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Parenting course must not fade away

Let's hope Georgetown principal Eric Balkind's proposal for parenting courses does not end up being dropped by the Halton school board simply because they can't come up with a way to implement it.

At Thursday night's board meeting, trustees were told that the provincial government would not permit making parenting courses compulsory for high school students.

However, the ministry's decision still leaves the local board with plenty of options.

A few trustees have suggested that the parenting program be taught at the grades seven and eight level, but as board employee Robert Dixon says it might be a little premature to begin the course to that age group.

However, it still would be possible to offer the course at the high school level either under the "Family and Child Development" program or as part of the board's health course programs.

A key to either option is that the course must be taught by qualified instructors using a course

outline carefully developed by the board.

There is no point in putting such a program under the guidance of teachers who may approach the course in a half-hearted manner.

Board trustees acknowledged that the proposal for parenting courses has been positively received by their constituents which makes it doubly important that the course be implemented.

Trustee Elaine Riehm's comment that the community and religious groups are now getting involved in parenting instruction is a little disturbing. Thinking like hers can lead to the board dilly-dallying waiting for someone else to pick up their responsibility and as a result the course could die.

We would hope that a parenting course offered by the public school board would differ greatly from one offered by religious or community groups.

Georgetown trustee Barry Shepherd warns that it sounds like Mr. Balkind's original proposal, which he supported, is being rapidly diluted.

We hope the Halton board does not allow that to happen.



Ontario Hydro out of control according to utility's critics



Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald

TORONTO — Two images of Ontario Hydro are abroad in the land.

The general public holds a favourable view of our government-owned utility, particularly in regard to its ability to deliver fast and efficient service.

Yet among a considerable section of our political leadership there is a deep and abiding suspicion of the corporation.

In his latest comment on a Hydro action MPP Julian Reed (L-Halton Burlington) contends there is "something very, very wrong" with the corporation.

Hydro is not "accountable to the people of Ontario," he said, (naturally) laying the blame on the government.

But Tory MPP Mickey Hennessey (PC-Fort William) was just as harsh when

Hydro delayed accepting a recommendation of the legislature's Hydro Affairs committee.

TOO STRONG
"The simple fact is they run an autonomous body and nobody, no elected official, can do anything about Hydro."

"They say what they want done and that is the way it is going to be done, because they have so much power and influence," Hennessey said.

Simply put, the Reed and Hennessey statements are a variation on a common theme one hears about Hydro from its critics, both political and otherwise—that the utility is out of control.

The irony here is that Hydro was far more independent and arbitrary in the past than it is today.

The prime mover in the founding of Hydro, Sir Adam Beck, was a man whose word about the utility was sacrosanct, and who could topple governments by his presence or absence.

UNTIL RECENTLY
His successors didn't have quite that power, but until about 1972 Hydro was a show on to itself following its vision of providing "power at cost" to Ontario.

Hydro Affairs committee chairman MPP, Donald MacDonald (NDP-York South), who has a less critical view of Hydro than Reed or Hennessey, said

rapidly rising rates have triggered the change.

The Ontario Energy Board now reviews certain Hydro decisions, the legislature has a Hydro Affairs committee, and several commissions (Porter, Soland) have examined aspects of Hydro policy.

MacDonald also points to the Jan. 1 appointment of Hugh Macaulay, who just happens to be one of Premier William Davis' closest political advisors and confidants, as Ontario Hydro chairman.

ENERGY POST
The theory is that Davis is attempting to make Hydro even more responsive to political direction, in short, to bring it under control.

The one flaw in the ointment is the energy ministry, to which Hydro is nominally responsible, although there are conflicts between their respective legislative acts.

More than once an energy ministry has risen in the House to defend a Hydro policy that he's been told nothing about by Hydro.

Whether Macaulay's appointment will help straighten out the lines of authority, or whether the ministry will remain short-circuited by Hydro is something that bears close watching.

At the same time he'll have to work hard at defusing the hostility of the Reeds and Hennesseys.

'Special status' concept still frightens federalists



Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

After that Pepin-Robarts report on Canadian unity I thought that the term "Special status" had finally been hauled out of the closet and clothed in respectability. But apparently Quebec Liberal Leader Claude Ryan is still wary about wearing it.

