



BUILDING PRODUCTS HELD a safety tour of their plant for the wives of employees, to show how the plant has managed to go nearly four years without a time-loss accident. Plant Manager Gerry Toulouse explains the extruder,

where powdered PVC is forced into its final shape, to Bunny Bradshaw, Ellen Wadland, Sharon Toulouse, Thelma Jordan, Madeline Lee, Peggy Coghlan, Janet Butler and Mabel Daigle.

Teacher-board dispute brews over use of paraprofessionals

A dispute is brewing between Halton Board of Education and its teachers over the use of teaching assistants in Halton schools and it could heat up 1978-79 contract negotiations currently underway.

Thursday, board chairman Garry Morton and Director of Education Em Lavender held a press conference to outline their position on the hiring of para-professionals to work in Halton schools.

Lavender emphasized no teachers will lose jobs next year because of declining enrolment or because para-professionals are hired.

He explained differentiated staffing, the use of para-professionals in some jobs instead of teachers, was started in Halton in 1971. Para-professionals don't have the qualifications teachers hold but also don't receive the high wages of teachers.

"Differentiated staffing is an organizational attempt to improve instruction to students through re-organization of the teaching function," Lavender explained, adding professional teachers and para-professionals work together to perform all of the tasks which must be carried out in a school.

Traditionally, teachers have performed many tasks including diagnosis of students' problems, planning of lessons, instruction, evaluation of work and reporting of pupil's achievements. These are the jobs the board feels only teachers can perform. Lavender said. However, there are other jobs such as preparation of lesson materials, marking of work, operating audio-visual equipment, supervision of halls, cafeterias and playgrounds, giving remedial assistance and working in the library which teachers frequently also do but could just as easily be done by a cheaper, less qualified para-professional.

The idea of differentiated staffing is to free teachers from some chores so they can concentrate on being teachers and thereby improving classroom instruction and program "at no extra cost."

Teachers' federations in Halton acknowledge the value of para-professionals but believe they shouldn't be hired in place of teachers but should be an addition to a school's complement of teachers. Halton Elementary Teachers' Association spokes-

man Brenda Dolling has said the over \$450,000 the board will spend on wages for para-professionals should be used to hire teachers.

Morton acknowledged use of para-professionals is "a matter of negotiation" in contract talks but didn't know how big an issue it is yet. He said only time will tell how big a bone of contention it will be, adding the board will know better in a month.

The decision to hire para-professionals instead of teachers is made at the school level by the principal in consultation with his teachers, Lavender noted.

He explained a school is told it can have a certain number of teachers based on its enrolment; for example 100 teachers. The principal may then decide to hire just 97 teachers and use the money he has to pay three additional teachers and spend it paying 12 para-professionals. Three or four para-professionals can be hired for the same price as one teacher.

There are three types of jobs para-professionals perform—supervision assistant,

resource assistant and instructional assistant.

Lavender said supervision assistants are mature adults who are good with children, who supervise playgrounds, lunch rooms and study halls.

Resource assistants do typing for teachers, help in libraries, prepare audio-visual and instructional material, do duplicating work and perform other clerical chores.

Instructional assistants are people with some teaching training and help the classroom teacher by helping slow learners and by reducing teacher workload by marking work.

Using para-professionals increases the number of adults in a school but also reduces the number of teachers. This year there are 141 para-professionals working in Halton schools and the number has been steadily increasing since 1971. The board is able to hire 141 people, mostly on a part-time basis, for the price of 37 teachers.

"We are convinced we are

getting good value for the dollars spent this way and children are getting the benefits," Lavender declared.

He said teachers find para-professionals a great help to them because it allows them to concentrate on strictly teaching jobs.

"The federations see the value in these people but they want us to hire teachers and para-professionals," he stated.

Forty-five of Halton's 91 schools use para-professionals.

20 stops on four hour town tour

Some members of Halton Hills council and town staff spent four hours inspecting roads throughout the town on the annual spring tour Thursday. There were 20 stops on the tour.

Councillors Russ Miller, Peter Pomeroy, Walter Blehn, George Maltby, Pat McKenzie and Les Duby went on the tour. Engineer Bob Austin, deputy engineer Ted Bullinger, new town clerk-administrator Ken Richardson, and works superintendent Frank Morette were also on hand.

In Acton, councillors looked at Wallace Street which will be hard surfaced as well as Main Street north, where work has been done and where residential development is planned.

The Lakeview subdivision was inspected. The town is waiting for the region to get going on storm sewer work and all streets in the area will be reconstructed over the next three years.

