

"DEVELOPES RESPONSIBILITY"

Trustees, Administrators Split On 'Old-Fashioned Homework'

The old idea of homework as a teacher of self-discipline and good study habits appeared to be more attractive to trustees than to administrators at Halton County Board of Education meeting Thursday.

The board was discussing on a staff survey of homework assignments in Halton schools.

RESPONSIBILITY
Vice chairman John Ronson, taking the chair this week, said good study habits need not necessarily be taught through assignment of homework but should be taught by some method.

Trustee Mrs. Judy Alexander said one of the main values of homework in her school days was that it taught a sense of responsibility because the child had to make a choice between it and more tempting alternatives.

BETTER THINGS
Assistant to the education director, E. M. Lavender, said these values are still taught the students, although different teachers reach the goal in different ways, including through homework assignments.

"Just to assign assignments, it's stupid," said Burlington trustee George Pelletier.

He said elementary school students have better things to

learn around the home, and homework for them should be limited to assignments, not completed in school.

LINKS HOME, SCHOOL
Trustee Bill Priestner favored more homework because it lets parents keep abreast of what their children are doing in school.

"I think this is a great vehicle to join the school and the home together," he said.

The homework survey showed very little homework is assigned before Grade 7 beyond completion of unfinished assign-

ments and the occasional project.

LAST MINUTE
Grade 7 and 8 have a small amount of regular homework in many schools, while high school students average anywhere from an hour or more per night in Grade 9 to as much as three hours in Grade 13.

In all cases slower learners or those requiring remedial work will have more homework and the tendency of many students to leave things to the last minute often means they have to work much longer than usual on certain nights.

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innumerable. These benefits to the town far outweigh any benefits that might accrue from the alternative proposal: 100 or so new houses. It is naive to argue that 100 additional houses will restore the viability of the downtown business area when the imminent "Brumac" development will settle up to 11,000 new residents at the extreme south end of town. What impact will Brumac have on downtown?

It is unfortunate that some members of council feel that a choice must be made between this woodland and the Silver Creek valley lands. We need both areas since they serve different parts of town and support different kinds of plant and animal communities. And we need as many natural areas as possible if we are to avoid ruining such areas by overcrowding and over using them.

The battle is not yet over! The decision to retain this property was the result of a tie-vote. The woodland is still zoned for residential use. Two things are still required: 1. Vigilance—the town may receive further offers for this land and therefore those of us who want this area preserved must make ourselves heard; 2. Rezoning and possibly dedication of the land to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

Does your councillor know your views?
Yours truly,
Roger Frost

BALLINAFAD
There was just a fair crowd at the dance in the community centre on Friday night, sponsored by the Scouts and Cubs organization. But those who did attend had an enjoyable time dancing with music supplied by Johnston's Orchestra.

Miss Julia Eckert is convalescing at her home after undergoing surgery at the Georgetown hospital last week. She was suddenly stricken with an attack of appendicitis which made the operation necessary.

IN THE MAIL BAG

"Town Needs to Save Both Cedar Woodlot, Valley," Says Writer

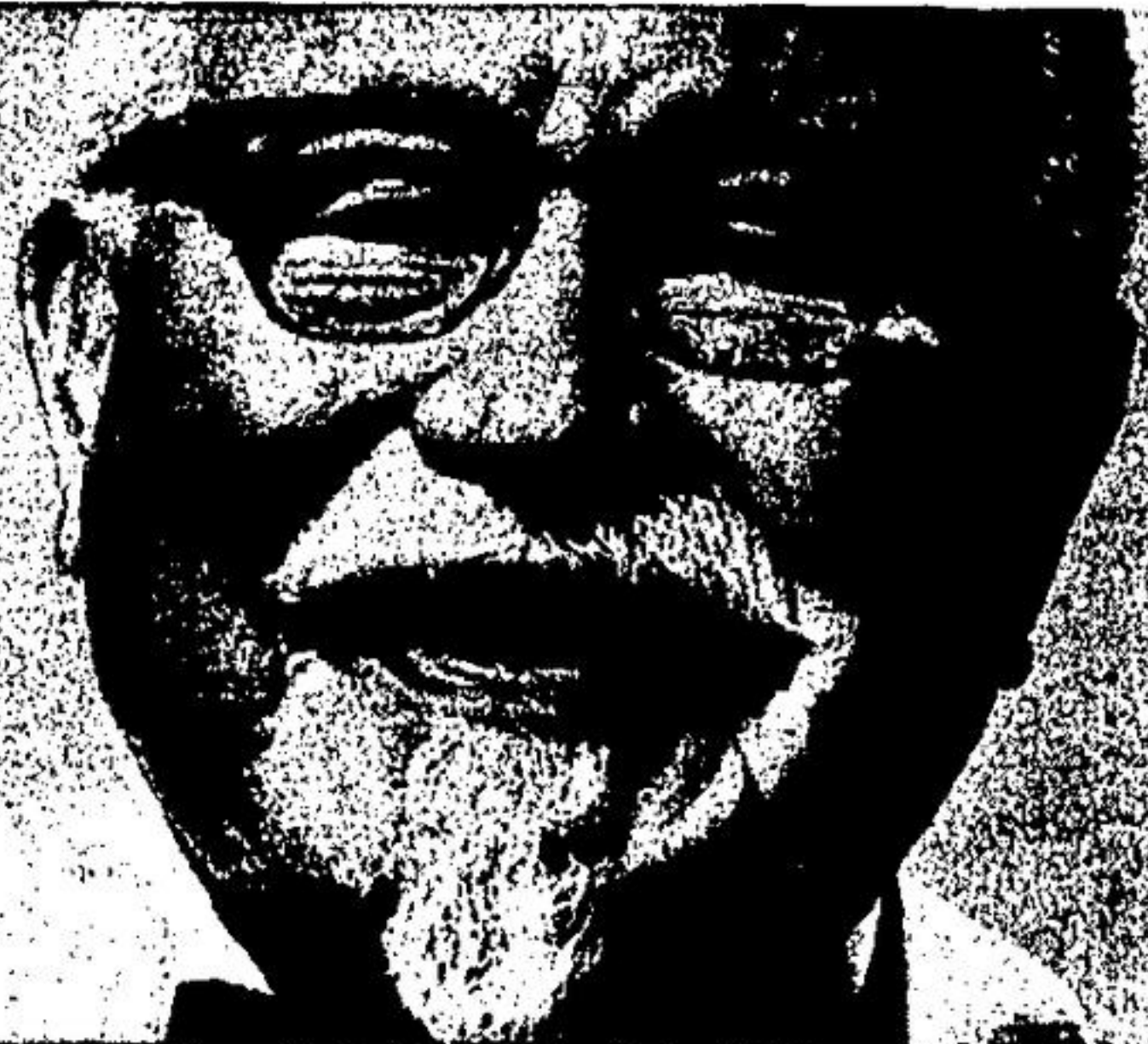
Willowbank, 35 Park St. Princess Anne Drive (R. Morrow, P. Siddall, A. Speight and J. Smith). As they so clearly pointed out the scenic, recreational and ecological values of the existing cedar woodland are

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