

Farmed for 40 years not bona fide farmer?

Bertha Herensberger has farmed for the past 40 years near 15 Sideroad and Highway 25, but Halton regional planners don't think she is a bona fide farmer entitled to a retirement lot.

Mrs. Herensberger wants to sever 7.9 acres for a retirement home and small sheep farm, from her 35 acre farm where she has been raising sheep for many years.

R. Cunningham, acting as agent for Mrs. Herensberger explained the Niagara Escarpment Commission had issued a development permit. He stressed she is a bona fide farmer having received her income from the farm for the last 40 years, and contended the 7.9 acre parcel would remain a viable small sheep farm, which she wants to continue operating. The remaining 27 acres would also remain a farm operation, he pointed out.

Nancy Giles, regional planner, said the lot doesn't fall within the Speyside rural cluster area, and the applicant is not regarded as a bona fide farmer.

"If someone who has lived on a farm for 40 years and has raised sheep all that time is not a bona fide farmer, I don't know what a bona fide farmer is," stated committee

member Dolly Moulden.

Stella Parton, another committee member, wondered if the region has trouble seeing a female as a farmer, and suggested the question would not have arisen if the applicant was male. "I've known her for a great many years and I've always looked on her as a farmer. She had cows too. She was the one who did all the farm work all these years."

LDC member Lloyd Chisholm contended the owners had done very well on this farm considering the type of land. "They used the land to the best of its capacity."

Challenging a Ministry of Agriculture and Food statement that the severance would not create two viable farm units, but rather two estate residential lots, Moulden claimed no-one visited the site. She said the two portions are already divided by bush and swamp, and pointed out this particular method is the only way the land could be severed. She noted sheep have been raised on the piece of land in the past and could see no reason why it could not continue.

The LDC granted the severance, but the regional planner warned the region may launch an appeal.

French Immersion under board scrutiny

By Alex Matheson

The Halton Board of Education is considering congregating children wishing French immersion so as to guarantee the viability of classes for both those with French interests and those wishing the basic English program.

Since French immersion is an optional program and English the basic, if any students have to travel it will be those wishing French immersion, said Dianne Pennock, co-ordinator of languages for the board.

The board is committed, she said, to guaranteeing the accessibility of an English program in all schools, regardless of whether it is the minority who want English and the majority who want French immersion.

It may be, she said, that in a school the total number of students wanting the English program in Grades 1, 2 and 3 is insufficient for a single class and three grade splits are undesirable.

With congregation and requisite transport of children wishing French immersion, there would be more commitment on the part of parents opting for it, she said. Therefore, the numbers moving would be less, increasing the likelihood that the English program would remain viable.

By congregating those wishing French immersion, the continued viability of the

program in that school can be assured. In the past, if parents could demonstrate that there were enough children to create a class, it would be started.

