

THE HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

Second Class Mail Registered Number—6843

THE HERALD, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 1974

Return Postage Guaranteed

\$1.50 per year, Single Copy Price Fifteen Cents

Renaissance Urges Schools Resume Tests

A return to question-and-answer teaching, compulsory subjects, and school tests has been urged in a brief submitted to the Halton Board of Education by the Halton Renaissance Committee.

Describing itself as an organization seeking to provide a voice "for the silent majority and the silenced minorities," the committee states in its brief that it seeks "through the process of participatory democracy" to bring about a needed renaissance in the public school system.

The brief contains about 25 recommendations and was presented to the board late last week. It challenges present methods of instruction on the grounds that very little is being learned, the school process is

boring and students are not motivated.

The fault is laid to the discovery method of learning. As a solution, the brief calls for adoption of the Socratic system, which employs questions and answers, plus drill, review and evaluation (or testing).

The committee admits that the Socratic system depends for success on the teacher, his or her organization, background and rapport with students. In a related proposal, the brief asks for the re-imposition of teacher evaluation by inspectors from the ministry of education on a "trans-regional" basis with frequent supervision and official evaluation by department heads of all teachers within their department.

The brief states that its suggestions would improve upon the "doubtful product" coming from Grades 8, 12 and 13 as well as from colleges of applied arts and technology and universities.

The committee has three recommendations to make about curriculum, and bases its recommendations on an alleged lack of feedback about curriculum in use to the ministry.

It asks that personnel of a curriculum committee include people from different walks of life, that courses of study that are sequential (such as mathematics, languages and the like) have common evaluation and that such evaluation consist of diagnostic tests in May, and that all

courses of study now used in the public educational system be reviewed by such a committee as proposed.

OPEN DOOR

A set of guidelines for parents and teachers also is proposed, and labelled the open-door policy, may have the most far-reaching implications. The committee has concluded that the educational process in Halton will be improved under such a policy.

It is concluded that such a policy could lead to upgrading in subject areas, improvement in school spirit, a greater quality of openness respected by parents and teachers, opportunities for parents to register and consider observations and suggestions and

enhancement of present home and school relations.

An open-door policy is based upon improved lines of communication between home and school, the committee states in the brief. Such an open-door policy, upon the authorization of the board of education, "could be gradually implemented within the school system with the understanding and the assistance of the total teaching staff."

Embraced in such an open-door policy is participation in the school system by parents "with periodic reminders to visit any instructional area within the schools at any time during the school year. The committee concludes that all teaching personnel through individual school leaders could

be encouraged to invite a parent or group of parents to the school."

Conversely, a teacher could take the initiative by arranging a visit to the student's home.

OTHER POINTS

In other recommendations, the committee suggests:

That the Halton school board appoint a committee to study the good features and the weak points in the county system, now that it has been in operation for five years;

That an advisory committee be formed to provide improved communications between teacher, pupil, parent, principal and board member;

That there be a cultivation in the school system of respect for the moral, aesthetic and religious convictions of those

who are committed to the spiritual and moral values of the Judeo-Christian world view;

That parents and ratepayers who cannot conscientiously support the secularism in the public educational system be granted the right to direct property taxes to private schools committed to a religious educational philosophy;

That such schools be included as part of the public educational system;

That mandatory Grade 12 be dropped and the stigma of not receiving it be removed for apprenticeships;

That unions be approached and asked to reconsider their one apprentice for each journeyman;

That present trade schools be better utilized and not segregated for a certain segment of the population;

That apprentices, unless there are extenuating circumstances, be barred from receiving unemployment insurance benefits for two years;

That all phases of industry and commercial enterprise be contacted for views about such suggestions;

That teachers be guided by principles of religious morality and "the highest regard for truth, justice, loyalty, love of country, humanity, benevolence, sobriety, industry, frugality, purity, temperance and all other virtues" when selecting supplementary books;

That the board of trustees

appoint a committee of parents to scrutinize the annual supplementary book list requested by teachers and to report recommendations to the trustees.

