

Says Trustee's Survey Insults Intelligence Of Norval Committee and Ratepayers

Dear Sir: Perhaps this is not the best time to write a letter to the Editor, because right now I am so mad I could spit! Then again maybe it is a good time because I will say exactly what I think. I have just finished reading the article in your newspaper which says that our so-called representative on the School Board, Mr. William Lawson, is going to conduct a personal survey of the parents of the children in Norval school to find out if they would rather (1) keep their children in Norval school with no hope of expansion and ultimate closure anyway, or (2) send them to a school in Georgetown by bus.

After the work that the committee for the Norval and District Ratepayers put in to make sure that they did the most complete and accurate survey possible to ascertain the feelings of the people in this matter this action by Mr. Lawson shows unmitigated gall and is a direct insult to the intelligence of the men and women on that committee and to the people of Norval and District who elected him.

When the original article appeared in the Georgetown Herald stating that the Board was considering closing Norval school, the residents of this district expressed great concern over this possibility and a meeting was arranged with members of the school board to make known our feelings against this action.

Our illustrious member showed up well-armed with the big guns from the administration office (from whom I believe he takes his orders) and the group had been made in this matter (not true so far as the administration was concerned) and then proceeded to try and confuse us with ridiculous statements about sewers, lot sizes, proposed subdivisions in the area which have not been approved, and the disadvantages under which our children learn. We were not confused, we were disgusted! We all felt, as one of our Esqueusing council members put it, that we were getting a snow-job.

Subsequent to this meeting, another meeting of the citizens of this area took place in which we elected a committee to represent us to look into the matters brought up by the Board and the Administrators and to make known the views of the people to the entire board. This committee has laboured long and hard. They have painstakingly contacted every family possible in this area, including the Peel side of Norval, they have done research into sewer systems and lot sizes, they

have read reams of information on education and community environment and they have consulted educators and sociologists in their efforts to look at all sides of the question. The result was a brief presented to the board of education for the county of Halton on April 8, '71. This brief was presented by audio-visual means to the board and took approximately one hour. It was a masterpiece of logic, and common sense, and plainly illustrated the amount of research which had gone into it. I know I was there as a spectator. This brief was received by the majority of the board with courtesy, thoughtfulness and respect. The only jarring notes being the whispering and smirking of two administrators that I particularly noticed and the nit picking of Mr. Lawson, which incidentally was answered with facts. The aforesaid brief was presented to the board in written form at the end of the meeting and will shortly be available to the residents of Norval and district as well. The survey completed by the committee was also made available to the board.

Obviously Mr. Lawson has not read this brief nor has he contacted our committee to obtain the results of its survey. I might also add that several people that I know of (including myself) wrote letters to Mr.

Lawson prior to the presentation of the brief, which he did not even have the courtesy to acknowledge or answer.

It seems to me that the school system in our county is being run by a group of administrators who, in order to justify their existence and their high salaries, feel that they have to bring in something new to our schools. It doesn't matter whether it has been proven better or not, so long as it is new and disrupts systems which are already in existence.

A great many of the parents I have talked to in this area have stated that in talking to the teachers of the schools which their children subsequently attended (Sr. public or high school) those teachers told their parents that pupils from Norval have measured up as well if not above the standards of pupils from larger schools. Far

from being deprived, our children are being well educated. Of course I do not expect the teachers who have made these statements to reiterate them publicly since it seems to have been the policy of the administration to weed out those teachers who have personal opinions which do not agree with its own. Most people in this day and age have to consider on which side their bread is buttered.

In conclusion I would like to say to Mr. Lawson that our community school in Norval not only educates our children well but imparts to them a sense of belonging in, and loyalty to their community, and gives them a set of values which our world sorely needs today. I for one am determined to have a voice in how my own children grow up and since I'm also paying for it I expect my representatives on the school board to be a true representative of the people and not the puppet of an administration seeking to feather its own nest. You may add this letter to your personal survey Mr. Lawson, when you inform the other board members of your findings.

Yours truly
Mrs. Pearl Guthrie

Halton County Tosses Out War Defoliant

Over-riding the road committee recommendation to use the controversial weed spray 2,4,5-T, Halton County Council, Tuesday afternoon decided to throw it

out and use another spray. The weed killer, used as a defoliant in Vietnam came under heavy attack by various groups, including Pollution Probe, the Oakville and District Rod and Gun Club and the Halton Region Environmental Protection Assoc. as dangerous to drinking water, especially dangerous to pregnant women who were said to give birth to deformed babies.

FIND SUPPORT

Road chairman James Swanborough, reeve of Burlington, had been out-voted in his own committee when he opposed the use of 2,4,5-T, but found support in county council when he made the motion to use 2,4-D Amine and Atlacide instead.

In committee county engineer Jack Corbett had stated he would feel better if 2,4,5-T were not used. He said the spray he suggested, the 2,4-D Amine and Atlacide, would leave the roadsides brown for a longer time but otherwise would have the desired effect on the weeds.

\$500 MORE

Swanborough pointed out that the new weed killer, now okayed by council, would cost \$500 more than the one which had caused so much controversy. The total cost for weed killer is now \$2,970.

Deputy reeve Art Speight of Georgetown was opposed to the switch, saying the government agencies said it was safe. "Why do we have a weed inspector, and send him to University of Guelph for a course on weed control if we don't accept his recommendations," he asked.

END CONTROVERSY

"Will this move stop all controversy," asked deputy reeve Dave Coons, Burlington.

"I don't know," replied Swanborough, "but I do know we are not using the famous Vietnam spray."

He said he couldn't guarantee this one was completely safe, but it was generally considered to be safer than 2,4,5-T.

