

Teachers, board ink six per cent contract

Pay is the only contract item Halton elementary school teachers and the board of education will negotiate next year because of a freeze in the two-year contract signed, Thursday, at Burlington.

Twenty-five new teachers will be hired next fall which means a lowering of the pupil teacher ratio to 21.8 from 23.5. Salary hike for elementary teachers is six per cent this year, the same figure agreed to by the board and high school teachers earlier this month. In all the agreement—benefits, wages, professional development fund, and increment—is 8.28 per cent, slightly less than the high school teachers receive.

Wages in the second year of the contract, the percentage increase would be 9.01, he said.

The Halton Elementary Teachers' Association is made up of the Halton Women Teachers' Association and the Ontario Public School Men Teachers' Federation.

There are 1,325 public school teachers in Halton's 77 schools.

Also included in the contract is a new formula for calculating pupil-teacher ratio.

Protection for elementary school teachers' jobs is also locked into the contract for two years. It is declared surplus by the board, a non-teacher, such as a library technician, is to be let go before a federation member.

Like the high school teachers' contract public school teachers have the Halton board paying 75 per cent of the dental plan and Ontario Hospital Insurance Plan.

Trustees voted against the settlement. Ten were in favor.

Burlington trustee Fred Armitage spoke against the agreement, though he said he thought the innovation of a two-year settlement, was a good move. He reminded the board the contracts with both groups of teachers "will have a substantial impact on the mill rate." He continued by saying he hopes the public remembers why the mill rate, used in calculating taxes, will increase.

Dr. Helen Howard-Lock, a member of the trustees' negotiating team, voted against the contract as she did against the one for the high school teachers.

She told trustees she wanted to give a higher percentage of the increase to the lower end of the salary grid, and lower figure to the top

end. She also suggested the board avoid marathon meetings such as the one started by the mediator.

Mediator Graeme McKechnie, put teacher and board representatives through a 22-hour meeting in mid-December which resulted in the memorandum of agreement.

Public school teachers voted about mid-January to accept the mediator's contract suggestion.

Milton trustee Ivan Armstrong reluctantly supported the proposed agreement. He indicated he is unhappy with the percentage raise. "Another concern is the persistence by this group to spend to the ceiling. If it continues we are only rushing in the day when the province will have to do our business for us."

Teachers' collective bargaining consultant Mark Gilliland indicated after the agreement was ratified by the board that the reduction in the pupil-teacher ratio went some way in meeting teacher demands. In a survey 95 per cent of our membership indicated the number one priority was a reduction in class size.

Priestner and the teacher's main negotiator Bill Watt agreed that on salary the Halton settlement compares well with other agreements in the province.

"We didn't negotiate to increase our position with relation to the rest of the province, but to maintain it," Watt said.

Trustees voting against the contract were: Armitage, Len Crosier, Howard-Lock, and Elsie Hilson.

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Parking situation 'can of worms'

Halton Hills council is hesitant to "open a can of worms" by passing a motion by Ward One councillor Ed Wood.

Mr. Wood asked council to consider leasing or purchasing land in the town for municipal parking lots. He also asked them to request the Halton Hills Parking Authority to identify the needs of the town and suggest to council land that should be acquired to meet Halton Hills' needs.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy, at a general committee meeting Monday evening, told the councillors he felt it was a very complicated motion, and admitted he would not support it. Deputy engineer Ted Ballinger said the matter should be "dug into" before it is addressed in council, and suggested the parking authority be asked for input.

The mayor explained that "if we start to uncover the confusion that makes up parking in Halton Hills, we may end up without any public

parking. He continued "I'd be scared that we are putting the limited amount of parking in jeopardy." Mr. Pomeroy noted that in some cases, the agreements between the town and the property owner are verbal.

Mr. Ballinger agreed to document what is available would take months, and the situation would not be straightened out for a year.

Councillor Wood told committee members there is a need for parking in his ward (Acton), and explained there are 1.5 cars per household. "We'd be doing a service to the people to provide parking. I did not realize it was a can of worms I was opening. I thought I was doing a service to the people of Halton Hills."

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson pointed out the town has no money, and they will not have any money for a while. She suggested bringing the matter back next year. Councillor Mike Armstrong agreed. He said, "Let it die a natural death."

