

Board stiffens suspension for student misconduct

Halton Board of Education trustees are lowering the boom on students involved in "extreme cases of misconduct."

Students face a new suspension rule that could cost them a school year, following last Thursday's decision by the board at Burlington to lengthen the maximum suspension to 30 days from ten days.

Georgetown trustee Barry Shepherd spearheaded the bid to triple the suspension. "I recommend it realizing it means six weeks and almost certainly the loss of a school year," Shepherd told trustees. In applying the new policy Shepherd called upon principals and area superintendents to use the utmost discretion.

Shepherd's original motion was streamlined, with his approval, to give it more legal muscle. The motion reads: For extreme cases of misconduct, the principal may suspend a student for up to 30 school days with the approval of the area superintendent.

The original motion mentioned offences "injurious to the moral tone of the school" such as drugs or liquor use, sexual acts or threats and attacks on students and staff.

Special Services Superintendent Ron Chapman said he feared specifying incidents of misconduct because a lawyer could have a hearing dropped on a legal technicality.

A suspended student may ask for a hearing concerning the suspension. Chapman went on to say that under the Statutory Powers and Procedures Act certain legal deadlines must be met within the 30 days.

Oakville trustee Len Crozier wondered why Shepherd introduced the change to standing board policy. He pointed out

that 15 of the 45 suspensions in June were for "moral tone" offences. "Why not?" was Shepherd's reply which he said was not being facetious.

Other trustees also had doubts. Acton-Esqueving representative Betty Fisher, who has the board's staff preparing a discipline policy, urged trustees to ensure all the legalities of the new suspension are investigated.

Oakville trustee Anne Fairfield failed in her bid to have Shepherd's motion tabled until it and the new discipline policy can be considered together. She reminded trustees they still have another punishment—expulsion—to fall back on.

Board vice-chairman Bill Lawson, of Milton, spoke up for taking action. "The time is opportune to deal with this type of action—school is not in session—if it is there's always the possibility of an act of a student causing the board to do something."

In introducing his 30-day suspension motion, Shepherd said school staffs should not be saddled with the burden of a disruptive student. Also "following a bad influence could be disastrous for vulnerable students," he said.

Shepherd withdrew a motion identical to the original in May because Acton-Esqueving trustee Fisher and Oakville's Jackie Cutmore were pushing the board for a broader policy on discipline.

Board staff is preparing a discipline policy that is expected to be before the trustees for

Tax cheaters may recant with no penalty

Taxpayers who cheat on their income tax, either by neglecting to file a return or by filing false information, have the chance to avoid penalties for tax evasion by making a full disclosure on a voluntary basis.

To make a voluntary disclosure, taxpayers must contact Revenue Canada, Taxation before the Department contacts them. A disclosure is not considered voluntary if the tax department has begun an investigative action into the taxpayer's affairs, whether directly or through third parties, to verify or audit either tax returns or records.

When a taxpayer makes a voluntary disclosure, it must contain all relevant facts, not only information that the taxpayer thinks the Department would discover or would accept as being complete. In fact, any attempt to withhold information when making a voluntary disclosure would be considered as a definite attempt to further deceive the Department.

By making a voluntary disclosure a taxpayer is liable for the tax and interest due but avoids penalties which, depending on the circumstances, can amount to 50 per cent of the tax evaded, in addition to possible prosecution through the courts. Taxpayers would, however, still be liable for late filing penalties, late remittance penalties and interest for late payments.

All voluntary disclosures are subject to verification. If, after an investigation, the Department finds the disclosure was not complete the taxpayer could then become subject to either penalty or prosecution or both.

When disclosing amounts of undeclared income, the taxpayer should contact the District Taxation Office either in person or by mail.



Maestro lands whopper!

Dale Wood of Dawson Crescent could have composed a symphony after he caught this 29.29 pound chinook salmon in Lake Ontario on Monday. It placed him second in the Toronto Star's salmon derby. Dale was by himself when he lured the large specimen of

placental splendor after angling with other fishermen earlier in the derby. It took him an hour and 15 minutes to land the salmon. He used a 12 pound test line.

Region's land plan called into question

When it comes to planning, "common sense" is more important than the region's new official plan according to Halton councillor Pat McLaughlin of Burlington.

Mr. McLaughlin's statement came during a debate on a request for land severance.

The land in question is 12 acres of farmland in the Town of Halton Hills. Domenico Condarcuri, a developer, has had permission from the town to sever. The region has appealed it.

Leading those who wanted the appeal to continue was Burlington councillor Joan Allingham who said the land is in an agricultural area in the official plan.

She also noted that the

land desired was 12 acres, less than the 20 acres set out in the official plan as the minimum to qualify for severance.

"I see at least four areas where this does not conform to our official plan."

"Now either we are going to have an official plan or we're not," she said.

Halton Hills councillor Russ Miller said "Halton Hills is limited in the amount of industry we can attract." He admitted the land in

question was an "agri-protected" area. However, he said it was not suited for farming.