That wherever the open concept approach to education is being followed, an optional program along more conventional lines be provided by the board for parents who so request;

That trustees assert their basic managerial role and fulfill the responsibilities for which they were elected, by policies which keep the system responsive;

And that the trustees insist that all civil servants employed in the system recognize their responsibilities to the trustees for their performance.

Board Softens Stand Over School Closing

Halton board of education has softened its stand against the Norval school closing.

The board agreed to appoint six delegates to meet Tuesday with representatives of parents in the village who have fought since 1971 to keep the three-room school in operation. A final decision will be made at a board meeting, Thursday, only four days before the 1974-75 school year begins.

The official attitude last night was in marked contrast from the last meeting in July between the parents and the trustees.

Hugh McFarlane, a spokesman for the 70 parents who crowded the board room, recalled the encounter that ended, he said, "when the board politely dismissed us."

Since then, he said, "much time and effort have gone into the school project. We want the school left open."

Mr. McFarlane said that at a public meeting attended by 136 of the 200 residents of the village, the unanimous agreement was reached to fight for the school.

He added that residents of Halton Hills, and the Halton region, with no direct connection to the school, have indicated their support for the villagers' battle. Forty-three

pupils attended the school which offered Grades 1 to 6.

DISCOURAGE

One mother complained that indirect attempts had been made to discourage continued attendance at the school. She said that she was contacted by a school official in 1972 when her daughter finished Grade 5 and was urged to transfer her child to a Georgetown public school.

Mr. McFarlane added that new residents in the village were given the same advice.

Mr. McFarlane rebutted the charge from trustee Judy Alexander that the lack of facilities, including a proper library, undermined education standards at the school.

He said books were shelved in the hallways and observed that pupils "use what is available more than the pupils in larger schools."

He said the smallness of the school was an advantage in itself, providing pupils with a greater sense of belonging and a lesser likelihood of encountering drug problems.

Julian Reed, another spokesman for the parents, protested that the Norval pupils were being penalized for an over-all drop in school enrolment anticipated by the school board. Because of the expected decrease he said, the

board planned to use Norval pupils to help fill classrooms in the Georgetown school system.

PUPILS SUFFER

"Should pupils in one area suffer because of a fact of life?" he asked. "Should they be discriminated against by being transported hither and yon just to fill school rooms somewhere else?"

Mr. McFarlane based an appeal for continuation on anticipated growth in the southeast end of Georgetown, less than a mile from the village. He said that a planned apartment building, and a low-rise subdivision development proposed earlier to the Halton Hills Council could sharply increase school enrolments in the area and instantly create a need for the Norval school.

Emerson Lavender, assistant director of the board of Education, told the trustees that if the Norval school were to be re-opened in September staff would have to be drawn from schools in the Georgetown area.

"It would be administratively difficult, but not impossible," he said.

By a six to five vote, however, it was decided to table the motion until the meeting this week. In the meantime, board representatives are to meet with the Norval parents to consider the issue in depth.

Region Uses A Freeze In \$1.9 Million Squeeze



GRASS FIRES "IN SEASON"

A Georgetown firefighter directs a stream of water at one of several grass fires which have broken out in the past week. A combination of dry, windy weather and full growth of grasses and weeds has made the danger of such fires rise sharply. While grass fires themselves tend to do only minimal damage, the real danger lies in a blaze spreading to valuable farm crops or nearby buildings. (Herald Photo)

Goals Of Regionalism Spoiled By Old Plans

Still embittered by provincial refusal to provide \$1.9 million in startup grants sought by Halton region, council has decided to freeze work on a regional official plan.

This move is a bid to strengthen the region's hand in negotiations for the \$1.9 million with John H. White, provincial minister of treasury, economics and intergovernmental affairs.

It also is a firm indication that council has not abandoned hope of winning the entire \$1.9 million grant. In July, it was learned through a telephone call made during a council meeting that Halton would receive only \$1 million.

