

Board of Education

Bruce asks trustees to revote on rent rates

There are many inconsistencies in the School Board's new rental rates approved last month, according to Trustee Arlene Bruce and she is asking the Board to reconsider their votes.

In an almost unprecedented move Bruce entered a trustee's notice of motion at last week's Board meeting asking trustees to send the rates back for re-examination.

"I agree there needs to be a change in rental rates but without any inconsistencies," the trustee said in an interview.

Bruce wants the Community Schools Administration Committee who produced the rates to more clearly define and categorize the groups that use the school giving special reconsideration to non-profit organizations especially those concerning children.

Dramatic increases in the new rates could mean the disbanding of an organization who cannot find other accommodation, Bruce

said. For example the rent for the Acton Co-Operative Nursery will be going up from \$100 to approximately \$273 in January 1985, she said adding it is a pretty substantial increase which may create difficulties.

Other inconsistencies include who is allowed free use of the schools, Bruce said. As it stands now the wording says: "certain groups such as the following are permitted free use of the schools for their regular meetings—Home and School Associations, Ratepayers Association, recognized Board employees groups, Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies."

The words "such as" allow for judgement calls on the part of school officials in each Education Centre, Bruce said. For example a group in the East who approaches a principal who then explains their situation to the Centre may get free use of school while a group in the North who does not follow this method may not, she said.

People should not have to know the right

ropes to get free use of schools, the trustee said. It should be cut and dried with everyone in the entire region getting the same rates for the same type of group, Bruce said, adding with this policy, it will not happen.

"There are no guidelines to what constitutes a group's eligibility for free use. We need some clarification of which category, groups fall into," Bruce said.

The new rates also call for the groups to pay for a part of the school's operating and maintenance costs including the caretaker's fee. Bruce said she accepts that caretakers are a built-in cost that no one can do anything about but she does not understand why all the costs must be added.

She said that these costs would have to be covered whether the schools were rented or not and it just makes the rates phenomenal. For example, Bruce said if a person rents an auditorium for a Sunday wedding from noon to midnight the cost is \$107 per hour plus

double time for the caretaker bringing the total to \$1,500. The Acton Curling Hall is rented for the same time period for one-tenth of the price and the Acton Legion charges a maximum of one-quarter of the price, Bruce said.

The trustees did not have this type of rent comparison available to them when they voted on the rates, Bruce said. She said she expects to get some support for her motion at the next board meeting when they see how affected some groups may be.

"It is incomprehensible to say facilities are available to the public and then charge incredible amounts of money. It just does not add up. We need to go back to review," Bruce said at the August 23 meeting when she opposed the approval of the rates.

If Bruce's motion is carried, the rental rates will be sent back to the committee for re-examination and trustees will vote later on a new package.



Arlene Bruce has asked the Halton Board of Education to re-examine rent rates because of inconsistencies.



newsmakers

Georgetown/Acton, Wednesday, October 3, 1984

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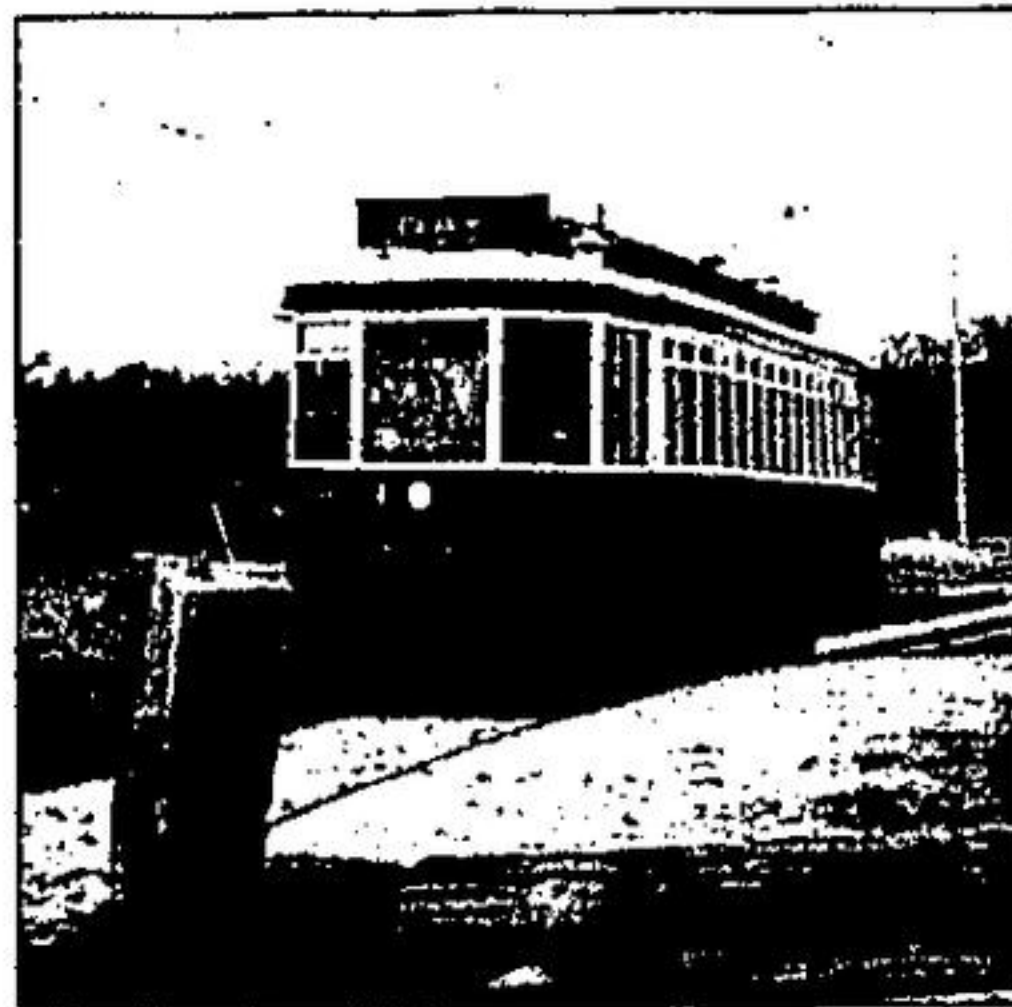


