

# Acton parents feel 'shafted' by separate school board

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Mr. Sherk attempted to have the board rescind the conflicting motions in the minutes of earlier meetings but board chairman Bob O'Brien refused to accept the motion.

"I expect they'll come up with a response to our brief fairly quickly in order to smooth us but all it'll be will be a Band Aid on a big problem," Mr. McMahon said.

He presented a brief to the board outlining the two main concerns of the parents association. Their concerns centre on communication with the board and the state of the facility in which St. Joseph's students are being educated.

Communications problems seem to exist between the parents and the board, board members themselves, the board and its director and the board and the ministry, Mr. McMahon said.

The brief documented the numerous times the parents had been assured that a new facility for the Acton students was the board's number one priority.

It also quoted a letter from Education Minister Bette Stephenson to Halton-Burlington M.P. Julian Reed, stating that the board's "number one priority for a new school in the Oakville area was approved."

The parents want their status clarified, Mr. McMahon said.

In the matter of inadequate facilities the brief noted there

is no gymnasium, no library, no special education facilities, and insufficient classroom space to adequately house all pupils.

The parents added there is a potential health hazard of "frequently" overflowing toilets and a number of inadequacies in safety standards which are overlooked because of the age of the structure.

Mr. Sherk's motion to seek a switch in funding was one of

two recommendations made in the brief. The first recommendation called for the board to hold its next monthly meeting in St. Joseph's. Mr. Sherk put the recommendation forward in the form of a motion and the board adopted it immediately setting the meeting date as Aug. 26.

**PARENT MEMBERS**  
A third motion by Mr. Sherk would have seen a member of

the parents' association on the committee going to the ministry but it was lost when the motion to set up the committee was tabled.

The parents asked the board for written assurance by Aug. 15 of when their children will get a new facility.

Mr. McMahon said the minister of education will be asked to visit St. Joseph's before school begins in September but

he couldn't guess on any date for the visit.

He also said there are several routes open to parents who would not send their children back to St. Joseph's under present conditions but refused to elaborate on them at present.

Already discussed is the prospect of a boycott of the facilities or action by parents to redirect education taxes to the public school board.

## Little hope for St. Joseph's this year, trustee Sherk says

Halton separate school trustee Hartley Sherk is not holding out much hope that funds will be available for Acton's new separate school after the ministry of education makes its September announcements.

Mr. Sherk, Halton Hills representative on the board, said St. Joseph's school is on the list of items which will be presented for consolidation by the ministry next month.

A total of 40 items are on the list, he said, but he questions how the ministry can find funds for these projects when so many have

been turned down.

"Education doesn't seem to be the priority this year," he said. "It's a priorities shift. I suppose they've cut back in these areas other years to give the funds to education but this year education is apparently cutback. At least, it looks that way."

Mr. Sherk said school funding is a numbers game. St. Joseph's had asked for funding for 320 pupils while Falgoutwood, which was given ministry approval, was looking for space for 500 pupils.

While Acton parents aren't satisfied with existing ac-

commodation for St. Joseph's, the ministry looks at many situations that are far worse - in some areas whole schools are in portable classrooms.

There isn't enough money to meet everyone's needs and the minister sees St. Joseph's as having some accommodation even if they aren't good, he said.

Mr. Sherk said he has no idea how the board will respond to a boycott if parents keep their threat to withhold pupils from school in September. It is something he has not experienced and

knows of no other board that has faced such action.

Mr. Sherk doubts the board would pay rent for an empty building if parents carry through with the threat. St. Joseph's is housed in a century-old building rented from the Halton board of education.

"Roman Catholics have the privilege of switching their tax support from one system to another," Mr. Sherk said, "and we can't stop them. But how can we go to the ministry for funds for a school if there are no students in the classrooms?"

### Lack of know-how a problem

## Actonians conserving energy, by staying at home--survey

**Herald Special**  
Acton area families surveyed this spring on their energy use patterns over the past year aren't interested in joining conservation groups or attending meetings.

The survey, prepared by the University of Guelph and conducted by total immersion students from Acton high school, shows that families are entertaining or visiting friends more at home but they aren't willing to get involved with a group over their energy concerns.

A total of 103 families from varying rural and urban backgrounds were involved in the survey sponsored by the Energy Pulse Group of the Rural Outreach Development Project. The rural outreach program is supported by a grant from the Kellogg Foundation.

