



**Christian School**

**No promises of funding**

No direct promises of provincial funding to independent schools were made by the three candidates, Thursday night to the more than 200 assembled at the Georgetown District Christian School "Meet the Candidates Night."

Progressive Conservative candidate for Halton-Burlington riding Fran Baines held out little hope to the audience consisting mainly of parents of students attending the school.

Liberal standard bearer Julian Reed indicated a fair chance of help for independent schools if a Liberal government is elected. Chris Cutler, NDP candidate, said the various alternate schools can be accommodated within the larger system.

The meeting organized primarily to address the issue of provincial money for such schools, was one of many held across the province, where 465 alternative schools, with 75,000 students, are in operation.

In a candid statement, Fran Baines said she could not say what the audience wanted to hear. "I can point out to you the position of the party and my own personal feelings." She said the Tory party is not prepared to extend funding to independent schools.

"I won't apologize, I can do nothing but tell you I won't promise what I can't deliver," Cutler said he understood parents wanting a certain school. He was referring to Norval school, now closed.

"We lost that fight but I have a profound belief in the right of parents to educate their children in their chosen way."

Stating his party's position, Reed promised an all-party committee would be convened to determine the possibility and degree of financial support that independent and alternative schools could be given.

**Councillors urged**

**Set minimum tax bill to pay for services**

There should be minimum tax bills the same as there are minimum charges for water and hydro a rural resident has suggested to local politicians.

William Dobbie, RR 2 Acton, supports property tax assessment reform and discussed the issue Friday with Dave Whiting and Russ Miller at the councillors' drop-in.

Equalized assessment through Section 86 of the Assessment Act is to be debated by council early next month. Last year council decided not to opt for Section 86, but set up a council-citizen committee to study the issue.

Dobbie, whose own assessment and taxes will change very little if council opts for Section 86, thinks the present assessment system is "quite unfair."

He said he knows of some people in Acton who are paying less than \$400 a year in taxes while others must fork over more than \$1,000 for the same services.

All taxpayers use the same streets, recreation facilities, street lights etc., so he thinks it is unfair that people in newer homes must pay considerably more than those who own older homes.

Dobbie, who plans to study Section 86 further, suggested there be minimum tax bills to cover the cost of services, regardless of the age or value of a home. He notes water and hydro users must pay a minimum charge to cover the cost of providing the service.

"There are some people who aren't paying their fair share," he declared.

**Legion's gifts in use**

The equipment which Acton Branch 187 Royal Canadian Legion recently donated to the Halton Region Health Unit went into service at the Acton's senior citizens' apartments last Wednesday. The health unit offers free service to the town's senior citizens on the first Wednesday of each month from 1-4 p.m. Senior Public Health Nurse Shirley MacKay, left, takes a blood pressure reading from Syd Morris. Mary Lou Brock, another public health nurse, takes care of a difficult toe nail problem for one of the residents. She also used the small scissors and nail files from the Legion. Photo on top shows Public Health Nurse Sandra Murphy using the new Hemoglobinometer. It is another instrument for testing blood. The Legion also donated a set of scales, foot and kidney basins, plus a small cupboard to house all the equipment. The public health unit also tests hearing. One of the pieces of equipment already in the unit's hands is the audiometer used by RNA Edythe Davis to test Doris Browne's hearing.

**South still hot with local travellers**

The flagging Canadian dollar hasn't deterred local sun seekers from their midwinter southern exodus, according to Rick Bonnette of Acton Travel and Ted Tyler of Tyler Travel.

Both agencies report trip sales are even better this winter than last year with Florida still the number one destination of travellers.

There are several reasons Florida is so popular said Tyler. Many places accept the Canadian dollar on par, saving vacationers 20 per cent. Floridians treat Can-

adians well, knowing the tourist trade is vital to their economic health and Americans speak the same language.

He added the northern part of the state can get chilly at times, but any spot south of Orlando is a good bet for warm weather.

Bonnette says he finds Las Vegas is gaining in popularity, despite the two recent tragic hotel fires. Caribbean Islands are the third most popular winter vacation destination.

Both said they noticed a trend on the part of

companies to offer innovative programs. Seat sales are not uncommon, when a wholesaler has sold only 70 per cent of its charter, usually during the off-season. They'll notify travel agencies and advertise a last minute sale price. Airlines has also been holding seat sales to entice new customers.

The result, says Tyler, is more people are holding off a little before booking a holiday to see if there is a seat sale.

Bonnette said he's noticed the trend to inclusive holidays, where everything is prepaid, is continuing, especially for destinations such as Grand Bahama. These type of prepaid holidays, offered by groups such as Club Med, can include everything from complimentary drinks to complimentary horseback riding.

Both have predicted a slight increase in traffic to the United Kingdom this summer, although air fares are due to rise by at least 15 per cent April 1.