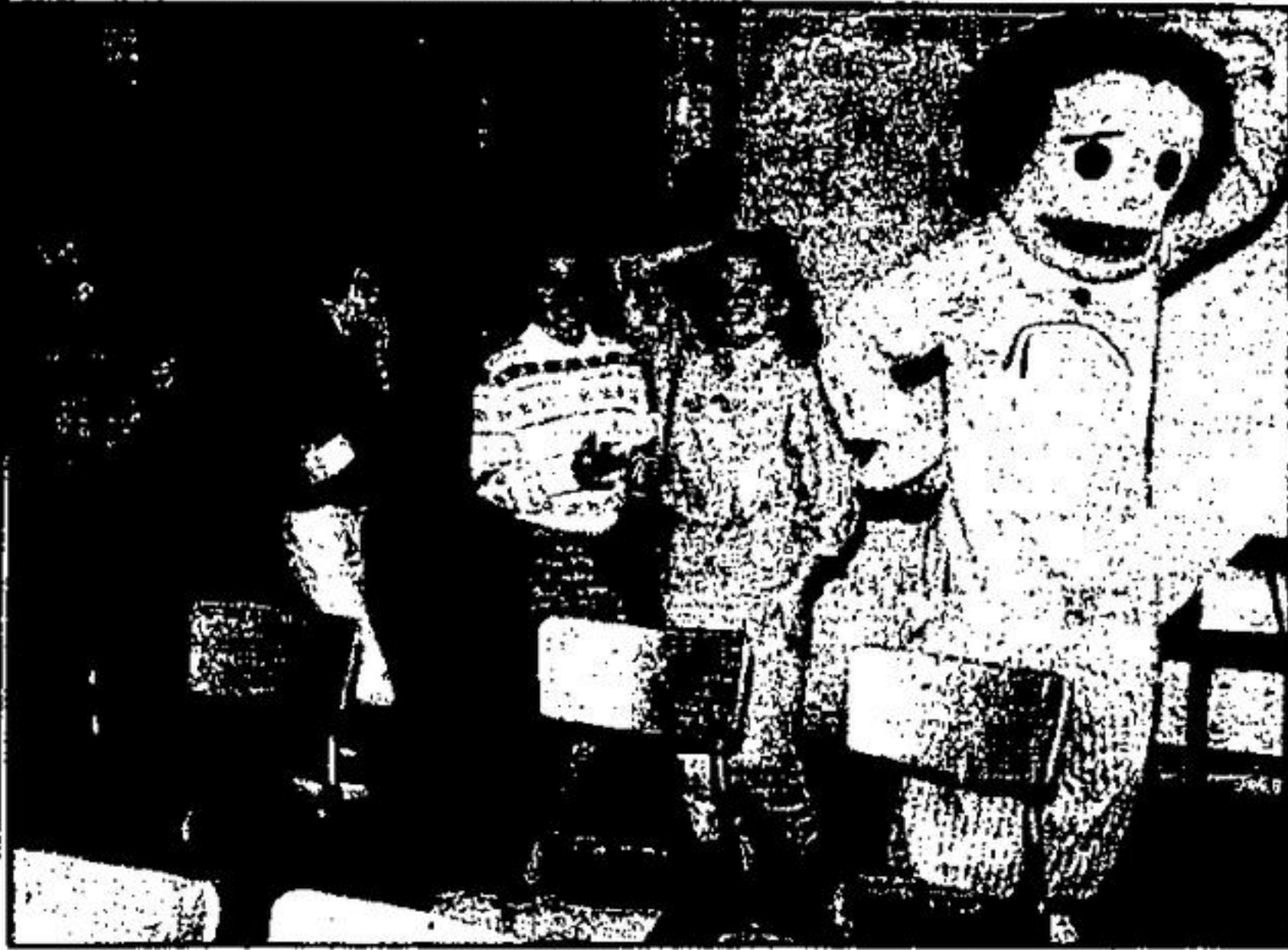
Under the proposed policy, the board will have to be assured that the program will be viable for a number of years and not just the one the parents are petitioning for, said trustee Dick Howitt.

The former system, he said, has created situations where there is one class of French immersion in a school moving through the system, with none following because there was insufficient parental interest in the following years.

Howitt said this situation removes the flexibility of the school and threatens the viability of classes, since attrition is common in the immersions program.

If a school is small and has one class of English and one of French immersion in a single grade, said Pennock, the likelihood is that the French proportion will drop and the English increase. The result may be a small immersion class and a large English, and little flexibility to rearrange the classes.

Howitt said when and how the congregating will take place has yet to be decided. Location of other schools offering French immersion and accessibility to transportation would be factors in making a decision.



Doug Beard was Bozo the clown at the Salvation Army's Vacation Bible School held last week. Bozo was on hand each day to entertain the children.



Cadet Mrs. Maureen Graham was happy to give Sonya Gordon a helping hand with one of her crafts at the Salvation Army Vacation Bible School last week.



Robert Young played the accordion for children attending the Salvation Army's Vacation Bible School held last week in conjunction with the March break.

This week thru the lens



Cathrine Hymne was busy doing some coloring at the Salvation Army Vacation Bible School held last week as part of the March break activities.

Vacation Bible School



Cadet Maureen Graham closes her eyes to one of the boys in the Salvation Army Vacation Bible school activities who decided to stick out his tongue at one of the puppets used to entertain the children.



Over 70 children participated in the activities at the Salvation Army Vacation Bible School held last week.

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