

**Projections wrong, but**

**Declining enrolment may close two Halton schools**

Declining enrolment which has hit Halton as well as other school jurisdictions with a vengeance has not hurt Halton as much as was anticipated, Director of Education Em Lavender told Halton Board of Education Thursday night.

In spite of forecasts there were 357 more students in the system than expected and Halton has no redundant teachers. Thirty elementary teachers were hired to replace those who have quit in the ordinary attrition rate.

Lavender said some classrooms in schools will still have to be closed because of the decline in enrolment and the administration is attempting to do this with delicacy by notifying the municipality involved and giving all the pertinent information.

Trustee Judy Alexander of Oakville noted that enrolment figures show two schools in Halton fall below criteria

established by the board. Figures show that Westbrook public school in Oakville has dropped to an enrolment of 47 pupils this year from 50 in 1977 despite a projection of 51. Campbellville public school enrolment dropped to 54 this year from 61 last, actually one more than the 53 projected.

Board policy stipulates that schools with enrolment below 100 students are on the elimination list. Schools with enrolment below 200 will be studied to determine if the number can be improved.

Campbellville school has so far avoided being closed because of intense lobbying by parents in that area of Milton and by its large kindergarten enrolment, which makes up almost half the students.

However, Lavender told the board Thursday he would soon start applying board criteria to close schools.

Georgetown trustee Barry

Shepherd asked if board policy re use of redundant classrooms was being implemented. Lavender replied that the board supports the use of surplus school facilities by the public and it was laid out in board policy.

Shepherd also questioned why long range projection of 10 years could not be used to determine school use instead of the usual five years. Lavender said it would be difficult because there were many factors to consider such as the economy, municipal subdivision policies, sewage treatment plants, housing starts, fertility rates, mortgage rates, immigration policy and others.

Actual enrolment figures to the end of September 30 show 20,885 in the secondary system, 39 less than the projection, and 59 higher than last year. The elementary figure of 29,241 is 980 less than 1977 but 357 more than projected.

**Student reading time misused: trustee**

The glowing picture painted of the success of the Halton Board of Education's remedial reading program by board staff received an unflattering review from Oakville Trustee Elsie Hilson during last Thursday's meeting at Burlington.

The program 'has great benefit to the student body', superintendent of special services R. G. Chapman told board members.

Hilson's information. The meeting was working through the report of a document titled Achievement Statement on Board Objectives 1976-78.

**So far so good on Drury: M of E**

Queen's Park gave Halton's Board of Education an indication that all's well so far with plans to expand E. C. Drury school at Milton.

Halton director of education Em Lavender presented a report on the need to add rooms to the school such as a horticulture room and green house, auto shop and drafting room.

Nineteen rooms of the present structure are to be shared plus some physical education and cafeteria space. The school is also used for the deaf.

Halton is to seek Ministry of Education and also Government Services ministry approval concerning facilities at E. C. Drury High School.

Lavender also presented a letter from the Ministry of Government Services stating it will recommend the financing the Halton board suggested previously. Government services also indicated it has the support of the Ministry of Education.

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**Wayside pit in '79**

The provincial government "looks very favorably" on Milton Council's proposal to open a wayside pit in the northern area of Nassagaweya, Deputy Clerk Roy Main told members of Council recently. He said a licence may be available by next spring.

Council has worked out an agreement to open a pit on the

Bzovey farm which would supply gravel for town roads for a period of up to five years. The pit would then be rehabilitated to provincial standards. A pit was open at the site once before but has never been rehabilitated.

Main said the town expects "some citizen reaction" in the area and assured councilors area neighbors would be kept up to date on the proposal. He made the statement in reply to a question from Councilor Anne MacArthur, who admitted she is on "a neighborhood protection kick".

Clerk Campbell Thompson said three neighbors are already registered as opposing the venture.

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**VOTE**  
**J. ROSS KNECHTEL**  
**Area Councillor**  
**WARD 1 (ACTON)**  
**NOVEMBER 13, 1978**

**Brookville choir entertains board**

Brookville school choir, under the baton of Mrs. L. Vickery and with Mrs. Donna Manes at the piano, entertained members of Halton Board of Education and those at the regular meeting of the board last Thursday evening in Burlington.

Tracy Parker announced the program which included such songs as The Candy Man, Oh Mary, Sunshine on my Shoulders and an auto-harp selection Jacob's Ladder.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the performance and Trustee Ivan Armstrong noted Mrs. Vickery had been in charge of the music program at Brookville school for the last 10 years. He told members he attended the last Christmas concert given at the school and it was a "delight".

**Board purse 'alright': staff**

Halton school board's statements of revenue and expenditures for the first nine months of the year are, in general, satisfactory, according to the board's staff.

Board superintendent of business and finance Bruce Lindley told last Thursday's board meeting at Burlington there are a couple of plant maintenance items at secondary schools over budget, but "over all though, we're alright," said Lindley.

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