



NORVAL COMMUNITY DAY

Jeremy MacPherson and a chum look on as Doug Campbell bursts through the rubber tire segment of the obstacle course event at Norval's Community Day held last Sunday. (Herald photo)

18 parents applying for French instruction

The Halton board of education has eighteen applications from parents in the Georgetown area who want to enroll their child in a French immersion program, but board policy says thirty to thirty-five applications are necessary before a class can be offered.

Joseph Gibbons Public School in Georgetown has a class of grade one students enrolled in what is known as a partial immersion program this year, and applications are now being accepted from parents who would like their child to attend a grade seven immersion program next September at Stewarttown Public School. French immersion classes are also available beginning in grade seven, and continuing in grades eight and nine, for students who were unable to take French immersion in grade one.

Helen Mitchell, co-ordinator of communications, and Peter Spencer, French consultant for the Halton board of education, were the speakers at a meeting held Monday of parents interested in hearing about the partial French immersion program presently operating at Joseph Gibbons school.

DIFFERENT KINDS

Mr. Spencer said the Ministry of Education has three different kinds of French programs operating in schools across the province. In a core program, which is the most common, the students receive a period of instruction in the French language each day. In an extended course, the students receive a course in the French language, and also study one subject in French,

which is to say the language used in teaching the subject is French. In an immersion program, some of all of the subjects are taught in French. In Halton, the students study in French for half the day, and English the other half.

"It is no longer a French lesson, but a course where the communication is in French," Mr. Spencer said. The subjects are taught in French here in Halton's immersion program are French language arts, music, environmental studies and part or all of their physical education program.

Mrs. Mitchell said the decision was made to start the immersion program in grade one, instead of kindergarten, because the staff would be able to consult with the child's kindergarten teacher and principal to determine if he or she would benefit from the program, or if they had already

learning problems, which would be compounded by adding a second language. The child's kindergarten teacher and principal would make their comments before staff talked to the child's parents.

Part of the reason for partial immersion program, with both English and French being included in the curriculum, Mrs. Mitchell said, is because the board and its staff feel the students are better off learning to read in their mother tongue before they try to master the skill of reading in a second language. They also learn to decode French words from pictures and oral exercises, she said, but by that time they are using skills they developed while learning to read in English.

The English half of the course also permits teachers to recognize any learning difficulties which the student may

have, which might otherwise be interpreted as difficulties with the second language.

ASSURED PARENTS

Mrs. Mitchell assured parents that if the need or desire for a French immersion program diminished after a class had begun, the class would stay at the same school, but the next class to be started would be held at another where a need had been identified and the space was available. The decision on where to put an immersion program is based not only on a study of which parents want the program and where, but the location of the nearest school with the space to accommodate the program, she said.

The board of education has already undertaken a commitment to provide a suitable French course in high school for those grade seven students enrolled in an immersion program, Mrs. Mitchell said. Because the students have had much more extensive study in French by the time they reach grade nine, the regular French courses may not be suitable for the student, she said. The board is also committed to provide subsequent classes as students move ahead, provided the number of students justifies it.

Mrs. Mitchell said while there is a cut in some courses to make time for the French language art studies, the program is committed to following the board's core curriculum.

The board is presently getting grants which Mrs. Mitchell described as "extraordinary grants" for the French immersion program from the province, but she said the return to smaller "ordinary grants" would not cause problems in the program, since it was set up before the "extraordinary grants" were made available. Those larger grants were an unexpected bonus, she said.

Both Mrs. Mitchell and Mr. Spencer stressed the fact that a child need not be exceptionally gifted to take part in the immersion program, or have a high IQ.

"A child who is going to be a good, average, happy child, will be that in a French immersion program," Mrs. Mitchell said. "That won't change."

HOLD DISCUSSIONS

Applying for a child to enter in the French immersion program does not automatically mean the child will be accepted, Mrs. Mitchell warned. The staff will hold discussions with the child's kindergarten teacher and principal, and with the child's parents, before deciding whether or not a child would benefit from the program.

"We're talking, in this program, about functional bilingualism, to make students able to survive in another culture if they had to," Mrs. Mitchell said.

Parents interested in the French immersion program can contact Mrs. Mitchell at 878-8451, for further information.

Lioness Bowl-a-thon

By MORCELLA NEELY
Georgetown Lioness Club

This month Lioness club members are busy soliciting pledges for the Feb. 16th bowl-a-thon.

All proceeds will go towards the purchase of a defibrillator for the Georgetown hospital. The present defibrillator is on its last days and the doctors need a replacement. They hope to be able to buy the portable model valued at \$4,500.00.

This will stay in the emergency department but can be moved at a moment's notice to point of need. The defibrillator

is used to resuscitate anyone that goes into any coronary stoppage. If used immediately revival is often possible.

Another Lioness project currently is the selection of new club uniforms. Hopefully these will be ready in time for the annual Lions Club convention parade being held in Niagara Falls in June.

Watch for the "Ladies" stag in April. This is an annual event and always a sell out. Anyone wishing to watch Lionesses "roar" should purchase tickets well in advance.

