



Red sky at night

Silhouetted by brilliant flames and smoke, Rockwood Firefighters watched helplessly as a century old stone barn in Eden Mills burned Saturday evening. The blaze could be seen for a radius of 20 miles. Fireman Chuck Petty, who was later injured, and Fire Chief Carl Meadows were two of the firefighters on the scene attempting to enclose the fire. More details in Rockwood Digest.

Photo by JENNY BARR

## Unveil tentative drawings new St. Joseph's school

Tentative architectural drawings for the new St. Joseph's School due to open in 1982 are in the hands of Halton Separate School Board administrators for review.

Recently the property and planning committee, on which Halton Hills Trustee Irene McCauley sits, selected one of four plans for the new school which will be built on Mill Street West.

"It's going to be real nice. I like it," McCauley said of plan number three which was chosen by the committee.

The plans call for a single level building with nine classrooms, plus a kindergarten room. One of the classrooms is for special education programs while one other will be built larger than the others so it can accommodate a science lab in the future.

McCauley wanted to see facilities for home economics and industrial arts programs. However, that wasn't possible since no other separate schools in Halton have home economics or shops.

One plus for the new school will be showers for both boys and girls, a luxury other separate schools in Halton don't have.

Besides the classrooms there is a general purpose room which will also serve as a gym. McCauley said it should also have a stage.

In addition there is a library resource centre and a large music room. There is a school office, principal's office, health

office, a staff room, staff washrooms, seminar rooms and guidance room.

Space has been set aside for gym storage, custodian's storage, other storage and an electrical room.

The entrance for the school is off Mill St., however there is provision for an entrance off a road allowance beside the site. There is parking for 18 cars, and a turning circle beyond the school. There has also been a suggestion there be a bus turning area for the possible future road.

The floor area of the school is 22,921 square feet.

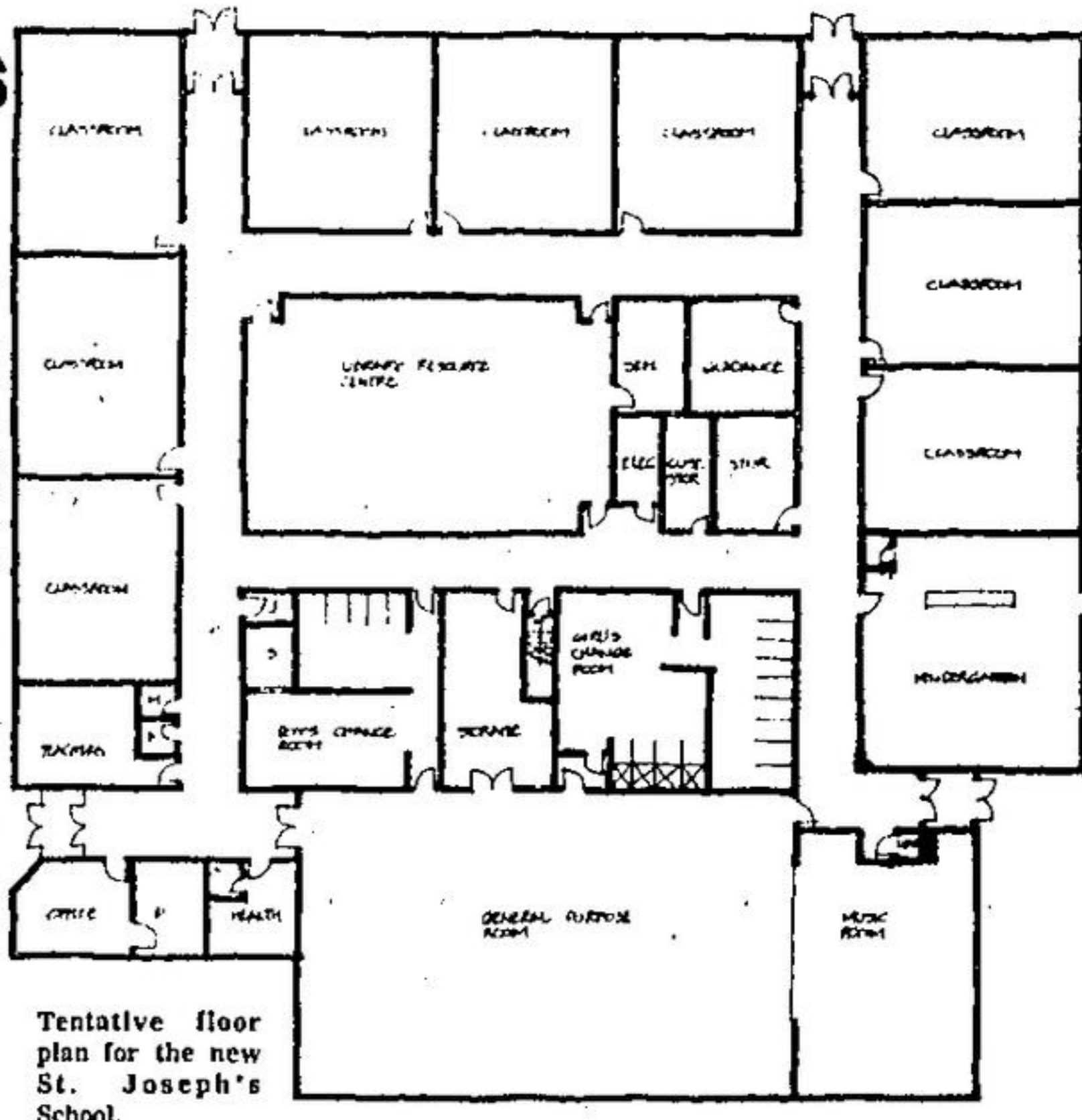
The plans were developed by Michael J. Torsney of Hamilton.