"There is merit in the motion," he said, "but it is something we cannot involve ourselves in this year."

Mr. Pomeroy suggested Mr. Wood sit down and see what the town has available. He hinted at the sale of land for funds, a trade, etc. Mrs. Serjeantson accused the council of wasting time. She pointed out a motion passed previously that evening had all monies raised from the sale of municipally owned land to be put in a special fund to go towards an eventual extension of or new municipal building.

Committee chairman Walter Biehn said he was against the town spending money for parking because "we are in a new type of economy where shopping plazas and rural businesses have to provide their own parking. The merchants and people concerned should pay for it themselves."

The motion will be passed on to the Parking Authority for their input.



... and I predict an early Spring!

There's groundhogs in them that white hills too. Acton Free Press newshounds discovered this week. Free Press editor Hartley Coles, right, and sports editor Robin Inascoe, left, cornered a 'ground hog' to get the low down on the weather forecast for the balance of winter. Miss Groundhog sniffed and sneezed, twitched her nose, wiggled her ears then announced there will be an early spring. The groundhog, which surfaced near the Free Press building, refused to be pinned

down on a date for winter's departure. However, she left no doubt in the minds of the editors spring would warm up to Acton from the south. The only Free Press editor who failed to meet the appointment with Miss Groundhog, was news editor Helen Murray who was digging into another assignment.

Photo by ERIC LSTONE

Pete Pomeroy predicts no future growth here

Halton Hills mayor Pete Pomeroy does not see Acton growing in the next several years.

Mr. Pomeroy was speaking to a group of Norval residents at that village's annual general meeting Thursday evening. He said that due to sewage capacity limitations, the town can only grow between 1,000 to 2,000 people. However, he said, Beardmore, which is the largest industry in Halton Hills has sewage problems and he had made his stand at

helping the industry all he can. "As long as I'm in the mayor's office," he said, "Beardmore will be number one priority." He explained that Beard-

more will get as much sewage capacity in the town's system as they need, even if that means no growth in the town.

Georgetown, the mayor said at the same time, can only grow another 7,000 people. He noted Focal Properties, "which is inevitable" will take most of this 7,000 sewage capacity. He sees Georgetown growth to the south west of the town, with the surrounding hamlets going untouched by the increase.

Hydro's overloaded ICG tells MPPs

The province has enough electric power for its needs for years the Legislature's select committee on Ontario Hydro learned from the Intersect Citizens' Group (ICG) Monday.

The purpose of the presentation was to show the all-party committee there is no electrical power trapped at the Bruce nuclear generating station, ICG spokes-

man John Minns said Tuesday. Ontario Hydro told a recent Ontario Municipal Board hearing electrical power is bottled at the Bruce plant. ICG chairman Bill Mann, Osprey, and Reford Gardhouse, Milton, also attended the meeting at Queen's Park. The ICG wants Ontario Hydro to improve its study methods. Documents tabled at

the OMB hearing, concerning the north-south 500 kV line, were also produced by the ICG for the legislative committee. One of the MPPs said Monday was the first time he heard there is no bottling up of power at the generating station, said Minns.

By using Ontario Hydro figures Minns said he demonstrated for the committee how all the power generated from the nuclear station can be taken to market along existing lines—including the Belwood connection north of Halton Hills.

The Belwood connection was a key to the ICG's presentation to the OMB earlier this month. The connection is able to pass on power from the Bruce to Kitchener and to Essa and on into Ontario Hydro's grid.

The ICG also showed the committee Ontario Hydro is as much as 22 per cent overbuilt for its needs. The Porter Commission, on long range planning, suggests a figure of 48 per cent for the amount Ontario Hydro is over built, said Minns.

He suggests the figure, on the amount of power actually used, is closer to 70 per cent.

There is no need for Ontario Hydro to expand, said the ICG spokesman. Today there is 23,000 megawatts of power in the province which Ontario Hydro indicates is a reliable supply, according to Minns. He went on to demonstrate that for the past two years consumption of power has been less than 16,000 megawatts.

That 7,000 megawatts left is excess power which cannot be exported because there is no market, according to the ICG. Of the power consumed, 10,000 megawatts is produced burning fossil fuels and nuclear energy. Those megawatts are available 77 per cent of the time, says the ICG.