Tyler said Prince Charles' marriage to Diana Spencer, a U.K. pound is slipping and some charter firms are holding their fares.

"Disly DJ", on July 29 might make "England a little hot". As well the U.K. pound is slipping and some charter firms are holding their fares.

**Heart drive raises \$4,300**

This year's heart fund raised the same amount of money in Acton and area as the 1980 drive, \$4,300. The target for this year's February-long campaign was \$4,500.

Chairman of the drive, Vic Bristow, noted contributions through rose boxes, the residential canvass and industrial contributions were down while the commercial canvass resulted in higher donations. Last year the residential canvass raised \$3,334.51 compared to \$3,193.61 last month. Contributions from industry slipped to \$182 from \$195 and rose box donations dropped from \$242.49 to \$202.54. The commercial canvass raised \$723.30, compared to \$528 in 1980.

"The people and businesses of our community are most generous towards a worthy cause. Many other requests are made of them, but they came through with true community spirit when the need is there," Bristow declared.

- On behalf of the Canadian Heart Fund he praised the generosity of Actonians as well as offering a special thanks to the men and women who went out in cold weather to raise funds.
- Following is the list of canvassers:
- Mrs. J. Ahearne, Mrs. N. Aitken, Mrs. B. Allanby, Mrs. B. Anderson, Mrs. M. Anderson, Mrs. D.K. Andrews, Mrs. G. Auly, Mrs. E. Bailey, Mrs. S. Barker, Mrs. P. Barnard, Mrs. J. Barrett, Mrs. A. Blackie, Mrs. G. Bowers, Mrs. E. Bradburn, Mrs. T. Brown, Mrs. E. Beerman, Mrs. H. Bursey, Mrs. D. Butler, Mrs. K. Caldwell, Mrs. H. Campbell, Mrs. H. Carroll, Mrs. C. Caswell, Mrs. S. Clarke, Mrs. N. Callatin, Mrs. K. Conroy, Mrs. J. Cook, Mrs. H. Cook, Mrs. G. Cornelisse, Mrs. W. Crippin, Mrs. D. Dawkins, Mrs. F. Dawkins, Mrs. J. DeHauw, Mrs. G. DeForest, Mrs. R. Devlin, Mrs. L. Dick, Mrs. A.H. Duly, Mrs. J. Dunn Sr., Mrs. H. Durham, Mrs. W. Duval, Mrs. E. Edmundson, Mrs. H. Ellerton, Mrs. B. Fitzgerald, Mrs. D. Fleet, Mrs. D. Fosbury, Mrs. A. Fowler, Mrs. M. Franklin, Mrs. C. Fry, Mrs. J. Frizell, Mrs. B. Fryers, Mrs. M. Gervais, Mrs. B. Giles, Mrs. B. Gillingham, Mrs. D. Gillis, Mrs. P. Ginn, Mrs. T. Goodwin, Mrs. D. Gordon, Mrs. J. Goy Jr., Mrs. G. Grace, Mrs. P. Graham, Mrs. A. Green, Mrs. W. Greer, Mrs. G. Hanesher, Mrs. J. Haggel, Mrs. N. Harmsma, Mrs. B. Harris, Mrs. R. Hart, Mrs. H. Haslam, Mrs. J. Haverly, Mrs. D. Haynes, Mrs. P. Hayward, Mrs. R. Heller, Mrs. V. Hillier, Mrs. E. Hofstede, Mrs. J. Hogenbirk, Mrs. G. Hollett, Mrs. P. Homer, Mrs. H. Howsam, Mrs. W. Hughes, Mrs. G. Inglis, Mrs. J. Janson, Mrs. D. Jenkinson, Mrs. W. Johnston, Mrs. A. Jones, Mrs. L. Jones, Mrs. M. Jones, Mr. J. Kaminga, Mr. H. Kroes, Mrs. P. Kruger, Mrs. J. Kullen, Mrs. H. Landshorough, Mrs. W. Lathrop, Mrs. D. MacEachern, Mrs. L. Marsh, Mrs. D. Mason, Mrs. S. McKeown, Mrs. L. Mitchell, Mrs. N. Morton, Mrs. H. O'Rourke, Miss T. Tyler, Mr. A. White.

**No benches for CNE**

Halton Hills has decided it isn't worth \$300 to be represented at the Canadian National Exhibition.

Monday a request from the CNE that the town sponsor a bench at the EX was received and noted and no action taken.

The EX hopes to go further and involve Canada's communities with sponsored benches throughout the park. The town could either send one of its own park benches down to the CNE or sponsor one of the modern benches already there. Schachter said the benches would be maintained and refurbished annually by the EX and each bench would cost the town \$300. The municipality's name would be on its benches.

Councillors made no comment on the idea.

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