"When we can put land like this to good use, we should take advantage of it," he said.

Mr. Miller said it was for that reason the town gave permission for Mr. Condarcuri to proceed.

Halton Hills mayor Peter Pomeroy said it was his belief that regional staff are being too stringent and should adopt a "broad position" in interpreting the official plan.

"We just can't make a rule for each case," he said.

Councillor McLaughlin noted the official plan is to be tested by the Ontario Municipal Board Sept. 14.

Mr. McLaughlin said the test case involves a service station owner who will lose his gasoline pump as the official plan states the region controls all the land within 17 feet of a regional road.

"In my opinion, any policy that is to the detriment of the people is not good," he said.

Library plans fall program

Halton Hills Public Libraries has planned several interesting and educational seminars to be offered at the Acton Public Library over the fall months.

The first program to begin the fall campaign at the library will be a set of lectures in introductory Psychology offered through the University of Waterloo and will run every Thursday night from 7 to 10 p.m. for 12 weeks.

A set of films will be offered from the library commencing Friday September 14 and running for three weeks. The topic of the films will be Eleanor and Franklin.

On Friday October 12 the Library Cinema will preview Nicholas and Alexandra.

A seminar in Food and Behavior will look into practical information for the management of allergic diseases will be offered on Tuesday October 16.

Color and Design in Quilting will be the topic of discussion when Gwen Powers is at the Acton Library on Saturday October 20. A pre-registration and a ten dollar fee must be made by October 5.

From 1 to 3 p.m. on Friday October 26 the library will turn into a Corn Husk Flower Shop as Connie Pitz demonstrates.

A course for the career oriented women will be offered on Tuesday, October 30. The course will be run by Cathie Koronen and is titled Time Management and Motivation.

Junior plowing match draws 15 competitors

By Doug Miller

The Halton Junior Plowing Match was held Saturday, Aug. 18 at the farm of Harvey Campbell, Milton, with 15 competitors taking part.

The match began with a morning coaching session by Ed Gray of Toronto, with the assistance of Spencer Wilson, R.R. 1, Norval.

The competitors were shown how to set a plow correctly and instructed in the proper techniques of match plowing.

Advice was given on competitors' specific problems.

After the coaching ended, a competition took place between the 15 competitors.

Mr. Gray acted as the official judge for the event.

There were two classes: two or three furrow and four or more furrow plows. Judging was based on the quality of the crown, seed bed, finish, and general appearance of the land.

Results in the two-three furrow class were: 1st, Murray Breckon, Burlington; 2nd, John Reid, Georgetown; 3rd, Paul Lesley, Norval; 4th, Paul Wilkinson, Georgetown; 5th, Cecil Patterson, Milton; 6th, Doug McPhail, Georgetown; 7th, Jay Kitching, Moffat; and 8th, Brian Wingfield, Georgetown.

In the four or more furrow class the standings were: 1st, Allan Cunningham, Limehouse; 2nd, Allan Harris, Milton; 3rd, David Richardson; 4th, Jamie

Alexander, Oakville; 5th, Scott Harris, Milton; 6th, David Robinson, Georgetown; and 7th, John Reid.

GARTER SNAKE
This slender bodied reptile measures from 18 to 40 inches in length. The various species are characterized by contrasting striped patterns, mostly black and greenish-white, but several are most colorful. The red-sided garter snake (Thamnophis sirtalis) for example, has reddish coloration on the sides. Being expert swimmers, garter snakes are frequently found near the edges of ponds and marshes. Their food consists chiefly of fish, invertebrates and amphibians. In winter, they hibernate in rock crevices below frost line.

Milton should specify industrial limit: Cumming

The region's planning committee wants council to ask the Ontario Ministry of Housing to overturn an industrial site in the former Esqueving planning area and set it aside as agricultural land.

Although the 283 acres at the intersection of Hwy. 25 and Number 5 roads just north of Milton, has been approved for industry, Milton Planning Director Ed Cumming said the regional policies for agriculture should take precedence.

Those policies state: recognize, encourage, and protect farming as the primary long-term feature of the rural area and to this end; promote, as a first priority, food farms on prime agricultural soils.

Of particular concern in the 283-acre parcel, is 46 industrial lots of two

acres in size.

In noting his objection of turning prime farmland into an industrial site, Mr. Cumming said, "Milton's Amendment Seven did in fact have a logical boundary to the limit of the urbanization of the rural area which does not include the development of this site."

"To date there has not been any justification for more industrial land, even when built

particularly this close to a recently approved large industrial site," he said.

He said the regional concept does contain emphasis on job balance in the communities of Milton, Georgetown and Acton but on a scale of five jobs per acre. Using that scale, Milton already has an excess of 300 industrial acres.

D.D. Christie and seconded by John Speight that the meeting authorize the Reeve to secure plans, specifications, etc., for a hall, not to cost more than \$4000 complete, including site. Now, 100 years later, estimates on the demolition of the site are set at ten times the original costs. Renovations will cost \$200,000.

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