The motion to freeze work on the official plan was made by Burlington Mayor George

Harrington. It stated: "That official plans be tabled pending further information on startup grants, other financial assistance available for official-plan preparation and also the intended use of the Regional Reserve Fund."

USE OLD PLANS

Reference to the Regional Reserve Fund underlines council resolve not to dip into financial reserves to finance the official plans. Instead, councillors agreed that previous official plans prepared by county municipalities will be good enough. Mayor Harrington suggested that Halton would be bound together in one book. Shelving work on a new plan could save \$600,000.

The decision strikes at one of

the underlying purposes of Bill 151, the provincial legislation that created the Halton region and, in fact, the legislation that created all of the Toronto-Centered Regional Governments.

Queen's Park sees regionalization as a key to unified large-scale planning, an ambition automatically defeated by the Halton decision to revert to the official plans of municipalities that no longer exist in their old forms.

Council also may be in a position to deliver the three proposals by Halton Hills Council, Rick Morrow. "We'll tell them that we're going to amalgamate the existing official plans and fire every planner we have," he said. "If that's what the province wants, then that's what the province will get."

GRANT DEMAND

Regional demand for an increased grant will be carried to Mr. White by a committee composed of regional chairman Allan Masson, administration and finance committee chairman Coun. Rick Morrow, and the four Mayors to the Halton municipalities.

The committee hopes to obtain figures that will show Halton was given a lower grant than other regional municipalities.

Oakville Coun. Gordon White seemed to sum up a general feeling when he said the grants "are directly proportional to the political punch of the regions."

Council agreed with his suggestion that contact be made with Provincial Solicitor George Kerr and James Snow, Minister of Government services.

Unit Office Moves Despite Cost Plan

In spite of protests that the price is too high, Halton region health unit branch in Georgetown will be moving into new quarters.

The move was approved by Halton Regional Council, although Burlington representative Mary Munro objected that the \$750 per square foot rental at the new quarters, "is a bit rich."

The health unit will share 1,800 square feet at the not-yet-constructed Georgetown Medical Centre for a total rent of just over \$10,400 per year. The health unit will occupy 1,200 square feet for a rental of \$9,000 while the balance of the space will be used by regional social and family services, 542 square feet at \$4,065, and children's aid, 144 square feet at \$1,000.

Halton Hills Coun. Ric Morrow defended the move into the new building from the present cramped quarters of the health unit at 130 Guelph St., Georgetown.

He said accommodations there are "sub-standard," and, noting that the new building

will be located next to Georgetown District Memorial Hospital, he stated "All the negatives are where we are now and all the positives are where we will be moving."

Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur gave support to the protest from Coun. Munro.

"The space was adequate before, but now that we are a region we always need more space," she complained. "Now we think we are rich."

The rental in the present health unit accommodations is about to increase, Coun. Morrow said, but the new price of \$750 per year for 1,000 feet of office space and 1,000 feet of storage space is still well below the rate at the medical centre.

"Even so," he argued, "it would have to be very expensive not to move there."

The regional council backed his stand, approving a recommendation from the community services committee that will allow the unit to pay its rent on a month-to-month basis beginning in January of next year, until the new medical centre accommodations are complete.

Moral Support For BB Bureau

A regional Better Business Bureau may receive all the moral support it can get from the Halton Hills council if a recommendation from the general administration committee is approved.

The committee agreed Monday that the Halton Regional Chamber of Commerce Association had a good idea in the formation of the BBB in Halton.

In its letter, it requested active support, and Coun. Dick Howitt wondered if that meant financial or moral support.

"We can assure it of our moral support," answered Coun. Roy Booth.

Separated Phone Calls

To telephone the other side of Halton Hills, residents need a second phone book, but that seems to be the way they want it.

W.C. Barnes, public affairs manager for Bell Telephone in the Halton area, said that the decision was made earlier this week not to include Acton in the Halton and Peel regional telephone book. That decision, he said, was based on a survey of telephone subscriber customers in the Acton area.

