

First strike a possibility

Teachers' talks: 99% reject latest offer

By LOUI TAYLOR
 Herald Staff Writer
 Halton secondary school teachers have almost unanimously rejected the board of education's final offer for their 1979-80 contract.

A negotiation session has been scheduled for today (Wednesday), but if no progress is made, the teachers have the option of requesting the Education Relations Commission to conduct a strike vote next week. There has never been a strike by teachers in Halton.

The board's final offer contained a six per cent salary increase which would be effective upon the signing of the contract, and not retroactive to the expiry date of the last contract. Officials of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) say that if the teachers signed the contract, the raise would actually work out to 2.4 per cent.

Of the 1,143 teachers who voted, only eight voted in favor of the offer. There were two

spoiled ballots, and the rest of the ballots rejected the offer. Ron Ness, president of District 9, local branch of the OSSTF, said the vote shows "very strong support" by the teachers for the negotiating team.

Board chairman Bill Herd said that as far as he's concerned, the vote was "only a step in the negotiating process".

"I think it was premature of the teachers to call for a final offer," Mr. Herd said. "I don't think either side was finished negotiating yet."

NOT ALARMED
 The chairman said he is not alarmed or anxious about the possibility of the teachers voting in favor of a strike.

"I'm not concerned about the teachers calling a strike vote," he said. "If they want to, they can go ahead and strike. I'd be concerned if I thought that the provincial negotiators were torpedoing the negotiations and I don't think they are."

Mr. Herd said that speaking as a trustee on the board, he

hopes that should today's session not go well, the board and teachers could agree to meet with a third party to assist in resolving their differences.

The negotiations this year are about a month behind where they were last year at this time, and Mr. Herd said he doesn't think the negotiating process between the board and its teachers has improved over the years since Bill 100 was passed. Bill 100 is the legislation governing negotiations between boards of education and teachers.

"I think the legislation governing board-teacher negotiations has become outmoded in the five years since it was set," Mr. Herd said. "Bill 100 gets you into negotiating in January and doesn't provide any incentive to get a settlement before September, when you're required to have a fact-finder. Hell, it's just nonsensical the way it's set up now."

"It all heads you towards confrontation, and that's dumb," he continued. "There isn't a teachers' strike in the province that's helped anybody. This isn't the Post Office, but it wouldn't take too many years to degenerate into the kind of relationship the post office has with its employees."

Mr. Herd said he sees the usefulness of having mediators assist with negotiations, but doesn't think fact-finders are necessary.

WASTE OF TIME
 "Frankly I think fact-finders are a waste of time and money," he said, "some retired old guys with nothing to do come in and put down on paper what everybody already knows. If you understand English, you can tell what the other guy's position is."

"The current legislation is under review, and I'm encouraged that it is, but we'll have to wait a couple of months to see what happens," he said. "The ministry in my view has been a little lax. They've been running around the province talking about changing the secondary schools and adding all these new programs. Maybe they should be looking at what we spend most of our time on - negotiations. Maybe they should be getting their priorities straight."

Contract talks between the board and its secondary school teachers began almost a year ago. About two months ago, the local negotiating team bargaining on behalf of the teachers withdrew in favor of negotiators from the provincial arm of the federation. Issues still outstanding, in addition to salary, include the pupil-teacher ratio and the continuing of retirement gratuities for teachers.

The present salary range for secondary school teachers in Halton is from \$13,301 to \$28,434, depending on the teacher's experience. The board has offered a scale ranging from \$14,677 to \$29,999. The teachers are asking for a salary scale from \$14,381 to \$30,762.



ACTON HIGH'S 76 TROMBONES

The combined trombone sections of the Edmonton Thunderbirds and the Acton High School were just a small part of an 80 member band which performed Thursday night in Acton at a special concert ending the first week long stage of a musical exchange which spans three provinces. The

Thunderbirds played a short concert, then were joined by the host band for the final few numbers. Acton will make a return visit to Edmonton the long weekend in May. For another photo, see page 11.

Young hero to be honored

A nine-year-old Acton boy will receive recognition from the Halton Safety Council for his bravery in saving a friend's life - but he'll have to wait a year for the award.

Kevin Fabian pulled Robert Jennings, 10, out of Fairy Lake on Feb. 13 after Robert fell through the ice while trying to pet some swans. The ice around the edge of the hole where the birds were swimming gave way plunging the boy up to his chest in the water.

Eznie Johnstone of the safety council said Kevin will definitely be recognized when the 1980 awards are passed out but that won't be until next spring.

NEC plan sanctioned by regions

By LOUI TAYLOR
 Herald Staff Writer

The Association of Counties and Regions of Ontario has endorsed the development control guidelines in the Niagara Escarpment Commission's (NEC) proposed plans as the best method of controlling land use along the escarpment.

In a presentation to the full commission Thursday, spokesman Harry Baker and Barbara Hume-Wright said the association supports development control but members would like to see the responsibility for issuing development permits left with local councils wherever possible.

"The right to appeal development permits to the Ontario Municipal Board should be limited to county, regional and local councils, and to property owners within 400 feet of proposed developments, the

association said. Mr. Baker said this limitation would help reduce the number of frivolous objections to permit applications.