No sooner had The Canadian Press distributed details about Quebec Liberal proposals for a "renewed federalism" than Ryan was busy denying any suggestions of special status for Quebec. I don't know what it is about that expression that drives politicians to panic, but they certainly dance delicately in its presence.

And it's strange, because now that we have become so accustomed to talking about separatism, independence and even sovereignty-association, the term "special status" seems as comforting as Confederation itself. And that Pepin-Robarts report, which suggested methods of keeping Canada intact, certainly didn't shy away from any form of special status. The report was chock full of references to the special character of Quebec, its special place within the federation, and its special responsibilities in maintaining the "Frenchness" of the territory.

HABITS LINGER
Finally, I thought, special status has been accorded respectability and it now can be discussed in the company of unaccompanied children. But I guess old habits are slow to die and as soon as the CP story about renewed federalism made reference to "special status", Ryan felt forced to point out that the expression was never used in the working paper.

"That was more an interpretation by the press of some passages in the document," said Ryan — as if it matters. And he

was equally quick to say that his party hasn't yet decided to support special status again, as if it matters.

When you get into the substance of "renewed federalism" — as when you get into the substance of "sovereignty-association" — you are facing such enormous potential upheavals that a little expression like "special status" is scarcely noticed. Just think of the possible fall-out from these general observations in the Liberal working paper.

Quebec must have the legislative power necessary to ensure proper development of Quebec society; federal services operating in Quebec must respect the French character and society; there must be special rules permitting "special constitutional, legislative or administrative arrangements" even if other provinces do not have equal powers.

There is also an observation that Quebec should have special representation on federal agencies which affect culture.

If this doesn't amount to a form of special status, I don't know what does.

STILL AFRAID
And remember what that federally-funded Pepin-Robarts report said:
"In a new distribution, the powers

allocated to all provincial legislatures should provide the framework which makes it possible for Quebec to fulfill its additional role and responsibility with respect to the French heritage in its own territory."

Further, "should the other provinces not wish to avail themselves of such a distribution, powers related to this additional role and responsibility of Quebec should be allocated to Quebec alone."

And that, I contend, would constitute special status.
What seems equally clear is that if Claude Ryan hopes to satisfy Quebec's nationalist aspirations within the framework of any renewed confederation, there are going to have to be far-reaching accommodations. His particular problem is to bring about the changes, with as little disruption as possible, while convincing constituents that it's being done within the framework of federalism.

Premier Rene Levesque has the opposite problem — accomplishing much the same thing while convincing constituents it's being done outside the federal framework.

Yet, for reasons that escape me, politicians such as Claude Ryan seem skittish about "special status."

Fund raising appeal

RED CROSS STATEMENT

The human race has created an extremely organized and complex society. By the act of banding together to live, by recognizing the needs of other members of this community, man expressed his commitment to the continuation and development of that society. There is no one member of the community who has not something to contribute to the betterment of the whole community.

Out of this concept arose the great helping societies of the 1900's among them, the Red Cross, first created to ensure medical aid for wounded soldiers. Un- that initial purpose have sprung more than a dozen services through which Red Cross branches reach out to assist mem-

bers of the community. These services include assistance for senior citizens and young people alike, and range from direct care to improvement of the quality of life for the disadvantaged.

None of these services can continue without the contribution of other members of the community, whether it be a contribution of time volunteered to aid in the direct delivery of service, or a contribution of money to help fund the out of pocket expenses of the services. Your contribution may even take the form of a commitment to donate blood regularly.

March is Red Cross Month. What better time to express your commitment to the rest of Halton Hills by making your contribution in March.

Halton's History

From the Herald's files

WONG BUYS CAFE
THIRTY YEARS AGO — A fire which broke out last Thursday afternoon did extensive damage to a workshop belonging to Mr. Ed Logan, College View. The shop is located in a separate building beside Mr. Logan's residence and prompt action by the fire brigade confined the flames to that building. Mr. Logan lost most of his woodworking tools and there was damage to motors and saws as well.

The Hoxy Theatre last Saturday afternoon presented its tenth in a series of Saturday afternoon stage shows for children. The program was enjoyed by all and consisted of two contests, a balloon-blowing contest and a cracker-eating contest, with Lewis Jackson, winner of the Wednesday "Search for Talent" contest entertaining with singing and dancing.

