

Secondary teachers Staffing a key issue

by ALEX MATHESON

Efficient and established ratios of staffing is more of an issue for the secondary school teachers than the pure salary increase per member, says Joe Harwood, president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation.

Although the number of teachers is increasing while student population is dropping, the number of programs are proliferating faster than teacher increase, adding to overall workload, said Mr. Harwood.

"Maintaining an adequate staff for the programs being offered is the biggest issue," he said.

"I won't take 45 or 50 in a Grade 13 English class to make room for 12 in a technical class," he added.

Mr. Harwood wants the Halton board to agree on upper limits for class size across the spectrum of programs.

In Grade 12 there are four English classes, instead of the one that might have been offered in school in the past.

Upper class limits on those programs for slow or fast learners result in pressure to increase the number in the basic program.

In Grade 9, basic English is normally a large class, but advanced English in Grade 11 is very small and in some cases is on the verge of disappearing because it is too small.

The board is trying to offer too many programs for the number of teachers it has and still provide quality, said Mr. Harwood.

"Although the board increases staff as a result of contract negotiations, the teachers have had no control over its allocation.

If the board hires 20 additional teachers, and out of these it gets 17 vice-principals, two librarians and a guidance teacher, it does little to alleviate the problem in the classrooms, he said.

Mr. Harwood said that if in raw figures alone, the Halton board met the pupil-teacher ratio in Toronto, it would have to hire 123 teachers.

But he stressed that some control over the employment of staff is crucial.

He said that from the board's point of view it is cheaper to pay existing staff more and work them harder than to hire more staff.

If there isn't a more efficient allocation of staff, morale among teachers will drop and there will be an increased salary demand, he added.

To a degree, salary demands are indicative of dissatisfaction in working conditions, Harwood said.

The board should take an active stand protesting to the ministry over program demands that are made by the ministry, he said.

Instead, the board accepts the demand and tries to shuffle staff to handle it, but offers diminishing quality.

The board is elected to decide on programs and it should decide, he said.

It is afraid to take a stand on a program and nearness of the fall election is compounding that problem.

Mr. Harwood said he can understand the reticence on the part of trustees to cut out a program. It is a no win situation, but trustees have been elected to make those kinds of decisions.

Weather affecting Halton crops

Local farmers will have higher expenses feeding their livestock this winter, Halton Agricultural Representatives predict.

A cool trend in the early part of the summer, combined with heavy rainfall, can be blamed for poor quality hay, corn and grain crops so far this summer, Assistant Agricultural Rep Doug Miller said last week.

"The rain has seriously held back the hay harvest," he said. "Most summers, the hay harvest is finished by now. This year, it's just getting started," he said. "The longer forage crops remain in the field, the poorer the quality of they hay, he said. "A lot of farmers will have to buy feed supplements this winter."

Spring crops such as corn and grain are also affected by the rain. "A lot of the corn never got planted because of the rain this year," Miller explained. "Some farmers were forced to substitute soybean for corn."

Corn needs moisture, but it also needs heat to grow properly. The early summer trend was for cool weather. "This kind of weather turns the plants yellow, and they don't grow," Miller added. He expects crops will be 10 per cent lower than usual. "The potential that was there in the spring just isn't there now."

100 Actonians to Witness convention

Brian Spalding, spokesman for Jehovah's Witnesses said this week 100 delegates representing the Acton area will attend one of 126 conventions scheduled in 83 cities in North America during the summer of 1982.

Spalding said approximately 1,100,000 persons are expected at the "Kingdom Truth" conventions. He added that nine conventions are planned for Ontario in five cities: Brampton, Ottawa, Campbellville, Sudbury and London.

"The outlook is dismal in the world today," Spalding said. "Many people question whether mankind can survive in view of the complex problems threatening us."

He said a tremendous world change is imminent. He stressed that only divine intervention can provide a solution to the crises facing mankind and the increasing peril of nuclear war. "Many people fail to see that God's kingdom is a real government," Spalding said. "But the well-known 'Lord's Prayer' makes it clear that our hope and faith should be anchored in God's kingdom. That is why we pray for it to come. Under that government, God's will is to be done on earth just as it is in heaven," he said.

Spalding said many representatives in the southern Ontario area will be attending one of the two conventions scheduled for Campbellville. He said 16,000 persons are expected at the two meetings planned for July.

New controls on "travelling shows"

Halton Hills is beefing up its licensing bylaw to exercise more control over "travelling shows" such as circuses or carnivals. Written consent of the property where a travelling show will be located will be needed as well as a \$5,000 security for use of town property.



Paul Slaney is a long way off from being on an archery team, but even Robin Hood had to start someplace.



Camp Prospect archery instructor Cristl Champ demonstrates the proper, and safe, use of the bow and arrow to her students. The archery portion of the program is a popular one.



Jason Dodd carefully aims his bow and arrow in the Camp Prospect archery course.



Bryan Dunn gets some ribbing from his pals as he takes his turn at the Camp Prospect archery course. Bryan is just one of hundreds of youngsters throughout Halton Hills taking advantage of the town's many summer playground activities.

Friends-in-Deed Win at bowling tourney

by Trina Noel

Sunday May, 30 was handicapped bowling day at Lucky Strike in Stoney Creek.

Eleven members went to bowl along with six helpers and three drivers. ActiVan took the ones in wheelchairs. The girls guides from the area were on hand to help us with the bowling balls and refreshments.

Other handicapped groups from Hamilton, Ancaster, Binbrook and of course Stoney Creek were there too. After everybody was finished bowling; we all went to the Loyal Order of the Moose Hall in Hamilton for a full course supper and presentation of awards.

Our group took four trophies with Joan Jones who came first in bowling with wheelchair and ramp category. Ann Dodd came second in standing up with ramp category. Third place went to May Hoare and Sophie Oehrich standing up without a ramp.

Door prizes were won by Sophie, Joseph Pires, one of the drivers, and myself. Along with Joan Jones from Georgetown was her sister visiting from England. We all had a very exciting day and hope to do it again next year.

Tuesday evening, June 29, was out last meeting for the summer at our president, Ruth Courtney's place. We were all happy to see member Bud Toast from Georgetown who had been sick for most of the winter. Since the weather was beautiful; we all sat in the backyard for a lovely supper. All kinds of dishes were made by each member and for dessert Ruth made her delicious cherry cheese cake.

A trip to Gananaque for a boat cruise around Thousand Island is planned for August. Our treasurer Marion Keelan will make all the arrangements.

Handicapped swimming is still going on every Sunday between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 12 noon at the Acton pool. Anyone who is registered with ActiVan can contact Mary Daigle 853-1776 for transportation.

A reminder to everyone who shops at Zehrs and Dominion stores to save their cash register tapes for our group. You could give them to Ruth Courtney, 853-2785.

Member Joan Jones is at Georgetown District Hospital for surgery. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

A beautiful and safe summer to all.

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