



AT YOUR SERVICE: NEW BABYSITTERS

Youngsters received their certificates recently as they graduated from the babysitting course sponsored by the Georgetown Y. Graduates are front row from the left: Bethan Robin, Ann Hunt, Susan Black. Second row: Vicki Champ, Patrick Hipp, Debbie McConnell. Third row: Sandy Yach, Lisa

Philpott, Carolyn McConnell, Lisa Pleace. Back row: Cindy Kemper, Gillian Bhagwanden, Crystal Frenette, Christine Moore, and Janet Hanton. Instructors for the course this time were Karen Morris and Cathy Gomen.

(Herald photo)

Narrow vote rejects school despite concerns over GLT

By PAUL DORSEY
Herald staff writer

Concern expressed Monday night over the fate of the Georgetown Little Theatre (GLT) almost saw town council overturn a previous decision to abandon its interest in Howard Wrigglesworth Public School as a possible site for the proposed multi-use cultural centre.

Council, however, endorsed last week's general committee recommendation by a 6-5 vote. As a result, the Halton Board of Education will be advised that the town is no longer interested in a cost-sharing project that would have seen a planned expansion at Wrigglesworth school extended further to accommodate a theatre facility, primarily for use by the GLT.

Siding with Coun. Roy Booth, who warned that the GLT could find itself without a theatre in which to stage its plays by 1980, were councillors Russ Miller, Les Duby, Walter Biehn and Pat Patterson. Voting to uphold the committee recommendation and reject Wrigglesworth as a possible theatre site were councillors John McDonald, Marilyn Serjeantson, Harry Levy, George Malby, Ed Wood and Mike Armstrong.

FORMERLY ABSENT
Mayor Pete Pomeroy was absent and Coun. Ross Knechtel, who was chairing the meeting as acting mayor, did not cast a vote.

"The Little Theatre's been trying for the past couple of years to work something out with the school board," Coun. Booth noted, "but then the

(Arts Plus committee) comes in at the last minute with plans to review the whole situation. That's probably a good idea, but I think the GLT's been lost in the shuffle somewhere. We're talking now about building one big, fancy dreamhouse that may never appear."

Coun. Levy pointed out that Derek Joyne had urged the general committee the week before to reject Wrigglesworth in its search for a cultural centre site. Speaking on behalf of the GLT, Mr. Joyne had informed the committee that his group has found a temporary alternate site for its 1979-80 season elsewhere in town after years of staging its productions in the school's auditorium, soon to be converted into a resource centre.

"The GLT, Coun. Levy said, is "not kicking about this", and

willingly joined in the efforts of the Arts Plus committee which is representing the interests of many local art and crafts-oriented groups in the matter.

FINALIZE PLANS
Coun. Booth responded that he believes the GLT "may have been misled" into abandoning its interest in Wrigglesworth. He conceded that his opinion might be "pessimistic," but contended that council will be unable to finalize plans for a \$1 million theatre arts centre by the time the GLT is again looking for a home.

"I just don't see how we can afford any kind of centre if we don't want to work with the school board," Coun. Miller agreed. "I can't support spending taxpayer's money for something that's probably just a dream."

Coun. Booth added that he would like to see a meeting convened immediately between council and officials of the GLT to further discuss the possible use of Wrigglesworth or some other school board facility. To reject Wrigglesworth now, he said, would cut the GLT off altogether.

WAS ALARMED
Coun. Biehn expressed reservations about rejecting the Wrigglesworth option, although he was alarmed at the estimated \$600,000 cost of adding a limited theatre facility onto the school, as suggested by the town's consultants last week.

"It seems a tremendous amount to pay for what we'd be getting," he complained. "Surely we could get something better. I'd hate to see the GLT left out in the middle of nowhere."

Coun. Armstrong expressed willingness to meet with the GLT despite council's decision to reject Wrigglesworth.