All funds raised by club projects are turned back to our citizens

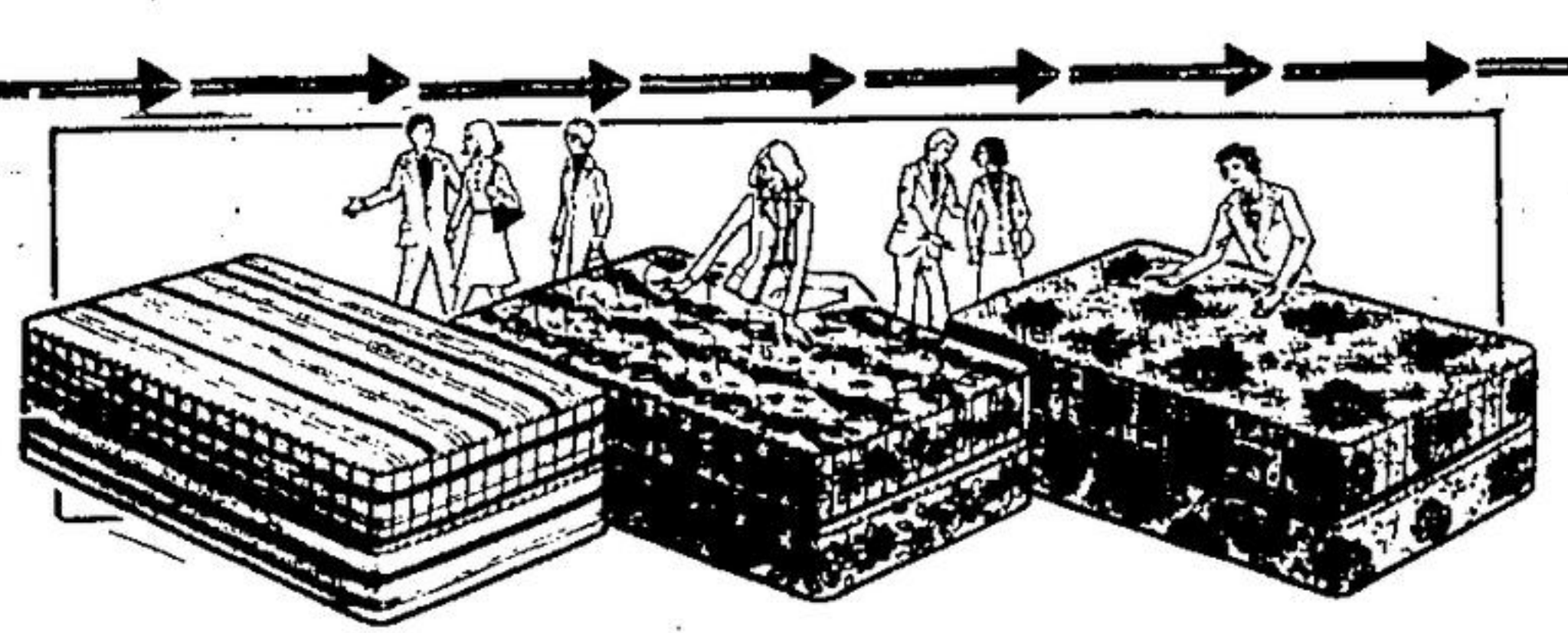
worked out in the contract will give employees four weeks and eight per cent after 12 years and five weeks and 10 per cent after 19 years service to the company.

One entirely new feature of the contract is the inclusion of a pension plan of \$8 a month times the years of service with the company up to 19.

The contract was worked out by a negotiating team consisting of Jean Murphy, Denore Parker, Richard Tobin, Local 876 president Jerry Klatt, U.A.W. International representative Joe Maloney for the union and personnel manager Bill Geggie and attorney Ray Waller for the company.

"There has been no strikes or labour disputes during the 19 years of the company's operation here," said Mr. Klatt and "this new agreement is by far the best contract that we ever have negotiated in that time."

The union was unsuccessful in attempts to include a dental plan in this contract.



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UAW local ratifies three-year contract

Members of United Auto Workers local 876 ratified a new contract with Standard Products (Canada) Ltd. last week which will give its 190 hourly rated employees a 90c increase over the next three years.

The new contract, which took effect Feb. 1, also gives workers an increase in Cost of Living Allowance (C.O.L.A.). Employees will receive \$1.33 C.O.L.A., 60c beginning Feb. 1 and the remainder, plus increases through 1979 (less 5c) on Feb. 1, 1980 and a third increase, including increases for 1980 (less 5c) on Feb. 1, 1981. The fact that C.O.L.A. has been folded into the base rate means that workers will receive greater increases on their overtime and incentive workers can earn bonus on the folded in money.

WAGE INCREASES

Wage increases effective Feb. 1 of each year give employees a 35c increase this year, a 30c increase next year and a 25c increase the third

year as well as inequity increases ranging from 10c to 50c an hour for 60 employees in 23 job classifications.

These increases bring wages to \$6.19 an hour plus incentive for 120 workers, \$7.44 for lift truck operators, \$7.85 for floor inspectors and set up men, \$8.24 for line and rolling machine leaders, \$8.33 for maintenance men, and \$9.40 for tool and die makers.

Other items worked out in the contract include two more paid holidays, one in the second year, and a second in the third year of the contract, for a total of 13; a \$10,000 life insurance policy plus a \$10,000 accidental death or dismemberment policy; an increase in the sick benefits available to employees as well as a reduction in waiting period before the benefits can be claimed; shift premium of 25c an hour for afternoon shifts and 30c an hour for midnight shifts; and a tool replacement allowance of \$100 a year for tool and die makers, and \$75 a year for maintenance men. Improved vacation benefits