No. 55 streetcar pulls into the Rockwood Station at the Halton County Radial Railway Museum at last Sunday's Fall Extravaganza

Day, No. 55 was built in 1915 and used by the Toronto Civic Railway. The Rockwood Station was also restored and used for a museum.



No. 55's conductor tells his passenger on the street car about the Halton County Radial Railway Museum at its Fall Extravaganza last Sunday. It has 14 operable pieces of electric railway equipment such as street cars and several other pieces under restoration. The moving museum is manned by volunteers.



It was Fall Extravaganza Day at the "moving museum"—the Halton County Radial Railway Museum on the Guelph Line near Rockwood last Sunday. It has 14 operable pieces of electric railway equipment such as street cars with several other pieces under restoration. The museum will be holding its Christmas Fiesta the first Sunday in December.

Homicides, shortfalls creating budget havoc

Halton's unprecedented seven homicides this year have combined with rising gasoline costs to play havoc with the police department's operating budget.

Burlington Councillor Jim Grievie, a member of the Halton Police Commission, mentioned the extra workload created by the murders in defence of substantially increased costs for police "executive cars".

While higher gas prices are the main culprit, he told the administration and finance committee last week, a large number of Halton police officers have been tied up with murder investigations often involving trips to other southern Ontario centres.

"When the perpetrators and victims are from London or Guelph, the costs are significantly more," he said. "We get results, though. You'll notice there were three people arrested on one homicide in Guelph Tuesday."

Overspending by the police department was only one factor among dozens examined by the committee last week as treasurer Joe Rinaldo submitted his second in a series of

reports on 1985 budget variances. Rinaldo told councillors that provincial subsidies for three different Halton agencies and services were far below expected this year. The grant for Halton Centennial Manor was \$200,000 below the amount requested, for the Children's Aid Society \$140,000 and for general health services \$41,000 lower.

In the hope of alleviating the difference, he said, Regional staff will continue negotiating with officials of the ministries of health and community and social services for the full amounts requested. Staff will also continue restricting "controllable expenditures" and pay close attention to budget variances, Rinaldo said.

"It really bothers me that you have all these high-priced people sitting around all day negotiating," Oakville Councillor Carol Gooding commented.

Rinaldo acknowledged that it is "very time-consuming and very frustrating" process, especially for Halton's program supervisors who can't implement new programs until the end of the year because the funding is not yet settled.

Provisions for disabled inadequate at Region

When it was built in 1976, Halton Region's administration headquarters on Hwy. 25 was among the first public buildings in Ontario to incorporate special means of access for the handicapped. Councillors learned last week, though, that their provisions are inadequate.

The building's front entrance features a clearly marked wheelchair ramp that would appear at first glance to meet the needs of the physically handicapped. It includes a 180-degree turn partway up its narrow aisle, however, and brings the handicapped visitor to a double set of outward swinging doors that have been called "impossible for the disabled to use."