McCauley said costs of the new school were not established.

Last November the Ministry of Education approved a grant of \$1 million for 1982 for the new school.

After the grant was approved the property and planning committee, as well as the board, decided a special education classroom, which is more expensive to equip than a regular classroom, should be added.

At the time Director of Education Cliff Byrnes said it was hoped the special education room could be accommodated without asking for more money from the province. But, Byrnes also said the ministry has shown a willingness to listen to requests for more funding.



Tentative floor plan for the new St. Joseph's School.

# The Acton Free Press

An Inland Community Newspaper

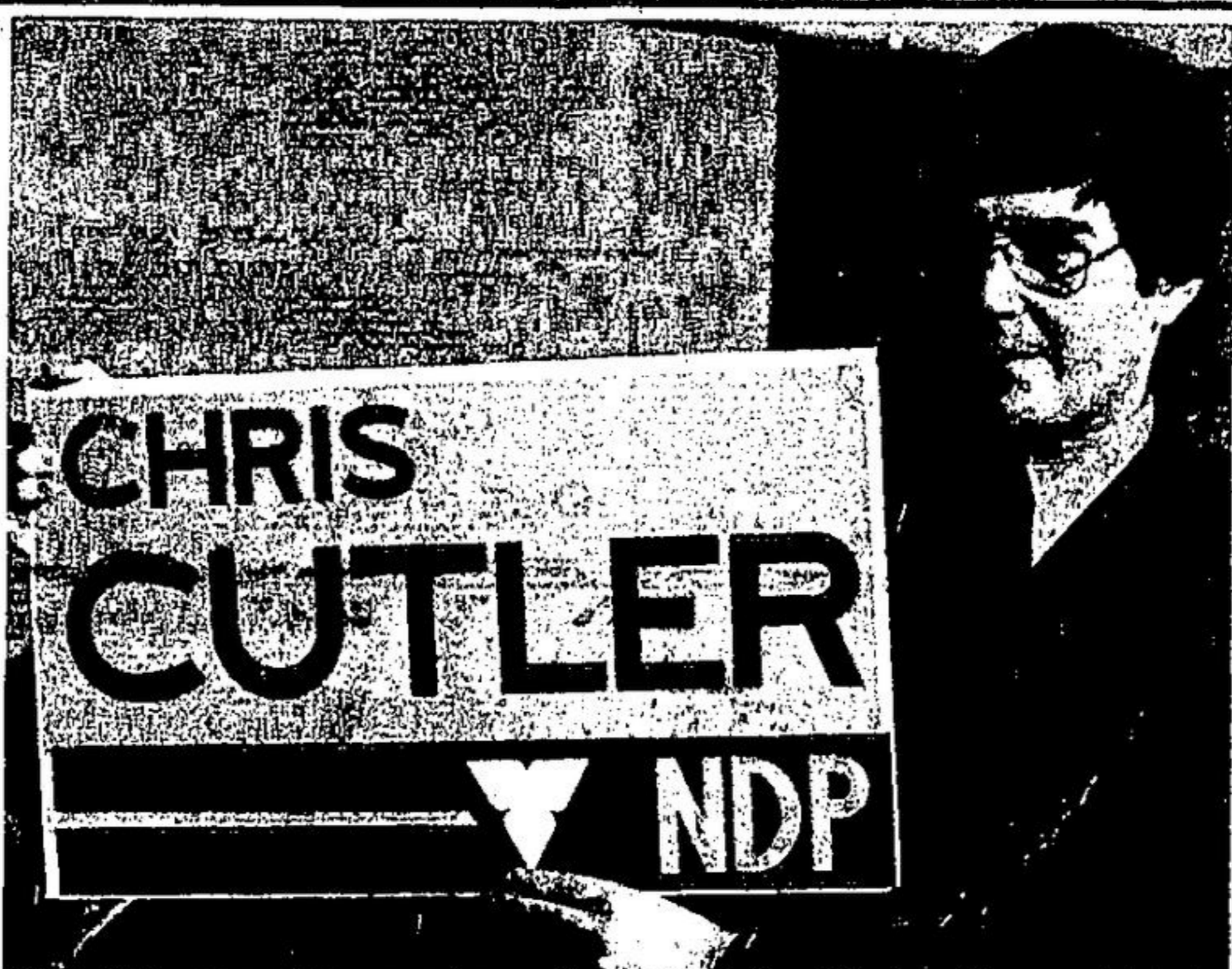
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Liberal Leader Dr. Stuart Smith is counting on his energy critic Julian Reed to win Halton Burlington for the third time.