In response to a question from Coun. Serjeantson, clerk-administrator Ken Richardson reported that Bob Bailey, head of the town's consulting firm on the project, will likely be making a detailed report on alternative sites for the cultural centre around the beginning of May. Coun. Serjeantson stressed the urgency of the matter.

Commission hears speakers describe problems, solutions

Critics of the Canadian food production and distribution system who blame corporate profiteering for the high cost of groceries are under estimating for more serious problems involving the system's inefficiency and lack of competition, the Halton-Peel People's Food Commission was told yesterday (Friday).

Addressing commissioners and guests during the first of two days of hearings being held in Norval, Ric Symmes of Terra Cotta compared the "profit-bashers" to cats waiting in vain "at the wrong mouse-hole." Average profits gleaned from investments in the food system, he said, are in fact "pathetic" when compared to returns on investments in other corporate activities.

Mr. Symmes, chairman of the environmentally-concerned Sierra Club, is one of about 20 speakers who addressed People's Food Commissioners Jim Sheldon of London and Catherine Morisset of Ottawa at the special two-day conference held in St. Paul's Anglican Parish Hall.

LAYMANS ANSWER

The People's Food Commission, now a nation-wide movement, is a kind of layman's answer to the federal government's Royal Commission inquiries. Problems involved in the production and marketing of food in Canada, and possible solutions, were examined and discussed in detail.

The nearly 20 submissions heard Friday and Saturday will be incorporated into a commission report expected this fall, to be compiled after hearings have been held in some 65 municipalities across Canada. The individual sessions in Norval attracted between 15 and 30 interested listeners.

Rising food prices repeatedly emerge as the major concern shared by most individuals involved in the food system as well as consumers. Others include the low financial returns gleaned from farming, the government's failure to act on problems, food imports, marketing boards, the role of big corporations, food quality and the future economic viability of full-time farming.

Mr. Symmes prefaced his remarks Friday by expressing some reservation over addressing "yet another costly inquiry into the high cost of food." Citing his life-long involvement in almost all aspects of food production and distribution, however, he conceded that the commission hearings may produce some worthwhile results.

"Profits are a phony issue," Mr. Symmes said, "one that you hear a lot of speakers talking about, especially the ones with a socialist bent."

Except for government-controlled operations where competition is stifled, he said, high profits constitute a "self-controlling system" and represent "legitimate rent" on any investments made.

Mr. Symmes pointed out that the Canadian consumer is "by

and large, well-served" by the food chain, able to select from a wide variety of products. The consumer's ability to afford food products, he added, is evidenced by the fact that more Canadians are spending more money on meals outside the home.

REAL PROBLEMS
The real problems, he contended, are the inefficiency of the food system, and the shortage of competition.

Instead of launching more inquiries in order to appear to be doing something about the problem, the Canadian politician must reduce inefficiency so that producers can enjoy better returns on their investments and consumers can pay lower prices, Mr. Symmes said.

To curb the inefficiency that is driving corporate expenses, and this food prices, higher, he said, the government must relax its production and distribution regulations. The very rigidity of existing government policy, he said, creates loopholes so that the major distributors need not be "efficient, aggressive and creative".

Mr. Symmes said the recent "de-regulation" of North American airlines restrictions has created lower air fares and attracted more customers largely by stimulating competition.

The speaker suggested several areas in need of attention from politicians themselves or from public movements like the People's Food Commission. He advised the commissioners at the hearings to challenge the practice of having federal, provincial and local officials inspect, in turn, the same produce or processing system. The duplication of services, he complained, increases costs for the producer and consumer alike.

Among Saturday's presentations was one by Eleanor

Bousfield of Milton, who reminded listeners that the farmer is also a consumer. She cited inflation and marketing obstacles as the major problems facing farmers today.

Production costs have risen three times in recent years, Mrs. Bousfield said, while food prices have doubled and the cost of farm equipment is up as much as ten times.

