

Arlene Bruce sings the praises of professional development days

Very little of those nine days for professional activities in the 1984-85 school year will actually be devoted to teacher professional development, according to Acton Trustee Arlene Bruce.

Thursday, Halton Board of Education approved the school calendar for next year. Bruce said only four of the elementary school professional activity days will be used for professional development and even less time at the secondary school level, 1 1/2 days.

Most of the professional activity days will be used for parent interviews and opening and closing schools, she said.

It is fortunate that teachers carry on so much professional development on their own, Bruce said, because the board's giving them little time for it. Teachers take summer courses, attend night school, go to seminars and workshops, etc., regularly, she said.

Teachers need professional development, Bruce explained, because they must be kept

up to date on new teaching methods, new provincial requirements, new directions in education. There are many things a teacher must learn that wasn't part of the basic training in school.

Professional development days are needed in Halton and Bruce noted there is a committee working now to develop new methods of "delivering" this service.

She urged trustees approve the professional activity days, which they did.

Gourmet tour to Mennonite country May 10

What better way to spend a sunny spring day, than the joy of gourmet-tipping in the country? Waterloo County and its Mennonite heritage provides an opportunity to sample homemade specialties, to browse through food shops, quaint country restaurants, and superb farmers' markets.

Among the specialties are black bottom shoe-fly pie, crumble-topped coffee cake, maple sugar candy and syrup, tummy on rosettes, sticky cinnamon rolls, and apple butter.

This Ladies Outtrip Day is being organized by the YMCA and is scheduled for Thursday, May 17. Cost \$8, lunch not included. Since there is a limited number of seats on the semi-coach bus, you are asked to register by Thursday, May 10. Call 877-6163 or 877-7855-9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday to register.

The day will start with a visit to the 11-year-old famous Waterloo Country Farmer's Market. From there travel through fine examples of Waterloo County villages such as Heidelberg, St. Clements and Crosshill to finally arrive at the Linwood Tavern where owners Friede and Guenter Jessel will welcome with a country-style feast. Lunch will include such favourites as wiener schnitzel, cabbage rolls, assorted fish, etc. After lunch, travel north to Elmira, a town which attracts thousands every spring with its Maple Syrup Festival and beautiful shops.

Schools go 'wet'

Eight North Halton public schools will now be available to community groups to rent for "wet" functions.

Thursday night Halton Board of Education approved criteria for the rental of school facilities for functions where liquor permits will be sought.

The designed schools in Halton Hills are Georgetown High School, Acton High School, Limehouse School, Pineview School, and Speyside School. Milton High School, Brookville School and Kilbride School are also designated.

A number of trustees opposed the measure because alcohol has no place in the schools and the board wouldn't be setting a good example to children.

Trustee Anne Fairfield said licensing of functions in schools is a pilot project and will be monitored closely. She noted groups wanting to raise money for schools are finding their profits reduced because they have to rent other facilities so they can serve liquor at the event. She noted functions where liquor is served are allowed at Halton Separate School Board facilities. The board isn't trying to compete with private enterprise either, she added.

The board was "stepping out of line" in letting people get liquor permits for functions in the schools, Trustee Jim Clelland observed.

That was Trustee Ivan Armstrong's attitude in the past, the Milton representative said, but once the board allowed a function with liquor for one school last year the door was open for other requests. He said the board criteria offers a "fair amount of control."

There are already enough places where liquor is sold, Trustee Bill Priestner said. That may be the case in south Halton, Trustee Dick Howitt countered, but it isn't in North Halton and that's why there are more designated schools in the north. Howitt said he had also been opposed at one point, "We aren't doing this lightly and without trepidation." However, he felt there were sufficient controls so he would support the pilot program. He warned he expects the new policy to be dropped if the program doesn't work out.

Trustee Arlene Bruce was worried about wedding plans, etc., being ruined when the board could cancel a function without notice. However, Fairfield said this clause in rental agreements was necessary to protect the board in the event of a problem such as a furnace breakdown.

Student alcohol abuse is a big problem, Trustee Len Crozier observed, alcohol was a factor in a couple of tragic accidents recently involving school children. He said alcohol shouldn't be allowed in schools. Elaine Rhiem thought the agreement was fine, but she also favored keeping alcohol out of schools.

To drink

At a cost of \$10,776, USC Canada is sponsoring a program to desalinate ground water for more than 1,000 desert dwellers in the Kalahari region of drought-stricken Botswana. Available water is too salty for either animal or human consumption. Some settlement women walk 65 kilometres to the closest source of fresh water. USC Canada is at 56 Sparks, Ottawa, K1P 5B1.

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TOWN OF HALTON HILLS RECREATION REPORT

SIGN UP FOR SUMMER NOW!

The Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department is accepting registration for all their children's summer activity programs. Most programs are \$25.00 per week, full days with reduced rates for additional children registering from the same family and summer long special rates. Day passes can also be purchased at \$5.00/day. MAIL IN your registration using the form in our Spring and Summer brochure or drop in to either Recreation Office—40 Mill Street, East, Acton OR 25 James Street, Georgetown.

MASTERS SWIMMING

The Acton Swimming Pool and the Georgetown Swimming Pool will be offering a new Masters Swimming Program on a limited basis this Spring, starting immediately. This is a recreational competitive swimming program for Adults who would like to keep in shape. The program will be held on Tuesday evenings from 8:30-9:30 in Acton; and from 9:00-10:00 in Georgetown. Please call the swimming pool for more information after 6:00 p.m. Acton—863-3140; Georgetown—877-7721.

DAY TIME SWIMMING

The day time swims at the Georgetown Swimming Pool will be held from 11:30-12:30 Monday, Wednesday and Friday until May 4. After this date, the swims will be from 11:45-12:45. These swims are designed for adults but pre-schoolers are welcome if their parent swims with them.

FITNESS FACT

In an average lifetime, a pair of feet will walk approximately 125,000 kilometers—or the equivalent of three times around the world! Get involved in the Participation Fitness Challenge, Wednesday, May 16th, 1984. As an individual, just exercise for 15 continuous minutes and report your physical activity using the "Nelson's Hotline" 873-1881.

Groups can pick up registration forms to record their participation at either Recreation Office—Acton, 40 Mill Street East, —Georgetown, 25 James Street. OR The Halton Hills Herald/Independent Newspapers OR JT Sports, Acton/North Halton Sports, Georgetown.

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