review of the board's objectives be carried out also. The board's philosophy of individuality of the students could be compromised by changes which appear to be on the horizon since staffing of schools and courses offered could be greatly changed.

"This could mean a serious reconsideration of the ways our schools and schools throughout Ontario have operated for the last 15 to 20 years," Lavender announced.

Armitage said the board's objectives have been interpreted too broadly anyway. He said a lot of students learn at the same rate and the same time not as different rates

and different times as the objectives suggest.

There is a large group of students termed average in Halton but the board is always worrying about those at the extreme ends, said Armitage.

The administration told trustees much of the data needed by the committee is already available in the computer such as information about low enrolment courses. However the board's accounting procedures will make it difficult to isolate specific costs.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

for September, 1978
THE HALTON ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD

ADVANCED registration for those children who will be attending kindergarten in the Separate Schools in Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Georgetown and Acton (Halton Hills) will be held at all Catholic schools on

Thursday, March 2nd, 1978
9:00 a.m. to noon
1:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

AGE OF ADMISSION AND REQUIREMENTS
* Children are required to be 5 years of age on or before February 28th, 1978
* Proof of age is required
* Family O.N.I.P. Number and S.I.N. (Head of Household)
For further information, please contact the principal of your nearest Catholic School.
R.J. O'Brien, Chairman of the Board
C.G. Byrnes, Director of Education

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If there's evidence of abuse or fraud, the investigators will make a recommendation for action to either the UI agent or legal counsel.

"Well, what are you going to do with us?"

Depending on the seriousness of your offence, you may have to pay an administrative

penalty. Or, you could be charged in a court of law under the Unemployment Insurance Act or the Criminal Code of Canada. Conviction means a criminal record. And benefits wrongly obtained must be paid back in full.

In any case, it's not very pleasant. We're not in business to prosecute people. Avoid this by dealing with us as fairly as we try to deal with you.

The people of Canada should not be cheated by an irresponsible few.

For your sake, please play it straight with us.

The Unemployment Insurance Commission and the Department of Manpower and Immigration have become the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission. For a time, you'll still see our local offices identified as Unemployment Insurance offices or Canada Manpower Centres. When they're together in one location, they'll be called Canada Employment Centres.

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