



Miss Canada, wrapped in fur to keep warm, was driven into the winter carnival at Terra Cotta Conservation Area Sunday by a handsome span of horses pulling a sleigh. Temperatures lowered around the freezing mark and a warm winter sun beamed down

on activities Sunday but few people were there to enjoy the ideal conditions. Officials of the CVCA felt numbers were down because people in urban areas didn't know there was adequate snow for activities at Terra Cotta.

## New stumbling block for computers in schools

A plan to have all school in Halton equipped with computers over the next five years has hit another stumbling block.

Halton Board of Education Thursday night decided to have a long range plan into the usage and installation of computers referred back to administration for budget prioritization.

Harold Brathwaite, chairman of the computer advisory committee, pointed out in the first year of a five year plan students from grade 4 to 13 would be learning computers. By the end of the plan, in five years, kindergarten to grade 13 would be utilizing the machines. Every school would have the equipment, with every high school having complete labs.

Director of Education Wally Beevor pointed out the plan is simply a direction, and staff would come back to the board every year for a review.

Trustee Noel Cooper, Burlington, said he approved the direction of the one year plan, but questioned whether all plans designated for year one need be completed right away.

Burlington Trustee Bill Priestner said he could not support the long range plan. He admitted he liked the report, but estimated the ongoing costs would be \$605,000 per year, after the hardware was purchased.

He questioned how long the computers would be used for teaching. He pointed out a few years ago, televisions in the classroom were the big thing, and the board invested a lot in it as a teaching aid. Another municipality he noted went heavily into audio-visual, only to let it sit dormant a few years later.

Priestner suggested equipping the secondary schools, but holding off on the elementary.

Trustee Peter Abbott, Burlington, agreed with Priestner. "We have to recognize that we are in a severe economic crunch. I do not believe Halton region can afford to spend a lot of money on computers outside the

### Obituary

## Township native dies at age 89

A native of Esqueving Township, Agnes Jane McEnery died January 30 at age 89. Mrs. McEnery, the daughter of Agnes Barr and Henry Shorill, attended Blue Mountain School, and for many years played piano for her father at old time dances.

She married Archie S. McEnery in Acton, and lived in the same house for 67 years. An active member of the Women's Institute and Ballinacred United Church, she was known as a musician, and dressmaker and had an abiding interest in local history.

She is survived by daughters Dolene Reid, Jean King and Yvonne Garton. Another daughter Margaret McEnery predeceased her. She is also survived by sons Lloyd and Archie, as well as seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Her husband and two brothers Richard and Matthew Shorill predeceased her.

Funeral services, conducted by Rev. Peter Barrow were held at Shoemaker Funeral Home, Acton, February 1 with pallbearers grandsons Wayne King, Stanley McEnery, Jim Reid, Tim Garton, Steve Garton and Bruce Coles.

## Fisher strikes . . .

(Continued from B1)

education levy takes 53.2 per cent. "Less than 7 per cent difference, yet we are providing the services covering the areas served by both local and regional councils."

She challenged Armstrong's statement the board had major problems, admitting they had a major problem making sure the board recovered the \$6 million intact, but were finished with that.

Turning to Armstrong's jibe at their concern with the affect of Pay TV on children, Fisher contended part of education is the way children function in society. "Surely Armstrong wouldn't ask us to abandon that mission to constantly look at dollars as if we were producing tin cans in our schools."

She stressed the trustees are always concerned about the impact of their financial dealings on the taxpayer, and stated, "we and only we are accountable to them and the senior people from other bodies should stay out of our business. The taxpayers of Halton Hills will see it's not the council's problem to take care of these concerns."

secondary panel (level).

Board vice-chairman Betty Fisher pointed out the ministry of education is looking at program needs of the students, computer literacy in grades 9 and 10 and then expanding into science and other programs, and then into actual computer technology. In Brathwaite's report to the board she could see no mention of technology. She stressed students have to become literate, and then learn how to service them.

Taxpayer M. Donelan attended the board meeting and warned the trustees against the dangers of computers. He stressed they are addictive, and while as a teachers' aid the machines can be useful, as slaves they can be dangerous.

Using computers as a tool, of teachers' aid, is a legitimate use, but not for children's use. He felt they could learn the basics to retrieve specific information from them, but only that.

But the computer can be extremely seductive, he warned. He said the machine is a powerful tool that tempts the student, and robs him of his desire to want to learn other things. His development is limited, he added. The problems the student solves are the computers, not his own.

In elementary schools, Donelan said, the students should learn why things are the way they are, not just use what's there.

To further emphasize how he felt, Donelan, who himself works with computers, explained that some mathematical problems, depending on how they are worked out, can result in different answers. If the student just tells the computer to give him the answer, the student is not learning how to do it himself.

### Bannockburn WI

## Metric study

The Bannockburn Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. Keith Cairns in Georgetown February 8 and after enjoying a dessert luncheon, the president opened the meeting, with a reading, "Ladies Does This Description Fit Your Job"

After the roll call was answered and the minutes and business were dealt with, Linda read a poem, "The First Day of School."

The program for the meeting was a study of the metric system conducted by the president.

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## Board spending hike maximum 8% in '83

The proposed 1983 Halton Board of Education budget has already been trimmed enough that there will only be maximum eight per cent increase in expenditures. Also, more work will be done on the budget and Georgetown Trustee Betty Fisher says the 1983 increase could wind up being as low as three or four per cent.

Fisher and Acton Trustee Arlene Bruce attended Friday's ward one councillors' drop-in in Acton to discuss the new board budget, past spending practices, and the fiasco over the board's \$6.5 million investment with Crown Trust.

The eight per cent maximum increase in the budget has resulted from close scrutiny of all board spending and costs, and has been achieved without the board having to make any cuts in programs in the schools.

In working out the budget the trustees and staff have been conservative in their projections of provincial grants for 1983, they are budgeting for less revenue from Queen's Park than they reasonably can expect, so Fisher predicted the actual budget increase could wind up being as low as three or four per cent.

She noted the current budget prediction of an eight per cent increase is over last year's actual spending, not the budget for 1982. The board had a \$3.4 million surplus last year, so that extra money above actual spending in 1982 is being used to reduce the 1983 revenue requirements.

The administration brought the trustees a proposed budget close to the target of eight per cent maximum increase est-

ablished at the outset by the board. Councillor Dave Whiting said the Town and region proposed budgets for this year are also close to the targets set by council, so a lot of cutting won't be needed on them either. The region budget is already "cut to the bone".

Halton Hills budget committee chairman Ross Knechtel described the board budget as a "dirty" one to draft since there is more guess work involved in determining the level of provincial grants for the year. One reason the board budget is tougher to do, Fisher explained, is that Queen's Park bases board grants on market value assessment while municipal grants are based on the old assessment system still in use in Halton Hills.

In answer to a question, Fisher said the board spends about \$100 million a year on employee wages and benefits, \$9.5 million a month, and that's why funds like the \$6.5 million invested with Crown Trust must be available to the board. Bruce pointed out the board employs 2,934 as school staff and another 238 people in other positions.

Fisher said the board's finance committee directed staff to prioritize every budget item, and that made it easier to do things like quickly chop \$1.4 million

### ROOTS IN THE CRUSADES

St. John Amulance traces its roots to the Crusades, and an order of knights who tended the ill and injured. It was reborn in its modern form in England in the 1870's. It began in Canada in 1883, with a first aid course in Quebec City.

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