The new forecast for Ontario Hydro's loads is to be released next month and Minns predicted it will have great significance on the public utilities building programs. Either the second half of the Bruce generating complex for the new Darlington generation plant will be cancelled or shelved for ten years, Minns said.

Model off to Paris

Victoria Lenizky is off to Paris, France to commence her European modelling career.

Victoria, 17, of R.R. 2, Rockwood left Sunday, after several weeks of preparation for her six month stay in the city of lights. She has been modelling for the Judy Welsh modelling firm in Toronto for almost two years, and it was through this firm she was offered a contract with a Paris company.

One of Victoria's last Canadian assignments was the filming of a Dentyne gum commercial, which will be first aired February 19.

Victoria has just completed grade 12 at Acton high school, and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Lenizky. She was crowned Miss Acton Fall Fair last September. She also appeared in Tuesday's Toronto Sun as the "Sunshine Girl".

Investigation of the accident continues.

\$7,000 in damages

A Kitchener man received minor injuries after his pick-up truck was in collision with a parked tractor trailer January 25.

Guelph OPP report Gordon Murchison, 65 was southbound on Highway 24, just north of Eramosa Township Road 7-8 when the collision occurred. Police estimated \$7,000 in damages.

Larry Ciglen acting principal

Larry Ciglen has been named acting principal of Robert Little and Speyside schools following the death of Principal Hazen Allen last week.

Mr. Ciglen has been vice principal at Robert Little for a few years, and at Speyside since September when the two schools were twinned.

His appointment, made last week by John Boich, superintendent of instruction, is in effect until June, according to Mr. Ciglen. Rick Coe will be the principal's assistant at Speyside. Novice principal will be named. Because Mr. Ciglen's time will be spent travelling back and forth between the two schools, he said, he has had to give up his teaching of grades five and six students. Nadine Eaton, who had the job part time has now been hired full time.

In memory

Halton Board of Education trustees marked the memory of Acton school principal Hazen Allen with a minute's silence and a tribute at the beginning of Thursday's meeting at Burlington.

McKenzie appointed to HHA

Garnet W. (Pat) McKenzie, of Acton, has been appointed to the Halton Housing Authority, replacing the retired Garfield Brown, clerk of the region.

Mr. McKenzie has been appointed by Minister of Housing Claude Bennett in October, but the official announcement did not come through until recently.

The new appointee is a former councillor for Halton Region and was principal of Robert Little school for several years. Mr. McKenzie joins Jack McGeachie, Milton, and former clerk of the town of Acton: Mrs. O. O'Connell, Burlington; Cami McKeen, Burlington; Mrs. D. Moulden, Limehouse; S. McKellar, Oakville; and Duncan Sinclair, Oakville, chairman, in caring for 800 units in Halton. These include both senior citizen housing and geared-to-income homes.

There are 18 family units in Acton, with a 52 unit senior citizen apartment building presently under construction. There is one existing senior citizen apartment with 12 units.

In Georgetown, there is a total of 157 senior citizens units in Georgetown, in two buildings. There are no family units, according to the Housing Authority statistics.

In Milton, there are 95 senior citizens units, with 29 just completed but not yet rented. The town is currently making an application for geared-to-income homes.

Mr. McKenzie noted the Housing Authority looks after the rental and maintenance of the buildings. He pointed out any problems or information can be dealt with through the housing authority staff at toll free Zenith 7-9910 for Acton residents.



Larry Ciglen



Thirty-nine years ago five men in the above group, and some others, started the Y's Men Club in Acton. The club held its first annual reunion in The Mug coffee shop in the basement of the Murray Memorial YMCA building on Mill Street last week. In the front row, l. to r. are H.H. (Bert) Hinton, Jim Ross, Jim Rivetti, Ed Leatherland and Ric Coe. Sitting on the bench are Ed Fossitt, Bill Benson, Clarence Rogvaldsen, Jack McGeachie, Harry Arbie and Gord Rogvaldsen. In the next row stand Jack Greer, John Bomans, Gord Dawe, Gary Bateman, Al Clark, George Wallis, Pat McKenzie and Stew Robertson. In the back row are Doug Leys, Ralph Hall, Ken Hurren, Lyle Preuter, Lloyd Broostad, Bruce Shoemaker and Harry Otterbels. The charter members are Hinton, Ross, Benson, McGeachie and McKenzie.