Chris Cutler, the youngest member of the Provincial executive of the Ontario New Democratic Party carries the party's hopes in Halton-Burlington.



Premier William Davis makes his second visit to the riding tonight (Wednesday) in Burlington to boost the candidacy of Fran Baines. Baines leave Acton Progressive Conservative headquarters for tonight's rally at 6.45 p.m.

### All candidates meeting

## Reed loses school vote

by Eric Elstone

Based on what school students learned from an all candidates meeting MPP Julian Reed would lose the election.

When asked how they would vote, and a few of the 200 or so may, based on what they saw and heard from the three candidates Tuesday at Acton High School, six said they would vote for the incumbent Reed.

In a mini-poll of 25 students taken at the meeting Reed came second. Progressive Conservative candidate Fran Baines came third with four votes.

The students elected 20-year-old New Democratic Party (NDP) candidate Chris Cutler with 11 votes to represent Halton-Burlington at Queen's Park.

Four students said they were undecided who to cast their ballot for. They have until provincial election day March 19 to make up their minds.

The candidates answered a wide variety of questions which were peppered at them by students. When they tried to dodge, or their answers

were found wanting, they were brought swiftly into line by the students.

By a draw of lots prior to the Chamber of Commerce sponsored meeting, the NDP's Cutler got first crack at the Tories and Grits while promoting his party.

In a reference to the PC's radio and television jingles Cutler opened up with: "I've been waiting for some time to find out what promise they want us to keep. Because after 38 years, they haven't kept theirs."

Fran Baines challenged the NDP and Grits in her first volley. "In any time in the four years of minority government, the opposition could have defeated us. Why didn't they if we're doing such a bad job?"

The Tory hopeful also pointed out to students that Ontario residents have personal incomes which are seven per cent higher than the rest of Canada. The Gross Domestic Product for Ontario in 1979 was \$101-billion while that for the nation was \$268-billion. "We're doing far, far more than our share."

(Continued on page 3)

## Leathertown Logo is final ready to use

Leathertown has been officially born.

Last week the Leathertown steering committee gave final approval to the logo designed by Merv Pryhlka.

The logo was refined very little from the design given preliminary approval last month.

