

# Parents regain lower PTR for McKenzie-Smith 8s

Parents of McKenzie-Smith Grade 8s got what they wanted from Halton's Board of Education: another teacher. There is, however, a price to pay. Fifty or so parents learned Monday at a meeting at the school that the ratio of pupils of teachers at the senior level would again be about 28:1.

"It's acceptable, this year," parent group spokesman Ed Norton said after the meeting. Parents pressured the board for another teacher because the ratio swelled to 37:1 because the board lifted a teacher to another school after classes started.

Other arrangements have been made with the staff of the middle school, however, principal John Simpson predicted parents would see changes no sooner than next Monday because he has to hire the new teacher. Also, some timetable problems have yet to be solved.

The changes mean McKenzie-Smith Middle School will again have four Grade 8 classes. When the teacher, Derek Humphreys, was plucked from the school the principal put students from class 81 into the remaining classes.

The new class will be called 88.

The time for the new teacher was cleared from other peoples' timetable: a quarter teacher for counselling during the collective agreement, a quarter teacher from administration plus half the librarian.

Area Superintendent Don Gentleman detailed the cost of the new teacher. He said principals were spending a quarter of their time on counselling children. "There are a lot of social problems around."

There will be no counselling, he said. The school's library, while it will be open all the time, according to Simpson, will be manned only half time by a librarian.

"While you think you're winning, I think you're losing," Gentleman told parents. "We are more than willing to volunteer time to help in the library," Simpson said that high school students have been used in the library. A suggestion to have parents help drill students, though, seemed to be taken.

"I'll be glad to take anyone coming in," said Simpson.

One of the conditions set by parents at the previous meeting was that whatever the administration did to help the Grade 8s would not be detrimental to the Grades 6 or 7. Simpson said Monday there would be no disruptions in program or class at those grades.

"Would all the children receive an adequate education?" asked Norton. Simpson described the question as being biased because even with the larger pupil to teacher ratio he believed students would get a good education.

Gentleman revealed to parents that the administration considered shifting a Grade 8 teacher to another school as long ago as February. The shift took place after classes started because, according to the ad-

ministration, there were too few students to warrant the four teachers.

There are three classes of Grades 6, 7 and 8 in north Halton which have less than 29 students, according to Simpson. "We've now eight classes that have less than 29 students," he said.

"We are more than fairly treated. You're getting more than a fair share," Simpson said. "We're getting what we paid for," replied Norton.

"You have smaller classes. You can't expect that every year," said Gentleman. "The 8s were high, but not more than other schools."

About 50 parents, not all the same faces at Monday's meeting, presented the school and board with the problem of high pupil teacher ratio during a meeting a week ago.

Acton-Esqueung Trustee Betty Fisher told parents then that she agreed with them, the 37:1 ratio was too high. She succeeded in getting parents to give the administration a few days to come up with a solution.

Three solutions proposed last week by principal Simpson would mean, among other things, the elimination of special programs, split classes or no library services.

Parents showed signs of being upset because they do not believe their children will receive the same attention, the same quality education with

three teachers instead of four.

"All I'm concerned about is my child," said one mother. She said her youngster came home saying she can't do her work at school because there is too much confusion. "The kids haven't a clue what they are doing."

More than one parent was annoyed that the teacher was transferred after their children started class work. "It's the first time the child has gotten into something; then the teacher's gone. That in itself, I consider, is a very bad thing to happen," said Tony Bain.

It was noted by some parents that during the week teachers would

have more than 100 forty minute spare periods. Some parents voiced the opinion that the time is wasted.

One parent, who is also a teacher elsewhere, pointed out that the spare periods are used by teachers for work other than instructing in the classroom. Principal Simpson likened the spare periods in school to the coffee breaks in private industry.

Parents had little sympathy for area superintendent Gentleman. He detailed parts of his job that do with spreading teachers over the 21 North Halton elementary schools.

Allocations, said

Gentleman, are based on a guess of the enrolment for September. "We're not infallible and we make mistakes," he said. Later he defied anyone to determine the number of children who would attend the middle school seven months from now.

"There are problems in other schools that would take eight to ten teachers to solve," said Gentleman to the gathering.

"You speak of other areas," replied Norton. "We want to make it known, the issue is in Acton. I hope Georgetown and Milton parents are banning together like this. Here is where the problem will be solved by Acton parents."



Bert Hinton

## Hinton after trustee post

Veteran Acton politician H.H. 'Bert' Hinton will try and recapture a seat on Halton Board of Education in the November municipal election.

Hinton defeated incumbent Tom Watson in 1978 and held the Acton-Esqueung seat for one term before losing narrowly to Betty Fisher in the last election. Fisher has opted to run in Georgetown now that Acton and Esqueung will each have their own seats on the board.

Hinton says he can devote his full efforts to improving education in Acton because since he last sat at the board he has retired.

He is concerned about looking after the school interests of Acton and feels "proper and viable" education is needed.

Career oriented and work experience courses

are needed and these program should be backed-up with strong student counselling, Hinton says.

Hinton is a former Acton councillor, reeve, Halton county Warden and chairman of the Sheridan College board of governors.

**Hearing adjourned**

The preliminary hearing for three Acton men on a charge of second degree murder will resume October 23 after it was adjourned last week.

The men, Cosimo Mercuri, Michael McCristall and Leonard Cripps, were charged in connection with the death of Dominion Hotel resident Howard Gibbons last year. The hotel was gutted in the blaze.

## Secret session on sewer rates

Halton councillors slipped into secret session on Monday to discuss the state of the sewer surcharge system, despite protests by Councillor Ron Planche the meeting should not be held "in-camera."

W.J. Matthews, Manager of Price Waterhouse Associates, the firm which is doing the Sewer Surcharge Study, told council his firm has a policy of not releasing anything to the public or media until a final report is published.

