

Parents claim St. Joseph's is a fire, health hazard

St. Joseph's is unfit to be a school in terms of facilities and parents are concerned about the building not meeting modern health and fire safety standards.

Head of the parents' association, Vince Whelan, says he has been "led to believe" the building is "condemned" by today's fire safety standards.

However, both Halton Separate School Board and fire department officials disagree with Whelan's use of the word condemned.

In a letter to a provincial official Director of Education Cliff Byrnes refers to a report from the Halton Health Unit.

Byrnes writes "his (the health inspector) message is clear. The conditions under which the school is operating are unacceptable to health standards. His statements support the board's contention that the present facilities are not conducive to pupil learning nor to pupil health."

Byrnes said in an interview that the health department is concerned about washroom facilities at St. Joseph's. He noted there is a boys' washroom, a girls' washroom and a staff washroom.

He said with portables on the site it is getting to the point where the washrooms are overtaxed. This problem is caused by the tremendous increase in enrolment at St. Joseph's during its brief life.

Superintendent of Buildings and Plant John Birett said the health department is concerned about "stretching" of washroom facilities. There are sufficient washrooms to serve the main building of the school but portables have been added, and thus more students, so there are more people using



Is St. Joseph's unsafe? Parents feel two reports show children shouldn't be going to school in the old Stone School and a new separate school should be built.

the washrooms than should be. Birett said the board is a "fraction" over the number of children who should be using the girls' washroom and under the limit for the boys' washroom.

Birett said there is no fire hazard at St. Joseph's "as far as I'm concerned."

Whelan questions how easily 200 children could get out of the school in a fire emergency.

The building has a proper alarm system and sufficient exits, Birett stated. He admits it wouldn't meet today's fire safety and building code standards, but that is not unusual considering the building is over 100 years old. He said there are many school and public buildings which wouldn't meet today's regulations, but that doesn't mean they should be closed or condemned.

Birett observed the school is made of solid stone and he doesn't feel there is a fire hazard. Byrnes said he isn't aware of any fire safety violations at St. Joseph's and observed the board couldn't operate a school in the building if there were.

Halton Hills fire chief Mick Holmes said it is "incorrect" to say St. Joseph's has been condemned by the fire department.

He stated it was inspected last August and the fire prevention officer made a few recommendations regarding improving fire safety, but no way it was condemned.

Holmes noted the fire prevention officer finds minor problems in all schools, just as he did at St. Joseph's, and makes recommendations. He added the fire department can't condemn a building anyway.

Whelan noted the school doesn't have proper facilities. Parents find meeting with teachers is "chaotic and confusing" because meetings must take place in classrooms.

The nearby Scout Hall is used for physical education classes and that isn't acceptable, Whelan says. With no proper recreation facilities students' health is the loser.

Washrooms for pupils and staff are inadequate. The lower hall area has been temporarily established as an office-staff room area.

Whelan observed crowding and facility problems will be even worse at St. Joseph's this fall. He noted an empty room at adjacent Robert Little School has been used as a French classroom but won't be available next school year. French will be taught in part of a classroom at St. Joseph's where another lesson is added to other students. Another portable is needed, but the board won't provide it, Whelan noted.

Catholic parents here are angry that the province has approved funding for a new school in Oakville while ignoring Acton's dire need for a new separate school.

Whelan said he has learned from Halton Hills Trustee Hartley Sherk that now that there is a new school opening in Oakville in September 1981 students will be moved around and the present French language separate school in Oakville will be closed next year.

News digest

Burglars get \$3,000

Thieves got away with an estimated \$3,000 after burglarizing Cargill Motors on Highway 7, Halton Regional Police reported this week.

The break-in took place sometime between 9 p.m. on July 9 and 6 a.m. July 10. The thieves broke two windows getting into the building and then pried open the cash register. As well as getting away with the cash they caused \$1,500 damage and then escaped in a car they stole from the auto dealership.

Radio stolen

A radio and cassette tapes valued at \$1,000 were stolen from a car owned by William Rogers, 221 Kingham Road last Wednesday. Halton Regional Police reported the thief got into the car using a coat hanger to slip the lock.

Thieves hit concession

Some thieves planning a barbecue broke into the concession stand at Prospect Park and got away with \$26 worth of wieners, hamburgers and potato chips. The break-in took place on July 9, Halton Regional Police reported.

Trash burns at school

Acton Firefighters responded to a call at McKenzie-Smith Middle School where some trash in a garbage can was burning Monday afternoon.

Come see the Blizzard

Come see the Blizzard. Halton Hills recreation department is organizing a trip to the Toronto Blizzard's July 20 match with Fort Lauderdale. A bus will leave for the North American Soccer League match at CNE stadium at 5:30 p.m. and cost of a ticket and the bus is \$7. The game starts at 7:30 p.m. For tickets and information call the rec department at 877-5185 extension 60 and 67.