"The survey was taken a month ago," he said, "but we didn't get a positive response that people in Acton want to be transferred to the Halton Hills book."

Georgetown and much of Equeusing are included in the Halton and Peel Telephone directory, while Acton numbers are listed in the directory for the regional municipality of Waterloo and Guelph.

Mr. Barnes would not say how extensive the Acton survey was carried out, but he said it was carried out by the management services planning division of Bell Telephone, and was made through random samplings and personal contact with customers. He called the study "absolutely scientific."

He would not disclose any details of a meeting, at which the decision was made to preserve the present directory set up but explained that the decision was a logical one.

He said Halton Hills residents can obtain either of the two books, or both of them, by contacting Bell Telephone offices. He suggested that the present set up might be altered next year in August when Bell Telephone institutes toll free calling between Acton and Milton and Guelph.

Renaissance And Board Agree To Be Agreeable

It has been six months and many bitter denunciations since the formation of the Halton Renaissance Committee, but the most recent confrontation between that group and Halton board of education was surprisingly mild.

Often pictured as the arch foe, the board was receptive to Renaissance demands. Protesting parents and the school trustees seemed to agree to be agreeable and deposited blame for many school system failings on apathetic parents.

Chairman Rev. Ken Campbell said that what he called a "basic philosophic sickness in our education system" is a result of the "unresponsiveness of the parents who trust their children to it and the ratepayers who pay for it."

He said that the sickness is so pervasive that "the only adequate solution can be found in a social political content."

School trustees told the group that to a great extent, the board is helpless to determine the policy that is passed on from Queen's Park.

Board chairman W.J. Priestner said the board has protested Queen's Park decision but he added, "we must uphold the law. We must

either support the law or resign."

The Renaissance Committee was established originally in a storm of protest that surrounded the planned appearance in a Halton school of a member of Gay Liberation, a homosexual activist group.

READ OUTLINE

Mr. Campbell complained that the planned appearance might have gone unnoticed but that "he happened to read the class outline."

After its formation, the Renaissance group concentrated protests on school reading materials although Mr. Campbell frequently refused to specify which, if any, books the group considered unsuitable.

One member said at the recent meeting that a book causing major concern is Rabbit Redux, by John Updike, while Mr. Campbell protested that the magazine Playboy is used as part of a school communications class.

He said that one mother who lodged a protest about books available in a school library "was as much as told by the school librarian that she needed to see a psychiatrist."

Betty Hanford, identified in a Renaissance brief as a "housewife and mother," asked

indignantly, "Is Rosemary's Baby a good subject to be studying in Grade eight?"

"I don't," she continued. "I told my son to take it back but after that all he did was a papier mache project in English class and he hadn't even read the book he was supposed to read." She said the book in the course was Moonfleet.

The committee presented the board with a brief that will go on the education minister Thomas Wells, containing recommendations that affect most phases of the school system.

The brief also demands that "the theistic views of origins based on the assumption that the physical universe of the product of God's creative acts be presented in parallel to the atheistic views of origins."

According to the brief, scientific explanations of creation dominate "in a most unscientific way references to origins in the school textbooks and often in class discussions."