In the final logo the outline edging is in dark brown, as is the banner across the hide. The inside of the hide is tan and the lettering across the banner is white.

An arch across the bottom says Acton and is designed to act as a smile. The word Leathertown rises across the banner, symbolizing the rising hopes of Acton as Leathertown.

Any firm's name could be arched across the top of the logo like Acton is at the bottom for use on letterhead, advertising, on buildings or even on the side of a truck.

Leathertown is in lower case letters, to make it easier to read, while Acton is in capitals.

The banner even looks like lettering printed on leather. Welcome could be arched across the top of the logo for signs around town.

Members of the committee described the finalized logo as having "untold potential".

The committee is going to allow businesses and individuals around town to use the logo and stencils are being made in several sizes so people can



easily reproduce the logo. It is hoped it won't be "bastardized" by users and that is why the stencils can be used free of charge. The committee also wants to see the lettering style maintained.

Committee members knew of numerous firms which have been delaying ordering letterhead, awaiting the logo.

The logo could soon appear on plastic shopping bags the Acton Business Improvement Area hopes to introduce. The bags would state "I visited... Leathertown... Acton". BIA head Larry Greaves is gathering quotes on the bag prices.

### inside

Catherine Graham of Limehouse offers a St. Patrick's Day message on Page 4.

Council has watered down its bylaw governing swimming areas. Turn to Page 5.

Section 86, is it a spreading "cancer"? More on Page B4.



## 'What you see is what you need' in board budget

by Eric Elstone

Spending by Halton educators will ring up nearly \$116-million on taxpayers' cash registers this year.

Halton Board of Education expects to spend \$115,646,671. That's a hike of 12.49 per cent over last year's spending of \$102,810,704.

The board has received information concerning what grants it will receive from the province. Board staff is still calculating those figures. The revenue side of the budget will be presented March 18.

Superintendent of Business and Finance Bruce Lindley said he hopes the grants will amount to the levels they were last year. The province contributed 49.02 per cent of the board's revenue in general legislative grants.

By far the biggest chunk of board spending goes to salaries—teachers, administrators and others. They eat up \$85,492,528 or slightly less of a percentage than last year.

"What you see is what you need," Burlington trustee Bill Priestner said. He presented most of the budget. Board spending over the last decade is two per cent higher than the cost of living index of 12 per cent, he indicated.

In 1970 it cost \$431 to educate an elementary school pupil. In ten years that cost jumped 257 per cent or reached \$1,541, according to Priestner.

The cost of educating a high school student was \$778 in 1970. The same student's education cost \$2,228 in 1980. That's an increase of 186 per cent.

Meanwhile the consumer price index rose 133 per cent. "We must have increased service by 124 per cent in elementary schools and 53 per cent in the secondary," said Priestner.

Board budget chairman Noel Cooper said it is a product of "close scrutiny plus subsequent reductions."

In terms of percentages, debt charges and non-operating expenses decline. Everything else is up. Computer services, one of the board's new programs, doubles.

What is new in the budget? The very new is the French immersion plan, to start at Grade 4 next fall, which will cost \$38,849 in elementary schools and another \$15,200 in high schools.

French Immersion, according to Cooper, is one of the major items in the '81 budget which contribute to the increase in spending. Inflation also takes some blame. Among the other items are: Core French \$125,000; special education \$182,700; energy conservation \$200,000; minicomputer replacements \$140,900; improving facilities \$1,050,000 and athletic trips—\$13,200 for elementary and \$28,575 for secondary.

One item in last year's budget actually came in under the estimated expense. That was the cost of busing. It was down mainly because of the school bus drivers strike in south Halton.

The average cost of busing a student each day is \$1.58, according to Acton trustee Arlene Bruce.

Public transportation costs 80 cents.

The board's plan of spending came under criticism from at least one trustee. Jackie Cutmore wondered that with Halton having 17 high schools, how much is the board "really improving equipment" by allocating \$85,000.

"It's probably not replacing all it should replace," replied Lindley. "It's a question of just so much money." "Capital expenditure this year is \$33 per student. The government pays \$13.50 per student. So we are expending considerably more in technical and business education."

More money was spent than expected last year, however, the board ended up with a surplus of \$1,381,594.