Teachers resign

Halton Board of Education recently accepted the resignations of three local teachers. Martine Lefebvre has left Acton High School, Barbara Knapp won't be returning to M. Z. Bennett and Margaret Toth has resigned her position at Brookville.

Ward promoted

Former commander of the Acton detachment of the Halton Regional Police, Bernie Ward, was recently promoted from the rank of Staff Sergeant to Inspector. Since leaving Acton, Ward has been stationed at the Burlington detachment, where he headed up the Criminal Investigations Bureau. Ward was the first commander after Halton Regional Police took over from the Acton OPP.

Erindale grad

Acton resident Catherine Barbara Kern-Peters recently graduated from the University of Toronto's Erindale College with a three-year Bachelor of Science degree.

Dealing with Halton Hills frustrating, disappointing

Dealing with Halton Hills council has been described as "frustrating and disappointing" by an Acton resident who wanted a stop sign put up to reduce speeding.

A few weeks ago Robert Fleming, Cobblehill Road, went to council asking that a stop sign be placed at Cobblehill and Victoria Street.

He told councillors he had canvassed neighbors and they were as concerned about speeding on Cobblehill as he and his wife, Janet. Fleming informed council he could bring a petition if needed showing support of many residents for a three-way stop.

Last week council followed the recommendation of staff and rejected the three-way stop at Cobblehill and Victoria. The engineers said it would be "dangerous" to have a stop on Cobblehill because of the

incline and problems for drivers stopping in winter.

Following notification of council's decision the Flemings said they still think there should be a stop sign at Cobblehill and wondered how the councillors knew for certain a stop sign wouldn't help reduce speeding.

Mrs. Fleming noted cars are "bombing" up and down the street and while a stop sign might not totally solve the speeding it would be "better than nothing."

The Flemings said they didn't bring a delegation to council originally, though they reported the results of a survey of residents, because they didn't think it was necessary to have a group of people in the audience to make the politicians feel "threatened."

"There's no reason why they can't do what the people want," Mrs. Fleming delared.

It was the second time council has rejected a call from homeowners for a stop sign at Cobblehill to curb speeding.

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Jelinek charges

Banks rip-off borrowers

Canada's chartered banks are ripping off their borrowers Halton MP Otto Jelinek charges. Jelinek presented a motion in the House of Commons last week calling for the Minister of Finance Allan Rock to direct the chartered banks to lower their prime rate to one per cent above the Bank of Canada rate.

Thursday the Bank of Canada sets the interest rate it charges the chartered banks. Traditionally chartered bank rates have been one per cent higher than the Bank of Canada mark.

Jelinek noted when the Bank of Canada was raising its rate weekly earlier in the year the chartered banks kept pace. They kept their prime rate one per cent above the Bank of Canada rate.

However, now that the Bank of Canada rate has been "somewhat reduced" the chartered banks haven't been dropping their prime rate accordingly.

Jelinek objects to the large difference between the Bank of Canada rate and the rate charged by the chartered banks. "The gap has tripled to nearly three per cent."

The Tory Corporate Affairs critic says the chartered banks are being "unfair" and acting "inconsistently".

He says the banks are already making record profits but won't pass along to borrowers the benefits of a reduced Bank of Canada rate. Chartered banks were quick to pass on the extra costs of a rising Bank of Canada rate just a few months ago. He said he isn't against business, including banks, making profits because profits are the life blood of free enterprise, but feels banks are going too far and the government in letting them get away with it.

Thursday the Bank of Canada set its lending rate at 10.44 per cent while a number of chartered banks

set new rates Monday. There are five chartered banks in Acton and Rockwood and they charge the following prime rates: Bank of Nova Scotia—13 per cent, Bank of Montreal—13 per cent, Toronto-Dominion Bank—13 per cent, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce—13 1/4 per cent, Royal Bank of Canada—13 1/4 per cent.



Barbara Ann Turkosz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Turkosz of Acton, will marry Raymond Douglas Nuttall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Nuttall of Hillsburgh this Saturday at St. Alban's Anglican Church.

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Money from garbage

Plans to make money from Halton garbage were approved by regional council last week.

Councillors gave their approval to terms of reference for a Source Separation Market Development Study to be carried out by an as yet unnamed consultant.

Source separation, for those unfamiliar with the jargon, would require homeowners to separate their garbage into various types which would be collected and then sold to commercial groups for recycling.

Among the points to be

studied by the consultant are how much garbage is produced in the region that could be

resold to industry, what market is there for garbage, what types of garbage are most easily sold,

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