NEWS IN BRIEF

- HOLY CROSS CHURCH**, St. George's Anglican Church, Sacred Heart and Knox Presbyterian Church were broken into on Wednesday and Thursday of last week. Nothing of value was stolen in any of the occurrences, investigations are continuing.
- SEVERAL CASES** of willful damage are under investigation following spokes and seats of bicycles being cut in the areas of Sargent and Rexway.
- THE FLAG** from the Post Office lawn at the corner of Guelph and Maple was stolen Tuesday of last week.
- GAGE STATIONERY Co. Ltd.**, of 71 Todd Rd., Georgetown, has been awarded a \$66,079 federal contract for the supply of stenographic notebooks.
- HALTON LIBERAL Association** will hold a Labor Day picnic at Hornby Park. The outing will be highlighted in the evening by fireworks.
- HALTON RENAISSANCE Committee** will meet Sept. 3 with education minister Thomas Wells to present to him copies of the brief presented last week to Halton Board of Education.
- REGIONAL WORKS committee** will tour Halton region by bus, Tuesday, to pick up first hand impressions about public works installations. The committee will travel by bus throughout most of the region, stopping at sanitary sewage installation plants, landfill sites and road construction projects.
- TERRY O'CONNOR**, the defeated progressive conservative candidate in the July 8 federal election, has returned to private practice. He has joined the law firm of Saul Leitch and Hayes. The firm has offices in Toronto and Oakville.

Not All Plowing At Plowing Match

If you think a plowing match is just a competition for area farmers, have we got news for you!

"You'll soon out and enjoy yourself and watch the plowmen do anything but plow," invites Ron Harris, chairman of the Halton region entertainment committee.

Since Halton region is hosting the 1974 International Plowing Match, committee members have undertaken to extend a hand of friendship to the 250,000 visitors expected to attend.

The Halton hospitality display will encompass three large tents and a big barn, surrounding a large centre stage and tea garden covered by two big canopies.

The entire exhibit is again being designed and built by Rick Porter and Peeter Saxon of the Whiting-Saxon Company, Acton. They are working on the theory that active participation is much more fun than just watching. So the enthusiastic pair is working to provide a hive of activity.

They promise a variety of continuous entertainment throughout the four-day competition, Sept. 24 to 28. You will be able to make your own

candles in colors and keep it as a souvenir. Try your hand at weaving and other crafts that are being set up by several local organizations.

Anyone wishing to participate in any way is invited to call Mr. Saxon.

Half a dozen branches of the Halton region are participating, including the conservation authority and councils. Many businesses are sponsoring displays to add to the fun. For example, there is a tractor pull by Toronto International Dragway, where visitors guess how far the tractor can pull a load.

There will be an old store and post office and hopefully a real post office where visitors can mail a souvenir postcard. Officials are still looking for a local sponsor to make this postcard possible.

"Many of the plans are still in the talking stages," admits Mr. Saxon, "but don't be surprised if you see a man being hurled through the air, shot from a cannon, or a gorilla in a cage, or people riding in a balloon. Anything can happen. We promise to keep you posted as the plans are drawn up."

Sex Education Gets Attention

Parents should be more actively involved in sex education programs in schools, according to the Halton Renaissance Committee.

In its brief presented to the Halton Board of Education, the committee asks that parents be "kept continually informed concerning courses relating to sex education in the schools."

New Name Sought For Cable TV

We feel Georgetown Cable Television Limited does not properly identify the area served nor does it reflect the interest we have in Acton, Milton, Ballinafad, Rockwood and Georgetown," said Arthur J. Jamieson, president of the cable system.

The company intends to offer a complete range of communications services to the people living in these areas through television, radio and by use of the local programming station.

With cable it is possible to offer security services, computer link-ups, data transmissions and a vast amount of other services designed for both industry and residential use. As

the need warrants, these features will be incorporated into the system.

Subscribers of the present system will get an opportunity to have their questions answered and see a demonstration of the converters that will be used to bring in the extra channels cable will be offering on a special program in Sept. on the local channel Cable 5.

The name for the company will be selected from entries received by the residents of the communities to be served. The contest is open to all residents, the company reserves the right to make the final decision in the cases of duplicate entries. The winning name will be awarded one year free cable.



HALTON HOSPITALITY car, compliments of Supersweet Feeds, Milton, and manned by George Swan (centre) can be seen and heard throughout the region advertising 1974 International Plowing Match. Swan who is publicity chairman for the big event in Georgetown, Sept. 24 to 28 discusses preparations with Parade Committee Chairman, Andy Frank and George Readhead, in charge of health and sanitation committee. (Herald Photo)