Carroll's advertised a special with Maxwell House coffee selling for 58 cents a pound, salmon selling for 37 cents for a one-half pound tin, Crisco shortening selling for 41 cents a pound and Sun-kist oranges 36 cents a dozen.

Archie Wong took over management of the Georgetown Cafe last week from the former proprietor, George Wong, who has gone to Toronto. Mr. Wong has spent many years in the restaurant business in London and Hespeler and is a relative of the Wong family which runs one of London's finest restaurants.

UNEMPLOYED REGISTRATION

TWENTY YEARS AGO — A dam which would create a lake by flooding a portion of the Hungry Hollow area would cost an estimated quarter of a million dollars, council was told Monday by Alex MacLaren, Mr. MacLaren, an ex-reeve of the town and Georgetown's representative on the Credit Valley Conservation Authority was presented to give a report on the Authority's activities, and reviewed a \$126,000 budget for 1959, the town's share of which is \$5,374.

Registration of 413 unemployed men and women to date was reported by Kelvin C. Brown at Monday's council meeting. Mr. Brown has headed a group of Halton volunteers who, with council co-operation, have organized the Georgetown Employment Service, where data about job seekers is available to potential employers.

Addition of a machine shop room will further enhance Georgetown high school next year when the addition presently in process is completed. Monday, at a meeting in Georgetown, North Halton high school board voted to add this facility to the school. Since shopwork was introduced to the curriculum several years ago, boys have been transported to other towns for this part of their studies — first to Milton and later to Acton when that school had an addition built.

Wrigglesworth auditorium was jammed both nights when pupils of Chapel St. School presented an operetta on Thursday and Friday. "The Green and Silver Bowl" was an amusing story, with an Irish setting, enlivened with colorful costumes and generously interspersed with songs and dances. Hazen Allen directing the play, with Kenneth H. Harrison, and Mrs. James F. Evans directing the music. Mrs. Evans played piano accompaniment.

CLUB RIVIERA EXPANSION

TEN YEARS AGO — Two families lost all their possessions and three business places were wiped out in a fire that destroyed C and V Motors, Wally's Auto Body, and Tandem Tire, at the corner of Guelph and Mountainview Monday night.

Emil Zuber, who operates the Club Riviera at Norval has submitted written applications to Esqueping Township Council for approval to build 14 single-family dwellings in the form of townhouses on land adjoining the Riviera property. Council approved his application, pending approval from Halton County Health Unit and the Ontario Water Resources Commission.

Two separate tax bills, one setting out taxes for education alone, and another for general taxation, were again advocated by Coun. Ern Hyde and Coun. Ric Morrow Monday night. The discussion was sparked by a letter from the Halton board of education asking an extension of the deadline for the submission of budgets until March 15. They pointed out that provincial grants are still unknown, making it impossible for them to strike a budget, or allocate costs to each municipality.

The Ontario Government was asked last week to study the possibility of constructing a multi-million dollar sports professional palace on a site in rural Halton that would put the province on the "sporting map of North America." The "super sports complex" would be designed to accommodate major-league baseball football, hockey, basketball, track and field events, Grand Prix racing and Olympic competition.

Georgetown will have to hire its own plumbing inspector after September 1, a letter from the Halton County Board of Health informed council Monday night. The Board of Health plans to discontinue this service, which they have carried on throughout the county. They contend they cannot find enough inspectors, and the plumbing task interferes with the mandatory jobs of food inspection, septic bed inspection and restaurant inspection.

WALTER GRAY HONORED

ONE YEAR AGO — Being picked Citizen of the Year by the Georgetown Lions Club was a highlight of his life Walter Gray, 85, measures next to marrying his late wife, Edith, the Church Street resident told The Herald in an interview from his bed at Georgetown District Memorial Hospital. But he missed the dinner Friday night in his honor. Mr. Gray entered hospital Thursday suffering from a painful arthritic hip.

School trustee Don Long resigned from his seat on Halton board of education Thursday. In a letter to the board, Mr. Long said business commitments in the next six months prevent him from discharging his duties as a trustee and from representing Wards 3 and 4 (Georgetown) in Halton Hills.

Halton Hills will not be getting the financial assistance from the province it had hoped might help bring the erosion of Georgetown's Metcalfe Ravine under control.

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