

# Hinton blasts . . .

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Armstrong of Milton, rebuked this comment stating Halton adult education is among the best anywhere and is self-supporting.

He claimed "discrepancies and lack of priorities" show up in the budget "anywhere and everywhere."

Hinton asked why the board hasn't challenged the validity of professional development days and funds on the basis of "cost benefit performance". This concern is also now being examined.

At the finance committee's urging the board approved reviewing professional development days and some are already urging they be reduced. This action was approved March 9.

He charged poor hiring practices have allowed Halton schools to be filled with expensive, highly experienced and highly qualified teachers. Teaching staff in Halton is highly qualified and experienced which means top salaries. Over the years because enrollment was increasing staff size increased and many teachers stayed in Halton instead of seeking positions with other boards building up their years of experience and also upgrading themselves professionally resulting in an expensive staff.

Hinton, who wants the board to quit running its own fleet of buses in Oakville, asked why "year after year" the board fails to consolidate its busing operations.

Because of high school reorganization slated to begin this fall not as much money will be needed for responsibility pay since there won't be as many department heads. Hinton says this extra money shouldn't be left in the schools but kept by the board and used for other things, so taxes can be reduced.

"Dollars won't bring quality education, as Halton's record clearly shows," he claimed. He also urged remedial education and computer education from the public more doesn't improve education in this region.

"Why did we have to wait for decreasing enrollment and a scarcity of dollars to push us into considering good business practices and priorities of course offerings?" he asked.

He claimed the budget committee didn't change a single thing the administration suggested. This statement was completely false, Armitage countered.

Hinton implied the board doesn't set salaries for the administration—the adm-

nistration sets its own wages.

He said all taxpayers, including those in the 70 per cent group who don't have children in public school, realize the board just rubber stamps its ever-swelling budgets.

Hinton stated budgeting must be a year-long process instead of just a two month job and urged work on next year's budget start immediately. "It would seem this would result in lower costs and far better value for our educational dollar."

According to Hinton it isn't impossible to cut the board budget but just a case of refusal to cut it.

He claimed this year's budget contains everything the board had last year, plus numerous add-ons, despite the fact enrollment is declining.

Money collected from the sale of unneeded school buildings and excess school sites should be used to pay off debt charges which total 10 per cent of the budget.

He asked when the board was going to "wake up" fiscally adding it isn't fair to expect people with no children or children in private schools, other ratepayers, and in fact every Ontario taxpayer to contribute to running a school system, which spends so much money wastefully.

"It is not fair, it is not equal. It is wasteful."

## Women's film day

A surprisingly good crowd of about 30 attended the Women for Women film day at the Y last Thursday. Baby buggies and strollers lined the sidewalks outside as there were 36 children downstairs being tended by five adults. The film shown to the group was entitled Feelings—Learning to Live. The viewers discussed the film informally afterwards over coffee.

Terry Grubbs introduced the program explaining the Women for Women group. Regular meeting time is Thursday morning from about 10 to 11:30 a.m. The special film program was held in the early afternoon however.

The group has received a grant which will enable the women to have better programs and pay for baby-sitting.

Peter Marks will be the speaker at another special session on Thursday, March 30.



DON McDONALD is the master chef at the Scout sleepover cooking session on the weekend. Under the instruction of Scouter Mark Rowe the boys made banana fritters for their mid-afternoon snack.

## Conservation centre to serve Halton Hills

On March 13, Halton Hills Conservation Centre officially opened to work with local groups to develop and assist in energy conservation activities. The office is in Guelphview Square in Georgetown.

The centre offers resources and information on all aspects of energy conservation; measures that individuals can implement such as home insulation; programs which citizen groups can organize, for example insulation co-ops

and car-pools; data on conservation issues such as recycling centres and new technologies available, for example solar energy.

Enquiries are invited from interested service clubs, community groups, local industries, citizen organizations and educational institutions.

This project has been designed by the Office of Energy Conservation, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Canada.

# Grant three lots on McDonald Blvd.

The land division committee must rule on existing regulations, not on future ideas of planning departments, stated Des Morrow, a member of the land division committee.

The committee approved the creation of three building lots on land owned by George Hargrave, and Jack and Marjorie Mellor, at the corner of Wallace Street and McDonald Boulevard, Acton.

The comment by Morrow was prompted by a report from Halton Hills planning department suggesting a decision be deferred until they could pursue the idea of using the creek, behind the lots, as a buffer between residential and industrial land.

Morrow said people are entitled to protection under the law as it is today, and shouldn't have to wait until the town "diddles around." He pointed out by waiting three months the owners could lose three lots, if the zoning is changed. He said if the town wants a buffer strip they should use their own

land which abuts it.

Chairman B. Fletcher agreed saying "It's a question of whose land should be used as a buffer."

The only report not favoring the severances was one from the Credit Valley Conservation Authority suggesting the area could be flooded.

Jack Mellor said the land had never flooded. He claimed if that land flooded Main Street would be under nine feet of water.

George Hargrave said he had a small bridge on his land, only one foot above the water level and it had never yet been flooded.

Peter Hargrave said when the houses are built and the grading completed the found-

ations would be level with the road.

Bill Coats said he felt a little sympathy with the planning department since he said he could understand wanting to use the creek as a boundary between residential and industrial, but stated if there were to be a delay to accommodate the planning department it should be a short period of time, in all fairness to the applicants.

Mrs. Mellor pointed out the town owns land behind their land, and stated there is a huge industrial site practically empty.

Board member J. Wilmott said he could see no reason to deny the application, and contended they couldn't wait around until the planning

department makes up their mind what they want. "We have to legislate on what we know."

The chairman said they

have to look at the present zoning.

The committee agreed and approved the separation of the three lots.

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### Taxi hit

A westbound auto struck the open door of a taxi which was taking on passengers on Bower Avenue last Wednesday evening. The westbound auto left the scene. One of the passengers was slightly injured.

Jack Campbell of 87 Bower Ave., was slightly hurt in the accident, according to Halton Region Police.

The taxi, driven by Mary Grein of 19 Church St. W., was parked on the north side of Bower Avenue, police state.

A passenger had just entered the taxi when the westbound auto struck the door as it was being closed, state police.

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