NEC member Raymond Jones was concerned about the section of the association's report which dealt with the Bruce Trail. The report recommends that landowners along the desired route of the trail should not be forced into providing access or right-of-way for the trail and "every attempt must be made to utilize road rights-of-way or publicly owned land to develop this connective link between the proposed Niagara Escarpment Parks System."

NEC member Gary Hannon, who is also a member of the association, said this suggestion was meant to provide an alternative where landowners don't want the trail on their property.

'Solution' to garbage woes delayed despite warnings

By RICHARD PETRASHEK
 Herald Staff Writer

A proposed \$20 million solid waste management system, intended to solve Halton region's continuing garbage problem, is being referred back to staff for further input despite the impassioned urging of several councillors that the time for implementation is now.

The decision to delay the item was made last week following a long and highly charged debate that saw regional chairman Jack Raffis relinquish from his chair for the second time since he took the position, to caution council against going too far towards resource recovery as a solution to the garbage problem.

Council was divided into two groups on the debate. One group, headed by Burlington Councillor Walter Mulkeiwich,

urged council "to step into history" by adopting the solid waste management system, as outlined in a recommendation from a special council committee on solid waste management. The other group, led by Oakville Councillor Mac Anderson, cautioned council against "stepping off a cliff" without obtaining further input from staff.

Halton Hills Mayor Pete Ponero, who made the

referral motion, said that although his town has suffered directly from the present lack of direction on the garbage situation, he does not believe that resource recovery is necessarily the answer.

A number of councillors agreed that landfill sites are still the cheapest and best way to get rid of solid waste.

Milton Councillor Bill Johnson, considered something of an expert on council regarding

resource recovery, strongly disagreed.

"Some of the stuff presently in our landfill sites is like a time bomb waiting to go off," he said, making reference to the Love Canal in Buffalo and other disposal sites that have recently released toxic substances.

Council member Johnson was particularly concerned that the proposed system, which had been strongly recommended by the solid waste manage-

ment committee of which he is a member, was being referred back to staff.

"We're supposed to be leaders - not led," he said.

The recommendations made by the committee were based on the Kilbourn Solid Waste Management Study, completed in January. It was the third in a series of long-term waste management studies commissioned by the region since 1974.

No northern waste station 'til '81 - Moore

Halton Hills will not have a transfer station to ease its garbage transportation problems until sometime in 1981, according to Halton region's public works director, Bill Moore.

The transfer station is part of a proposed \$20 million solid waste management system that was referred to staff for further input at last week's regional council meeting.

Halton Hills Councillor Roy Booth pointed out during a debate on the system that the transfer station is a pressing need in the town.

"The transfer station is needed now, or better yet - yesterday," he said. "The town will be budgeting for garbage transportation in 1980 shortly and we need to know when the transfer station is going to be built."

Mr. Moore said that the building of the transfer station depends on land availability and the market potential in the Georgetown area for the compressed garbage which the station will produce.

"I can't see the transfer station being operational before 1981," he said. Mr. Moore noted that the Oakville landfill site will reportedly be expanded this year and will be open to Halton Hills garbage at that time.

According to the Kilbourn Solid Waste Management Study, the estimated cost of building a transfer station in Georgetown is about \$24,000,000.

What the Station does, the report said, is compress garbage into a denser material thereby allowing a single garbage truck to carry what would normally require four or five trucks. This would, the study said, reduce transportation costs to landfill sites.

The transfer station, which the report suggests should be built between Trafalgar Road and the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, would be constructed so that a modular incinerator could be added. The incinerator, which would burn the compressed garbage, could possibly be used to provide steam for the hospital.

The report estimates the cost of the incinerator at \$20,000,000.

The report also suggested that the transfer station could be used as a storage place for recyclable materials such as glass and newspaper.

The region's business development department would be asked to develop markets for the source-separated materials and to act as an incinerator.

TONIGHT
The return of Camerata
 Holy Cross Church, 8 p.m.

Still no MOH: last applicant withdraws

Almost three months after the retirement of Dr. Joseph Chamberlain, Halton Region still has not found a new medical officer of health.

Ernie Reid, the region's chief administrative officer, announced at last week's council meeting that the last remaining candidate had withdrawn his application, leaving the region with no contenders for the job.

"It seems strange that there's only one applicant for the position," commented a perplexed Councillor Laurie Vandenbrouk of Oakville.

Acton Councillor Walter A. Brown, chairman of the region's health and social services committee, said that there are limited applicants because the position requires specialized training.

"We should have had a replacement when Dr. Chamberlain retired December 1," Mr. Reid told the Herald, adding that the region will be "pursuing other avenues" in search of a candidate.

One possibility, he said, might be the University of Toronto, which has a working arrangement with the region, as a contact source.

Should all else fail, Mr. Reid indicated the region might employ a management consultant.

In the meantime, Dorothy Clark, regional director of health services, is handling the day-to-day administrative functions normally performed by the MOH, while Dr. Gordon Inglis from Burlington is taking care of the medical aspects.



NOTED RESIDENTS HAIL HALTON HERITAGE

James Snow, Ontario's minister of transportation and communications, and George Kerr, MPP for Burlington South, joined Halton regional chairman Jack Itallis as he presented CFRB broadcaster Betty Kennedy with a special gift from the

region. Ms. Kennedy was given the gift, a silver maple leaf pin with the Halton crest, for her participation in last Friday's "Heritage Day" program at the region. See story page 2. (Herald photo by Richard Petrashek)