

Halton school board says no to assistant education director

By JOHN BOTTOMLEY
Herald special

Halton board of education Thursday night defeated by a single vote a motion which would have created an assistant director of education and abolished the post of superintendent of instruction in Halton Region.

Director of education Em Lavender made the proposal in a report on the board's administrative structure on the grounds it would provide the possibility of a successor to the present director without a commitment being made by the board or the person involved. He added the move would result in a contraction in size of the senior administration that reflects the contraction in the size of the system.

SHORT, LONG TERM
The report pointed out some short term needs and long term needs of the board. Mr. Lavender said by January 1980 the system needs first class leadership in supervision and professional development, first class leadership in the preparation, negotiation and administration of collective

agreements, personnel who will provide strong individual leadership for the system and add to the collective strength of the executive committee, and a structure that recognizes the strengths of the present superintendents of program and special services.

Long term needs according to the reports, were the provision of the possibility of a successor to the present director, recognition of the strength of much of the present structure, structural changes at the senior level that recognize the improved qualifications of the teaching staff and the leadership skills of the principals, fiscal restraint, the need to add strength to the preparation, negotiation and administration of the collective agreements, career planning for principals

and supervisory officers to ensure the quality of leadership and recognition of the implications of proposed mandatory legislation re: mandatory special education.

The recommendation received considerable debate, particularly the issue of commitment. Many trustees felt the position could not be offered without some sort of commitment, even if both parties agreed there would be none.

"The commitment will be there," said trustee Fred Armitage.

NEED QUESTIONED

Other trustees questioned the need for an assistant at all, saying his duties were simply those of the superintendent of

instruction, minus some negotiating duties.

Arguing for the change, trustee Bill Lawson pointed out the position would provide a training ground for somebody hoping to step into a director's post, if not in Halton, then somewhere else. He added the board has never appointed a director from outside its own ranks, and because of that "it is entirely reasonable to advertise for the position of assistant director without a commitment" the assistant would move up to the director's spot.

The board approved a revised structure which includes the superintendent of instruction with a reduced responsibility load. The superintendent will have to look after professional development, supervi-

sion of all instructional staff, staff promotion, academic personnel, and supervision of area superintendents. Former duties also included work on the personnel committee, salary negotiations and administration of collective agreements.

Mr. Lavender said in his report this was the second most desirable alternative, in his opinion, because it met all the short and long term needs he saw in the board's operation except succession planning for the director's position.

Cat Lives

The average lifespan of a cat is 12 years. Home-bound cats, receiving tender care, are likely to live 15 to 20 years.



SENIORS BAKE SALE

These ladies were behind the counter selling baked goods Saturday on behalf of the United Senior Citizens at Zellers'. The home-baked cakes, cookies and other delights were a popular addition to the purchases of many of the store's customers.

(Herald photo)

Work begins as ministry ok's demo forest

By PAUL DORSEY
Herald staff writer

Work is already underway on the 1.3 acre "Demonstration Forest" being planted at the site of the Halton regional municipal headquarters in Oakville, with approval received last week for the project from the provincial ministry of government services.

Subsequent to regional council's approval of the reforestation project September 19, municipal staff learned that a portion of the site thought to region-owned is actually owned by the ministry. Tentative approval has since been granted by Queen's Park subject to council agreeing to basic maintenance and indemnification conditions.

Regional staff, meanwhile, is now spraying and ploughing the proposed site ready for the relocation of some 1,400 trees which will present visitors with an overview of species of trees indigenous to Halton. The \$300 site preparation costs being borne by the region this year are expected to decrease in coming years, with maintenance the only ongoing concern.

"After 1982, these trees will be able to take care of themselves and could be left on their own," according to Bob White of the region's planning staff.

WEED CONTROL

The management program prepared by the region's Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee (EEAC) has already seen the site sprayed for weed control and ploughed with north-south furrows. Next April, it is hoped that area scouts and guides may be interested in assisting in the planting of the site as an Arbor Day project. Mulching with wood chips is also planned in the spring.

The regional planning committee last week referred a letter from the ministry of natural resources to staff for implementation of its suggestions. After reviewing the forest proposal, the ministry recommended the addition of several species of trees not previously proposed for the site, including American beech, bitternut, hickory, yellow birch, blue beech, ironwood, Scots pine and jack pine.

Also planned for planting are white ash, white pine, red oak, sugar maple, and Carolina poplar. The ministry has indicated its desire to inspect any black walnut samples prior to cutting and relocation.

HYDRO HELPS

Early this summer Ontario Hydro afforded the region an opportunity to realize a recommendation put forth last January by EEAC when the utility indicated its willingness to provide 1,400 trees

for the site through its replacement scheme. Hydro is replanting more than 43 acres of land, mostly in Halton Hills and Milton, this year, and regional council accepted its offer to include Oakville site in the scheme.

Mr. White advised council in a preliminary report that the demonstration forest would also create an attractive buffer between the headquarters building and surrounding land uses, mostly agricultural, and provide a suitable habitat to Halton's wildlife.

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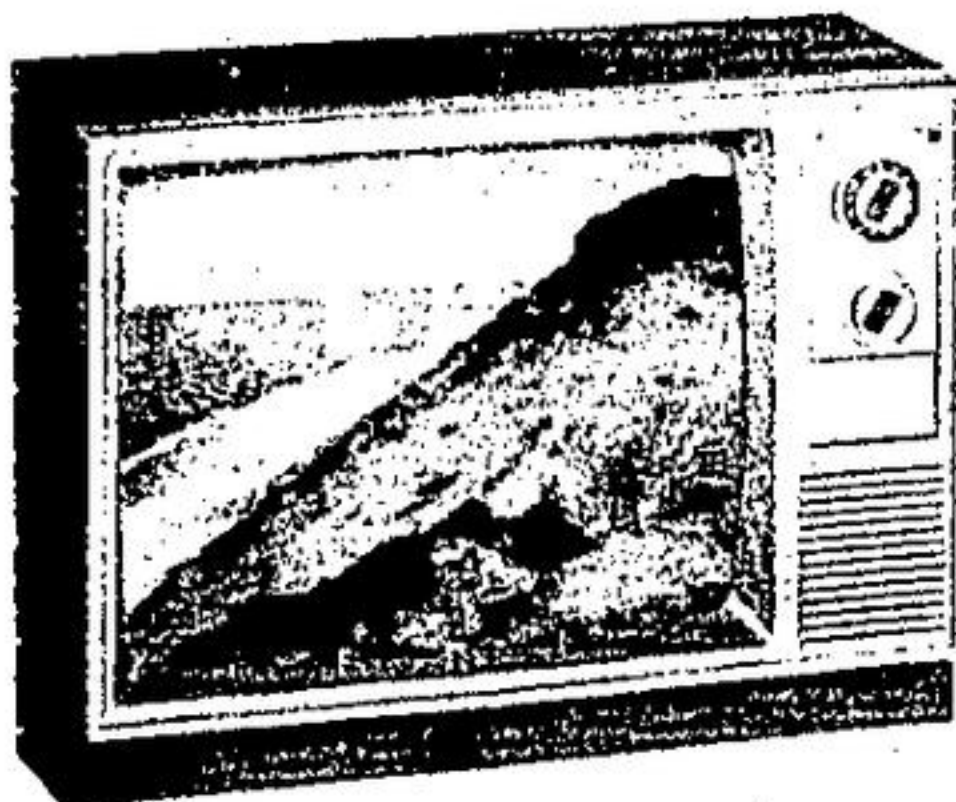
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