He said a draft, which is the next thing to a final report, will be available only to councillors so that "it not have a wide distribution."

However, the water-sewer rates committee headed by Joan Allingham had left the impression that the Monday meeting would be open. Councillor Planche brought up the point, noting he wants "the public to have adequate time to have input."

The final plan is to be ready by the end of this month for council discussion and possible approval on the regular regional meeting Oct. 15.

Mr. Planche said the decision to go in-camera was "a very subtle delaying tactic so there will be no discussion before the election."

Mr. Matthews said his firm would not put the company name on the interim report if the meeting were open, because the firm has a policy that everything leading up to and including the final document must be checked and re-checked for accuracy.

## Halton refers United Way to committee

Regional Council has agreed to set up a Family Counselling Advisory Committee but it has sent suggestions the Region form a Halton-wide United Way organization back to staff for a further report.

Oakville Family Counselling had suggested to Regional Health and Social Services Committee that a new family counselling group be set up to cover all of Halton and that it be done from a centralized point.

In short, the Oakville group had suggested it take over all family counselling for all persons living in the Region.

The Oakville group had also suggested the Region fund the committee at a start up cost of \$30,000 in 1981, which would rise to \$120,000 in 1984.

This would be done through a purchase of service agreement.

## Regional staff is under microscope

A consulting firm has been hired to look into the management of Halton Region and it will mean replacement of staff deadwood.

Regional Chairman Jack Raftis said Hickling Johnson Management Consultants of Toronto will be required "to identify those people who aren't high performance."

The regional management study will take 16 to 18 weeks to complete; however, Mr. Raftis said the first section on the Treasury Department will be ready in about 12 weeks.

Hickling Johnson pegged the cost of the study at \$75,000 but Regional Council upped this to \$80,000.

Mr. Raftis said the extra \$5,000 would be used if a more detailed study "of one of the bigger departments" is necessary.

He said that bigger department could be public works and/or Health and Social Services.

Councillor Bill Johnson said he wants to make sure the consultants include a chapter on how to simply fire a person if he is found not able to meet his or her job description.

The Toronto consulting firm was one of five interviewed by the Regional Management Study Team Committee. The interviews were conducted over a six hour period Sept. 22.

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Old South 12.5 oz. frozen unsw. Florida grapefruit <b>juice</b>	<b>.89</b>
Lancelo 7 1/2 oz. pkg. Quick Lunch <b>casserole mixes</b>	<b>3/1.00</b>
Aylmer 19 oz. tin (Save 58¢) <b>beans &amp; pork</b>	<b>2/1.00</b>
Four Star 10 oz. tins (Save 16¢) <b>whole mushrooms</b>	<b>.79</b>
Monarch 10 lb. bag (Save \$1.00) <b>All Purpose flour</b>	<b>\$2.99</b>
Cottonelle 4 roll pkg. (Save 28¢) <b>toilet tissue</b>	<b>\$1.29</b>

## HARVEST DAY BARGAINS!

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full slice <b>round steak</b>	<b>2.99 lb.</b>
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Schneider's 500 g pkg. <b>oktoberfest sauerkraut</b>	<b>.59</b>
Schneider's 900 g pkg. frozen <b>bucket 'o' chicken</b>	<b>3.99</b>
Schneider's frozen 375 g pkg. <b>oktoberfest burgers</b>	<b>1.59</b>
Schneider's 500 g pkg. frozen <b>beef steakettes</b>	<b>1.99</b>
Schneider's 175 g pkg. assorted popular varieties <b>luncheon meat</b>	<b>.79 pkg.</b>
Schneider's 1 lb. pkg. <b>skinless wieners</b>	<b>1.75</b>
Schneider's 500 g pkg. <b>sliced side bacon</b>	<b>1.89</b>

Quaker ast. flav. 800 & 800 g. <b>Harvest Crunch</b>	<b>2.25</b>	Javox Scrub-n-Shine <b>cleanser</b> 250 ml.	<b>.99</b>
Quaker Life <b>cereal</b> 20 oz.	<b>1.39</b>	Palmolive liquid 500 ml. <b>detergent</b>	<b>.99</b>
Fantastik spray <b>cleanser</b> 24 oz.	<b>1.69</b>	24 tablets <b>Bristan</b>	<b>1.99</b>
Lancelo ready cut 1 kg. macaroni, spaghetti or <b>spaghetti</b>	<b>1.38</b>	Drizan 15 ml. <b>nasal mist</b>	<b>1.75</b>
Dietrich 24 oz. loaf <b>100% whole wheat bread</b>	<b>2/1.29</b>	Pampers extra absorbent <b>diapers</b> 60's	<b>8.69</b>
Dietrich pkg. of 12 <b>scone rolls</b>	<b>.79</b>	Monarch pouch pack ast. flav. <b>icing</b> 7 1/2 oz.	<b>.49</b>
		liquid fabric softener <b>Fleecy</b> 128 oz.	<b>2.39</b>
		Weston pkg. of 8 <b>rain bran muffins</b>	<b>.89</b>

Monarch pouch pack asst. flav. 9 1/2 & 9 1/2 oz. <b>cake mix</b>	<b>.49</b>	1 lb. shortening <b>Fluffo</b> Crisco salad & cooking <b>oil</b> 1 L.	<b>.79</b>
Treesweet reconst. orange or grapefruit <b>juice</b> 48 oz.	<b>1.19</b>	Mrs. Luke's table <b>syrup</b> 750 ml.	<b>.99</b>
Christies Premium Plus plain or salted <b>crackers</b> 450 g.	<b>.99</b>	Weston pkg. of 6 <b>lemon filled buns</b>	<b>.89</b>

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