



GOOD GUESSERS!

Some guessed 500, some guessed a million, but Ricky and Monica Engert came closest to guessing the correct number of jelly beans in a large jar on display outside the Akers-Clark Realty office during downtown Georgetown's Pioneer Days celebration last weekend. While their grandmother, Mrs. Bergman, looks on, the children accepted a check last week from company employee Hank Hensink. The correct number of jelly beans in the jar, by the way, was 1,225.

Experimental site chosen for sewage sludge disposal

After a heated round of bad publicity centering on improper disposal methods, sewage sludge from Halton Hills' water purification plants may yet find a purpose on local farms, Halton region's public works committee decided last Wednesday.

Under an agreement with the Halton Federation of Agriculture, the region had hired a contractor to remove sludge from the Ashgrove lagoon and spread it on forage crop fields set aside for the experiment. Calculated to test the value of the sludge as a fertilizer, the experiment will see fields treated with different quantities and the resulting growth monitored by the federation. Tested

crops will include corn, hay, and possibly fall wheat.

Halton Hills Coun. Russ Miller told The Herald that the region is moving to prevent Mississauga sludge from being used in the program because of high levels of heavy metal contaminants. The region is expected to meet with ministry of environment officials shortly to iron out the problem.

Full-scale use of the sludge will not occur in the Halton Hills area until the region and

School board debates value of anti-drug education

Sharp division was obvious between conservative and progressive members of the Halton Board of Education Thursday evening during discussion about results of a recent drug survey conducted in a Halton school.

While some members accepted the results of a survey done among students at Oakville-Trafalgar High School as being indicative of a problem demanding immediate action, others felt that giving students additional information could be dangerous.

Elsie Hillson questioned Addiction Research Foundation representative Peter Marks as to what sort of philosophy would accompany lessons on drug and alcohol abuse. She challenged his

contention that children should be allowed to make their own decisions, saying today's children are confused by choices open to them. What they really want is direction, she said, and it's time parents and schools really laid the law down about what they can and can't do.

Mr. Marks said his remarks about equipping children to make their own decisions stem from parent education talks he gives. In these, he stresses the need for children to be allowed to make decisions as they grow up so that the first major decision they make on their own won't be whether or not to "smoke up" in the school yard.

Mr. Marks said that children need guidance rather than having every decision made for them.

Elaine Itelhm said she felt public health staff should be teaching preventive education on drug abuse as they do in sex education.

Florence Meares asked what existing subjects would have to be dropped in order to make room for the drug program.

Cam Jackson suggested that the separate school board should work on the program, too, since separate and public school students would wind up in the same high schools.

Len Crozier agreed with the idea of beginning preventive lessons at the elementary

school level and noted that the survey showed many students had been exposed to drugs in the seventh and eighth grades.

John Bradley said the entire discussion gave him a "je-tu feeling", harking back to discussion on sex education training in the Halton system. At that time, the board hoped preventive information would put an end to unwanted pregnancies, venereal disease and other sex-related problems. It didn't happen, he said.

Now he questioned whether furthering the students' knowledge of drugs wouldn't just broaden their choices on what to use and how.

Jackie Cutmore reminded

the board that alcohol is also a problem students face and pointed out that the average number of alcoholics is dropping. She urged the board to support the raising of the drinking age back to 21.

The rationale for lowering the drinking age was that if youngsters are old enough to go into the army at 18, they are also old enough to drink, Ms. Cutmore noted.

"When we put them in the army, we train them to use guns," she said. "We don't train them to drink."

The board will discuss action suggested by its executive committee on how to deal with the drug problem in Halton schools at its July meeting.

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