Members of the Region's administration and finance committee last week agreed that electronically-activated sliding doors

are needed, as well as a new ramp and special washroom facilities.

They'll await a more detailed report on the shortcomings and recommended options before taking action.

Chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin noted that \$10,000 was budgeted this year for remodelling the doors and predicted that a new ramp will cost \$15,000 and the revamped washrooms \$6,000. He suggested correcting the doors this year and leaving the washroom work until next year.

Calling the \$31,000 "an insignificant sum", though, Oakville Councillor Carol Gooding contended that all the work should be done this year. Treasurer Joe Rinaldo acknowledged that the budget is flexible enough to accommodate all the work.

Small business help \$30

Small businessmen might have a better chance to meet everyone's expectations and provide "the keystone to Canada's economic recovery" after a \$30 brainstorming session with the new Halton Business Advisory Group, councillors were told last week.

Regional chairman Pete Pomeroy revisited his old Town council chambers to introduce Advisory Group chairman Bill McAllister to members of the General Committee.

"There's been a need for some time for someone to lend an ear to small business," McAllister said. "We'll provide the listening post."

McAllister told councillors the group was incorporated September 21 as a non-profit organization. The \$30 fee its members will

charge small business owners for an initial consultation "is just enough to cover our expenses," he said.

A small business proprietor in Burlington for 45 years, McAllister was asked to define the term "small business".

"If you reach into your pocket on Friday afternoon to meet the payroll, then you're a small business," he laughed.

Joining McAllister on the group are about a dozen retired corporate executives who believe their business expertise could benefit small-scale entrepreneurs unable to afford employees experienced in certain functions.

The group can be contacted through the Region's Business Development Office at 878-8113.

Teachers become students for a day

Teachers will be the students Friday when they learn new teaching techniques during the Board of Education's Professional Activity (PA) day for elementary schools.

With the introduction of many new Education Acts, teachers are being faced with a number of students with a diversity of needs, said Peter Noble, incharge of Professional Development and School Holidays.

Teachers, for example, must be trained how to deal with handicapped children entering the classrooms for the first time due to the Home Care Act. This Act entitles a child to an education at a school when he

was previously being taught at home due to his handicaps, Noble said.

The theme for Oct. 5 is review, development and implementation. In the morning Halton Hills teachers will be present at seminars run by the Board's curriculum services. These seminars deal with the changing technology, new resources to use, innovation in teaching techniques and development of programs.

A seminar at Centennial School will deal with behavioral management in the classroom for primary and junior teachers. It is a workshop in which a teacher will learn how

to handle various behavior problems of a student or a class as a whole.

Another seminar held at Centennial will teach the teachers new and practical ways of teaching music to intermediate students.

Basically the workshops set out clearly for the teacher what to do, with what and how, Noble said.

In the afternoon, programs will be run by the principal, the school's PA committee or the superintendent. These sessions will deal with the school's own goals for the school year. Teachers will detail and refine what objectives they want to reach with their students. For example one school may emphasize French in their classrooms this year and the teachers will develop and coordinate the expansion of the language into the classrooms, Noble said.

"PA days are days in which teachers work in the school without the kids there and they can carry on their work without the responsibility of the children," Noble said.

All the teachers must participate in the PA programs Noble said. There are nine PA days during the year. Other PA days are set aside for parent teacher interviews or for school and classroom organization.

Noble said the children do not miss any school time since the Ministry sets aside nine days in the school year in addition to school days. Parents should think of it as business who are giving their employees a training session on how to deal with a new line of products, Noble said.

...while the students play

It's Professional Activity Day for the elementary schools on Friday and parents will be scratching their heads to figure out what to do with the kids. Never fear the community organizations are here.

The Recreation and Parks department are holding a free skating session in the afternoon at the Acton Arena from 2.30 to 3.50 p.m. and at the Georgetown Memorial Arena from 1-2 p.m. The Acton skate is sponsored by Acton Rotary Club while the bill for the Georgetown skate is footed by the Optimist Club.

The Recreation Department in Acton is also running a program for the entire day of games, activities and skating at the Acton YMCA. There is also extended care from

8.15 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. for parents who work. Call the Acton Recreation Department at 877-5185, ext. 219 or 853-1540 to sign up.

At both libraries there will be a puppet workshop. Children will be shown how to make puppets as well as putting on their own show. This program is two hours long starting at noon. The Georgetown registration is full but there is still room at the Acton library.

The Georgetown YMCA will be holding their PA Adventure Club from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with extended care from 7.15 a.m. to 6.15 p.m. Activities include bowling, movies, bingo, crafts and prizes. Register in person at the YMCA.