



ALISON COE, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rick Coe, enjoyed the slide at the Honey Pot Nursery during their open house last Thursday evening.

Honey Pot Nursery School open house



MICHELLE MANUEL wears a protective covering so she doesn't get her clothes dirty as she paints at Honey Pot Nursery. She and mother Gail visited the nursery Thursday, when Michelle was registered for next season.

Speyside to keep trustees informed

Speyside parents plan to keep Halton Board of Education informed about the effects of twinning their school with Robert Little in Acton. Thursday, the board received a letter from the Speyside school study group expressing regret the board went ahead with twinning despite the case parents made against it last month. The parents also said they will continue to try and convince the board's administration their new vice-principal, Larry Ciglen, Robert Little, shouldn't be teaching more than 50 per cent of the time. The administration plans to have Ciglen teach 75 per cent of the time. Parents pledged to continue work with the administration and teaching staff "to ensure the safety of our children and the quality of their education."

Youth donate

Ken Hulford's involvement in Youth Bowling made it possible for many children to become very close to him. In memory of Ken Hulford, children in the public schools gave donations to the Cancer Society. Donations were dropped off at Family Cleaners.

Trustees told

Chop 90 minutes from school day

A committee of Halton teachers, administrators and trustees has proposed schools close at least 90 minutes early one day each week to allow elementary school teachers planning and preparation time.

The early school closing was one of four alternatives proposed by the joint board-staff Human Resources Committee.

Other alternatives included hiring more teachers, closing elementary schools 30 minutes early daily or extending recesses by half-hour and hiring more para-professionals to supervise recess.

The committee said preparation time as "a period of time free from assigned duty during which a teacher shall prepare for the teaching of pupils or for the enrichment of the pupils' school experience."

The report filed with the board states about 61 per cent of elementary teachers have no timetable preparation period. It also states that there is often lost to things like staff meetings.

Closing the schools 90 minutes early one day each week was favored by the majority of committees members since all staff would be off at the same time for school planning and costs would be lower than hiring more teachers.

The report noted a pattern has already been set in the south where one day a week, usually Monday, schools close early to allow preparation time. The lost time is

made up by making the other four school days longer.

The committee, however, wants this early one day a week closing region-wide but also doesn't want to see the last 90 minutes added to the other four days.

Noting some bus routes might have to be changed if the schools are closed early and costs could rise, the committee urged a study of the proposal by the business department.

Oakville Trustee Bill Herd questioned why this special planning time was needed when teachers could do it between dismissal time and 5 p.m. daily. He noted planning time can be found during the day by elementary teachers when their pupils are taken by the principal, sent to the library, combine a couple of classes under one teacher freeing the other or having a specialist subject such as French taught.

Teacher federation official Carole Anne Yuzwa noted this works well for some teachers but others are still left with no planning time. Time after dismissal is often taken up by staff meetings, marking, reporting to parents and extra help for their students. She noted many boards have some planning time built right into the school day through the collective agreement. Some boards provide planning time for their elementary teachers by hiring music teachers who move from class to class, freeing the regular teacher.

Milton Trustee Ivan Armstrong said he realizes teachers do much more work than just handle their one class and often take work home but felt it was a bad step to cut into the formal work period for teachers which is short enough now. Armstrong asked what other business people can get into and work just 1,000 hours a year and get 10 weeks paid vacation?

Teachers were trying to move in the direction of fewer hours of formal work, Armstrong warned.

Yuzwa reminded trustees of an earlier human resources committee report which showed most teachers are working at least 2,000 hours a year.

Burlington Trustee Noel Cooper noted enough time is being lost through professional development days each year without adding more lost time suggested the way things are going the board could send all pupils home soon so the teachers would have lots of time to develop professionally and plan.

Other committee recommendations included further research into methods of staffing schools other than the current pupil-teacher ratio system.

The committee suggested consolidation of personnel data in the board's computer. This met with some trustee opposition. Board members feared increased computer costs.



TEACHER MARIE Gilliss shows Leann Johnson the first steps of macrame at the M. Z. Bennett crafts day on Thursday.



CAREFULLY DECORATING her cake during the M.Z. Bennett craft day is Betty Ann Hansen. Tony Van Dam, background, also works on a cake.

on the second group. Ken McNabb gave the official placings and reasons on both these groups. We discussed the classes and then, since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Bill Robinson thanked our hosts on behalf of the club. We then enjoyed a snack of chocolate milk and donuts provided by the McNabbs and Nurses.

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-Halton 4-H Club news-

FIELD CROP CLUB

By Ruth Anne Wilson
The second regular meeting of the Field Crop Club was held on May 15 at Bob Merry's farm.

The President, Glenn McClure opened the meeting with the 4-H pledge, followed by the secretary's report.

Our host, Bob Merry, escorted the club members to his alfalfa test plots and stressed the importance of crop rotation.

In the barn, the members were divided into two groups. The first group judged a class of first cut alfalfa under the supervision of Kaj Hansen, while the others identified weeds with John Nurse.

The host family provided refreshments for the members. David Robinson thanked the Merrys for their hospitality.

BEEF CALF CLUB

By Larle Parsons
The second meeting of the Halton 4-H Beef Calf Club was held on May 18 at the farm of Walter Scott. Attendance was taken by answering the breed

and whether your calf was a heifer or a steer. The minutes were then read.

We then judged two classes of four-year-old Shorthorn heifers. Oral reasons were given by all. The official placings were given by Bill Jackson. Doug Mewhinney showed the club how to make rope halters.

A type demonstration was given on horses by Mrs. Scott. The Scott family was thanked by Leanne Parsons and then refreshments were served.

CONSERVATION CLUB

By Dale Wickson
The second Halton 4-H Conservation Club meeting was held on May 23 at Kortwright Centre, Kleinburg. We were taken on a nature hike and were told about the history of the area and the education programs available.

Slides were shown of the Metro Toronto Region Conservation Authority and its progress which the members found very interesting.

LIVESTOCK JUDGING

By Eartha May
On May 22 the Halton 4-H Livestock Judging Club held its second meeting at Jeff Nurse's farm on Trafalgar Road. The meeting was opened with the 4-H pledge and Heidi Stadler read the minutes of the last meeting.

We then judged a class of two-year-old Holstein cows and some of the members were asked to give their reasons to the group. Jeff gave the official placings and reasons. Next we judged a mature Holstein class and each of us gave our reasons to one of the leaders. Again Jeff gave the official placings.

After this was completed, we then went down the road to McNabb's farm. There we judged a class of mature Guernseys and a class of two-year-old Guernseys. All of the members gave reasons on the first class and two were asked to give theirs before the group

Board can't fire

Halton Board of Education won't be allowed to dismiss a former Burlington elementary school teacher who was acquitted of drug charges last winter. Last month the board voted to demote Ronald Kearns to teacher and ask the Minister of Education, Tom Wells, to permit his dismissal.

Thursday, the board received a letter from Deputy Minister of Education G. H. Waldrum stating Wells won't allow Kearns' dismissal because he was found not guilty. Kearns was arrested last fall after marijuana plants were found growing in the backyard of his Burlington home.

He was acquitted when a boarder at his home admitted the plants were his and testified Kearns didn't know what they were.

Since his arrest and removal as principal of Mayfield public school in Burlington, Kearns has been working on a special project.

Acton boy

David Hargrave of Wallace St., Acton won a couple of second prizes in races at the Norval Fire Works Fun Day May 22.

He ranked second in both the sack race, grade 4 to 6 and the softball throw, grades 4 to 6.

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