



The Halton Scottish Country dancers danced up a storm last week at Stewarttown Hall making the complicated steps of Scottish reels look easy. The group is looking for interested dancers and urges people, beginners and dancers alike, to come out and take part in the dancing. (Herald photo)

Parents blast board

Two Oakville parents have written the Halton board of education, expressing their dissatisfaction with the school system in Halton, and requesting changes in the program being taught to their children.

Dr. Blair Shaw, who has three children attending schools in Halton, is also head of the Renaissance Family Institute, which is dedicated to the position that the schools exist to serve the family.

Dr. Shaw has three children in the Halton school system. In his letter, Dr. Shaw writes that he and his wife, "as parents, assume and maintain full responsibility and right to direct, guide and control the education of our children, including their schooling."

He went on to list a total of 14 items which he did not wish to see involved in his children's education, some of them programs, and some involving school procedures.

Dr. Shaw, who is a psychologist and a syndicated columnist, said he would not allow his children to be submitted to psychological testing, or physical testing. He also wishes to prohibit the keeping of health records of any kind, or the practise of medical diagnosis or treatment of illnesses.

Among the subjects which he said he would not wish his children to study are the study of or use of any language other than English, values education, human growth and development, health classes, sex and family life studies, and physical education programs.

NO DETENTIONS
Dr. Shaw also said he would not want his children studying literature or viewing movies which do not meet with his approval, or to be given group detentions or individual detentions which would require them to remain after regular school hours.

Another Oakville area parent, Bert Tunney, had some severe criticisms of the school system in Halton and suggested that a number of changes have to be made to turn the system around.

"Educate our children, teach them the basics, straighten out your administrators, principals, teachers and school rooms," Mr. Tunney wrote. "Create an atmosphere that demands and teaches respect and understanding. Use discipline for unruly students, teachers, etc., fairly but firmly. Straighten out your school house and do your job, (teach my children the basics) and stay out of my family's home."

Mr. Tunney concluded his letter by requesting a guarantee in writing from the board that his children would not be taught morals, values, sex or parenting education, and that, in place of these, the time period "will be used to teach a better understanding of the basic three 'R's'." Failing the receipt of this guarantee by September 30, Mr. Tunney said he would be contacting his lawyer "to institute guarantees on my behalf."

Board chairman Bill Herd said that under the Education Act, he didn't believe it was possible to provide written guarantees, but it will be suggested that he contact the principal of this children's school and they could discuss Mr. Tunney's concerns about his children's education.

Halton Hills trustee Betty Fisher said that there are alternatives open for students whose parents prefer them not to take particular courses.

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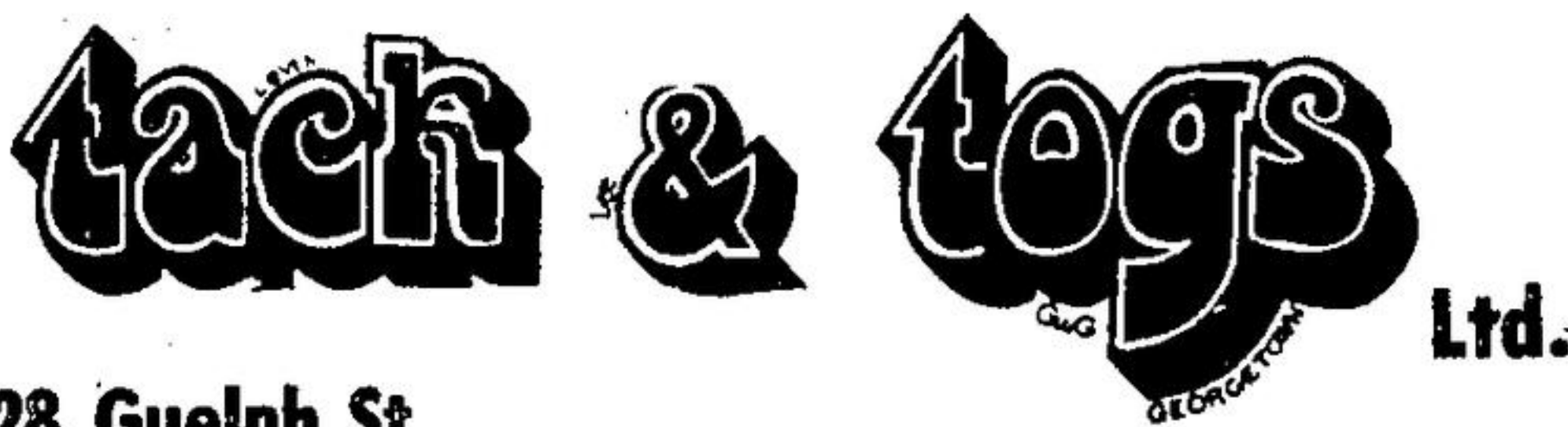
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