A majority of households thought it shouldn't be difficult to reduce most people's energy consumption by 10 per cent. A high percentage (80.6) of those surveyed agreed consumers should save but only 68 per cent thought community efforts to cut energy consumption are important.

While most families reported taking steps to cut electrical consumption they weren't so happy about washing clothes in cold water or bathing less than three times a week. Lower standards of cleanliness just aren't acceptable, they said.

Half those surveyed would lower the setting on their hot water heater only they didn't know how to do it. Cutting household expenses was more frequently mentioned as a benefit of this reduction than the importance of conservation.

The households have already tackled a number of conservation methods in connection with home heating, the survey showed. Installation of storm

windows and doors, addition of insulation, servicing the home heating system, reducing the daytime setting on the thermostat to less than 70 degrees Fahrenheit and shut off heat in unused rooms.

A third of those surveyed weren't willing to add wood-burning stoves or furnaces or

get into solar or wind technology because it either cost too much or they lacked knowledge.

They had tried to reduce transportation fuel usage by reducing highway speeds, driving smaller vehicles, blending traffic schedules within the family, walking and bicycling

more, and finding a job closer to home the survey showed.

Actions they were unwilling to take included more use of a bus or train joining a car pool or changing jobs to be closer to home. Actions to look at in the future according to a third of those surveyed was staying home more often.

## Rest home addition awaits more public financing

Lack of funds is holding up plans to double the capacity of an Acton rest home.

Janet Booth, owner and operator of Acton Seniors Residence on Mill Street west, wants to put an addition to the back of the existing two-storey brick house to accommodate 10 more beds and include library and recreational facilities for the entire house.

Mrs. Booth has appealed to the public for a private individual or company interested in investing \$15,000 to \$30,000 in the facility. There is a need in the area for her service, she says, since no other local rest

home provides it.

Her residents all have problems such as strokes, heart trouble or diabetes and require slightly more care than that offered in most rest homes without being severe enough to need nursing home facilities.

Mrs. Booth is a registered nurse and employs a nurse to work other shifts in her residence so that she can offer the extra care she feels these people require.

Mrs. Booth, who has run her home for more than two years, says she won't look to the government for assistance. There is too much red tape

involved and no guarantee the government won't tell her it should be handled by private enterprise anyway.

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11:00 AM - MORNING WORSHIP  
- COMMUNION SERVICE  
MESSAGE: THANKFULNESS VS THANKLESSNESS

7:00 P.M. - INDOOR CAMP MEETING  
SPECIAL MUSIC - CHARISMATIC WORSHIP  
MESSAGE: "THE BIG-FOUR SINS" (REVELATION 9:21)  
MURDERS, SORCERIES, FORNICATION, THEFTS  
PROMINENT SINS OF THE TRIBULATION

YOU NEED TO BE IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY  
"ONE DAY IT WILL BE TOO LATE"  
JESUS IS COMING AGAIN



### WE DID IT OURSELVES!

Stephen Lee and Mike Tyler found themselves with nothing to do recently, so with a little help from their fathers and Mike's grandfather, they built this go-kart. It took them three and a half days to build from the chassis out. A friend, Stephanie Crabbe, helped with the paint job. The go-kart comes equipped with a tool kit, a fancy steering system, and brakes made out of slices of tennis balls. The go-kart's name, Free Spirit, comes from the name of Stephen's bike, and the number 17 from Mike's hockey number.

(Herald photo by Lori Taylor)

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### NARROW ESCAPE

James Sokoluk, 21, of Toronto, escaped from this car with only a broken rib and assorted bumps and bruises after it crashed in a single-car accident Monday evening on the Fifth Line west and Highway 7 above Norval. Police did not have all the details on the accident at press time, but it appears the car was

eastbound on Highway 7 when it left the highway, fell into a deep ditch, where the driver fell out, and continued up over the Fifth Line into the ditch on the other side. Mr. Sokoluk was taken to Peel Memorial Hospital, where he was detained for observation. (Herald photo by Lori Taylor)

### Site F hearing begins

An environmental hearing into the proposed Site F landfill site in Milton will be held next month.

Halton regional solicitor Dennis Perlin told the region's Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee last week that the Environmental As-

essment Board will hear submissions on Site F in September, and the proceedings are expected to be lengthy.

The advisory committee has been concerned about Site F because of two woodlots on the

rural Milton site which contain a rare pine community known as "swamp-moss-hummock complex"; the stands are considered significant.

Mr. Perlin told the committee he would welcome any comments.