Teacher talks optimistic

10-hour contract negotiation session Saturday produced significant progress in the opinion of the vicechairman of Halton's separate school board.

Hartley Sherk says he is quite impressed with the efforts of the mediator appointed by the Education Relations Commission to help in settling the eight-month bargaining session between the board and its teachers.

Jane Devlin was able to get the teachers to drop their retirement gratulty plan under which retiring teachers could have collected up to half a year's salary if they had accumulated sufficient sick

In return the board went along with a staff reduction scheme which the teachers wanted, Mr. Sherk says. The plan looks at the question of how redundant teachers would be eliminated if and when the question arises, and specifies that dismissals will give priority to those with the longest service to the Halton board followed by those with

the highest qualifications. Mr. Sherk says the day-long session resolved about 14 clauses but negotiators still have 15 or 20 clauses to work

Money, a lowering of the pupil-teacher ratio, and a management rights clouse which the board wants to implement are among the. items still under discussion. One suggestions which Ms. Devlin has made is that both sides consider making this a

two-year contract when they get it settled, says Mr. Sherk. "The mediator has felt the teachers out on the idea and they indicate they're not against it," he says. "We'd have to work it out to include the money for the extra period but after eight months of bargaining I don't think the teachers will be any more anxious than we are to turn around and start in the next day on a contract for 1979."

Red Cross awards

The following blood donors reached these award levels at the December clinic held at Holy Cross Auditorium. 75th Donation

K Thomson 50th Denation R L Derresiers N Gart

TK Pettingill 35th Donation Mrs MJ Anderson E A Burns

G L McEachern CE Mercer 20th Donation F. Cook J.J. Dohmen

Rev R. Gallagher R. Porritt P.C. Turner 10th Donation S.D. Buck

Mrs. P. Cairns M. Eggleton T.J. Adams (Sept 27) The next clinic date is Mon-

1 of 3 women smoke

day, March 13.

There's a pack of cigarettes in one out of every three women's handbags in this country, Margaret McLeod, representative of the VON on the Halton Council on Smoking and Health, says.

Among women from age 25 to 44, wives, secretaries, teachers, mothers, the percentage of smokers is a little higher, Mrs. McLeod said, citing statistics released by Health and Welfare Canada.

The survey reveals that 37.4 per cent of women, 25 to 44 years, smoke, but only 30.4 per cent of women aged 45 to 64. Among Canadian teenagers 27.8 per cent smoke. In the past 10 years the number of women who smoke seems to have stabilized at just about 33 per cent while the number of Canadian males who smoke has decreased by some 10.4 per

"Other studies indicate that men and women who quit smoking do so for different reasons," Mrs. McLeod said. "The local Interagency Council, which includes Halton Cancer Societies, Halton Lung Association, VON, Registered Nurses Ass'n, Canadian Red Cross (Oakville Branch) and the Halton Board of Education, is studying these results in hopes of finding effective methods for helping both men and

women to give up cigarettes." "In the meantime," she sald, "we hope that increased knowledge of the health effects of smoking will help both sexes make the decision to quit,"

To help spread the word, the Council is participating in the National Education Week on Smoking (NEWonS) from January 22nd to the 28th

"If you're interested, just telephone 845-0858", Mrs. McLeod said.

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