Evaluating modern farming

as a "gamble" she urged all who are concerned to start asking some "hard questions" of the government. Why, she wondered, are the supermarkets and distributors guaranteed at least minimum profit while farmers must take risks? Probably because the farming community only represents five per cent of the vote to the government, Mrs. Bousfield speculated.

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School board plans textbook scrutiny

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer

The Halton board of education has decided that the boards' superintendent of program will annually submit a list of textbooks which haven't been approved by the board or the ministry of education previously, before these textbooks are placed on any school's curriculum.

The list of textbooks will be available for members of the public and trustees to study for four weeks prior to the list being brought forward to the board for approval. This year's list will be presented to the board for approval by April 26.

The ministry of education circulates a list of approved textbooks, known as Circular 14. According to the circular, "in all subject areas for which books are listed in Circular 14, textbooks must be selected from those listed in Circular 14, unless permission for another selection has been granted by the Minister."

Textbooks for English literature, French literature, "the authors in modern languages and classics", shorthand and special education, are not covered in Circular 14, and the ministry policy says the textbooks are to be selected by the principal "in consultation with the teachers, and the selection approved by board resolution."

The board's policy on textbooks requiring the boards' approval has been to say that "the board believes that decisions on which school learning experiences will develop a student's talents best are made by a teacher who knows the learner."

"The teacher has responsibilities both to his or her students, and to the community in the handling of controversial issues. A topic should be of enough significance or so related to a persistent problem that information acquired about it will be of continuing usefulness. The teacher in guiding discussion of contro-

versial issues must show just consideration for the feelings of all his or her students... If the issue clashes with some community customs and attitudes, the teacher must be doubly sure that the issue is studied and discussed reasonably," the circular continues.

PARENTS OBJECT
"Content or material considered by some to be controversial, should not be considered mandatory for any students whose parents object, and appropriate and immediate steps should be taken to establish an alternate program for students which will not offend either them or their parents... controversial content or material should not be banished from use in the schools as removing the controversial content or material could deprive other students; and that individual tastes should not dictate standards for the entire community," the policy concludes.

Mr. Donut gets his sign

Continued from Page 1

these never hurt Las Vegas". Coun. Biehn told council that he had changed his mind about the sign application after viewing the Mr. Donut site. Although he had sided with a majority of councillors in rejecting a similar application last term, he said, "two wrongs don't make a right".

COUNCIL WAFFLING
Coun. Levy acknowledged the "waffling" taking place around the table but steadfastly stood by his previous decision. Council must continue its practice of considering sign applications on their own individual merits, he said, in order to prevent its portion of Highway 7 from turning into eventually resembling Brampton's portion, sometimes referred to as the "golden mile" where commercial signs proliferate.

There should be no signs approved at all until the town's sign bylaw is completed and approved, he said.

Georgetown's main thoroughfare is already beginning to resemble the golden mile, Coun. Serjeantson said, adding that it is difficult to vote against an application when the pole for the sign has already been installed. She nevertheless maintained her opposition to the sign, warning that more applications will be forthcoming.

Coun. Booth called Coun. Levy's suggestion that all sign application should be turned down "ludicrous". He reiterated his argument that council must stop "paying lip service" to its promises to encourage new industry and commerce and take positive steps.



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ONLY 27 DAYS LEFT - APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

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Sunday, April 8
13:00 h to 17:00 h
Brampton Campus
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The Enercon Building, part of Sheridan's Alternative Energy Resource Centre, is unique to Canada. The building is designed as a testing bed where the public and Sheridan students can research energy projects.

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- And other alternate energy equipment
- Also a 200 page bibliography listing relevant resource materials.

For more information about the Enercon Building contact the Applied Science and Technology Division 459-7533



WARP BOYCOTT

Women Against Rising Prices (WARP) is boycotting the following items for the week of April 4 to 10: all meats over \$1.70 per pound, all sugar coated cereals, all biscuits over \$1.25 per pound, butter over \$1.42 per pound, canned fish, tea, bananas and cabbage.