The site for the new senior citizens housing on Elizabeth Drive was viewed and discussion also took place. The town wants a sidewalk built from the apartment building to Main Street but the Ontario Housing Corporation doesn't feel it is necessary, councillors noted.

Mill Street west at the First Line was examined because some think a small piece of road should be paved.

The Fifth Line in Limehouse was examined since road work is planned there included asphalt and the road was also inspected south of Limehouse as far as 17 Sideroad.

Site of a proposed three home solar heating development on Trafalgar Road near Stewarttown was also examined. There is a problem with driveway entrances if the project is approved.

The longest stop was Metcalfe ravine, Georgetown, where councillors inspected back yards which are slipping more all the time and also

looked over the ravine. Just last week council agreed to share costs with Credit Valley Conservation Authority for ravine repairs. Restoration of the crumbling back yards is the responsibility of individual home owners.

Another Georgetown stop was Prince Charles Drive which will be reconstructed this year from Rexway Drive to Edward Street. Sidewalks will also be built.

Work currently being done on James, Lorne and Draper

street where storm sewers, curbs and gutters are being installed was viewed on the tour as were Henry, Mary and Cleveholm where paving is planned this summer.

The Eighth Line from Maple Avenue south to 10 Sideroad where residents have petitioned for improvements was examined, as well as the Sixth Line from 15 Sideroad to Steeles Avenue.

Councillors viewed a drain-

age problem on Beaver Street in Glen Williams and nearby 10th Line where paving was being done, following cutting down of a steep hill and realignment of the road.

The Ninth Line, north of Glen Williams, which residents have petitioned to have paved, was examined, as well as a steep hill on the Nine Line deviation. The road is slated for paving within the next five years. Not much can be done about the hill though staff and councillors agreed, since it is solid rock.

Another Esquering tour stop was 27 Sideroad from the Eighth Line to Trafalgar Road which will receive gravel and some ditching this year.

A bad dip in the Third Line, south of the northern town boundary, was viewed as well as a bridge on the Fourth Line. A snow removal problem on the same road was also discussed.

\$400 in loot stolen

Loot totalling somewhere between \$300 and \$400 was stolen during a break and enter of a Main Street North company during the night of May 16-17.

Entry was gained by removing a board from a bay door.

Collect Halton data

Social Indicators for Halton, a project of the Halton Regional Social Planning Committee is a project that has received funds from the Federal Secretary of State's office, it was announced by Judith A. Barrett, Executive Director of the Oakville Social Planning Council.

The grant, in the amount of \$4,989.00, will be used to employ two people who will develop a region-wide collection of comprehensive demographic statistics about the population of Halton Region. This information will be useful to regional and local governments, as well as to organizations which provide community services in Halton. The statistics will encourage better planning in the human service area.

The project will be carried out under the auspices of the Regional Social Planning Steering Committee, an organization which has worked over the past year to develop a voluntary Social Planning Council of Halton Region. Representatives from the towns of Halton Hills and Milton, and the Burlington and Oakville Social Planning Councils are members of the group.

New owner for Nursery School

The ownership of Honey Pot Nursery school will soon change hands.

Gloria Tomlinson will take over the school this summer. She purchased the business from Lorene Barton, Judy Paterson, Gail Vukovich, Diane Wilson and Marilyn Hutchison.

At the present time, Mrs. Tomlinson lives in Oakville, but is hoping to move to Acton soon. She has been a nursery school supervisor for several years, according to Lorene Barton, and is a graduate of the Early Childhood Education course at Sheridan College.

Mrs. Tomlinson has been involved as a parent organizer in French schools for English children in Oakville and is a volunteer worker with the Oakville Mental Health Association, particularly with youth. She is also a volunteer with a special substitute parent program sponsored by the University Women's Club, in Oakville.

There will be no basic changes in the nursery school next fall. An open house will be held tomorrow evening (Thursday) at the school, at which time registration will be taking place. There is

room for 50 pre-schoolers, but most of the positions are already filled. If enough apply, however, there is a possibility there could be an afternoon class, three days a week. This would mean an additional 25 children could be entered into the program.

Another small change, which will be affecting children only with parental permission and is totally optional, is the introduction of a small portion of the children's day. Games, sing songs, and stories will be conducted in French.

The five present owners are happily leaving the school. Mrs. Barton explained they achieved the goal they set out to reach, that of establishing a nursery school where one did not exist. They have proven there is a great need for something like this, but are all looking forward to going on to other things.

Mrs. Tomlinson comes to the owners highly recommended and with plenty of enthusiasm.

The school is located in the basement of the Glenlea Drug Mart.

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