LODGING PROTEST

Earlier in the meeting Mrs. Paul Heron, of Oakville told council she was strongly opposed to the use of 2,4,5-T, and said she was lodging a protest for the Pollution Probe group in Oakville.

She said even if it weren't considered harmful in proper amounts and with proper usage, she felt human error in using it might cause harm.

Warden Frank Oakes assured her the county employees who used it were licensed weed-sprayers.

Deputy reeve Harry Barret of Oakville said he was opposed as was the engineer and the road chairman.

Kinettes Will Sport Purple Pant Suits

Georgetown Kinettes made their nominations for the 1971 executive, conducted a business meeting and then went bowling at Sportman Bowl after a nomination night dinner, April 8.

Election night, May 13, will take the form of a pot luck supper at the home of Mrs. Marilyn Sunucks.

One of the items of business was an announcement by president Mrs. Donna Diegel that material was available for a club costume, a purple pant suit with contrasting scarf, cost of which would be assumed by each member.

RUNMAGE SALES PROFIT
Mrs. Rosine Levy reported a \$112 profit from the two recent rummage sales. The money will boost the Education Trust Fund used for the high school bursaries in the fall.

A motion was passed to pay for glasses for two local children.

Volunteers agreed to assist the Kinsmen Girls Baseball Registration on April 30, May 1 and 8. The Kinettes have been asked to cater for a buffet at the Kin Casino Night, May 15.

END OF MARATHON
Shirley McColeman announced the Marathon Bridge wind-up will be held at her home on April 29th with the following bridge players taking part — G. Cantwell, S. Edwards, H. Gibbons, E. Leslie, M. Collier, R. Mitchell, J. Thompson, A. Pritchard, P. Schenk, N. Goldham, M. Mackenzie, O. Logan, E. Hill, M. Gilmer, J. Macken-

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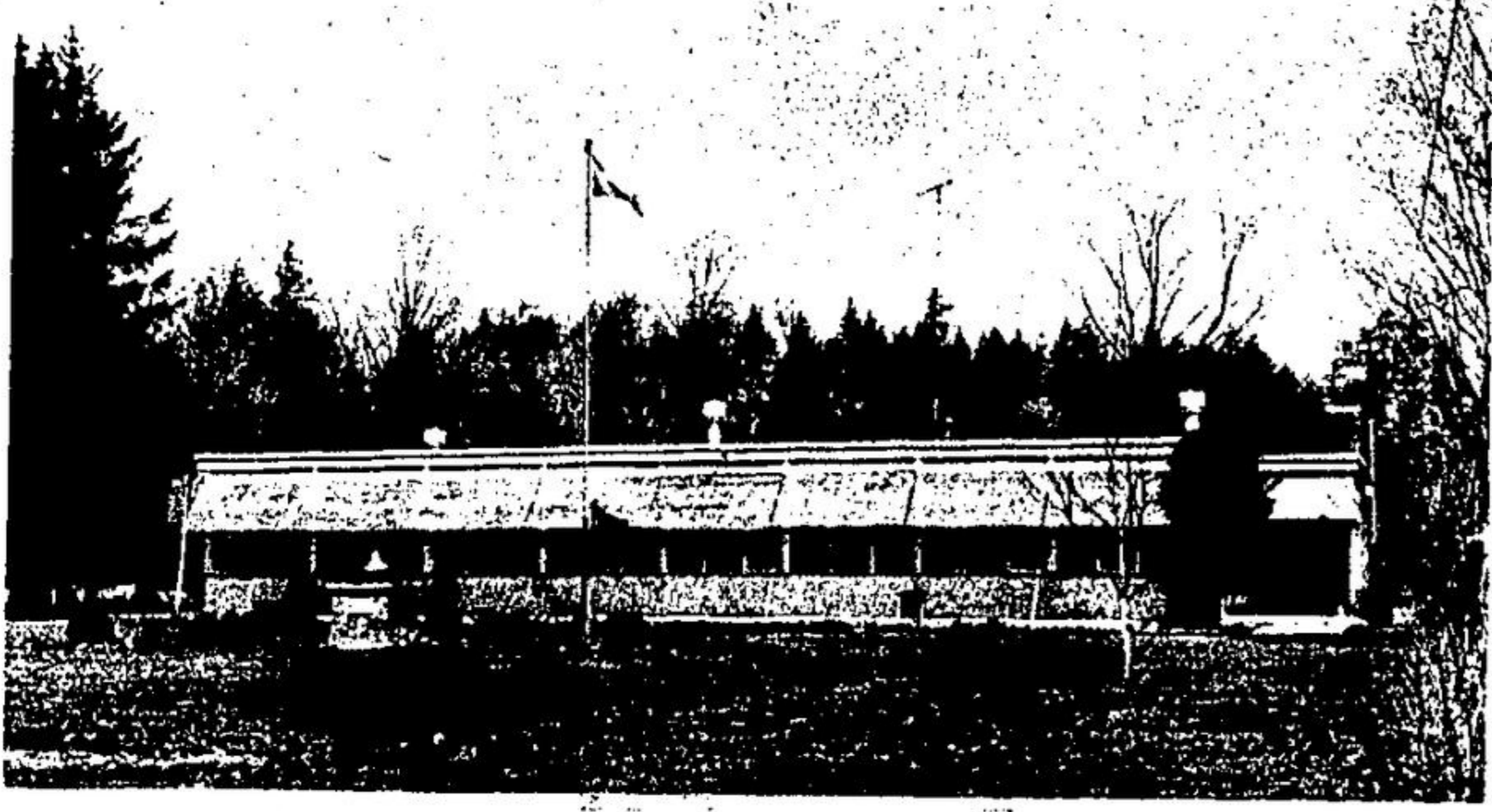
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