

Parents voice support

Kennedy booth stays but changes planned

By LORI TAYLOR
 Herald Staff Writer

The Halton Board of Education will continue to use a "time-out booth" in its class for behavioral problem students at George Kennedy Public School—either a newly-constructed booth, or a renovated version of the one which recently came under fire for its cramped size.

Ron Chapman, superintendent of special education for the board, said a temporary facility has been placed in the classroom using vision barriers. A new booth may be

reconstructed in another room, or the present booth may be renovated.

"It will be bigger, but whether it will be renovated or reconstructed elsewhere, we don't know," Mr. Chapman said. "It's something we'll be discussing with our maintenance people."

Georgetown trustee Barry Shepherd, meanwhile, attacked the Sunday Sun at Thursday's board meeting as having been unnecessarily sensational in its story of the time-out booth.

"Because of this article, kids who used to see the time-out

booth as a cooling-off place now see it as a jail," he told the board.

PARENTS APPROVE
 Mr. Shepherd said since the story was published, the parents of all 15 children involved in the behavioral program at Kennedy School have been contacted about the program, and 12 agreed with the use of the booth for their children under special circumstances.

Two of the parents asked that the booth not be used for their children, but said they support the behavioral program. One of the children is

being transferred back to his home school, against the advice of school officials, but this was because the parents wished to have the child back in his home school and not because of the booth, Mr. Shepherd said.

The time-out booth is a necessary part of the program for emotionally disturbed children, Mr. Shepherd said. An emotionally disturbed child may require isolation "several times before he understands that the extreme behavior he demonstrates is not going to get him the attention he wants."

"The trained people who have worked diligently and lovingly with this child have made him understand that he likes to get comes from behaving well," he continued.

BOOTH DESIGN
 Mr. Shepherd said he didn't think it was necessary for the board to be consulted about the design of the time-out booth.

"We have qualified psychological staff who are quite capable of designing the facility."

"Mr. Chapman, the Toronto Sun should stick with the Sunshine girls and the Toronto board's problems with its gay community, and stay out of our classrooms," Mr. Shepherd concluded, and several trustees called out, "Hear, hear."

Trustee Bill Lawson of Milton said he is receiving information about a booth being constructed in a school in Milton which leads him to oppose the type of booth being built.

"I will go on record as supporting the idea of isolating these children when they go completely out of control, but not in such a small room," he said. "If it means spending a little more money, so be it."



APPLES ABOUND

Charla Menhennet came all the way from Guelph with her parents and her brother to pick apples at Chudleigh's Apple Farm on Sunday. Different kinds of apples will be ripening over the next few weeks and some fine weekend weather will no doubt mean apple-pickers galore in orchards all over

southern Ontario. Even with clouds which seemed to threaten rain hanging overhead on Sunday, people came out to pick their own apples. See also page C1.

(Herald photo by Lori Taylor)

Chapel housing plans await council approval

Two new housing development agreements for Halton Hills have been forwarded to council for their approval following Monday night's general committee meeting.

Chateau Belair Developments of Georgetown has proposed a 14-unit development for the Chapel Street school property at the corner of Chapel and Dayfoot Drive.

Originally, Belair, which tore down the crumbling school in July, planned to construct a 22-unit apartment complex, four houses and a park on the site.

The new proposal seeks to initially build on ten lots, holding off construction on a further four lots until the town and the developer negotiate the future of "block B", an area on the property often used by neighboring residents as open space.

Town planning staff have recommended that the draft of the development agreement be approved by council, proposing that the developer build on ten lots. Parkland is still planned for the property even if Belair eventually builds on part of block B.

In Acton, a proposal to build a 16-unit single-family development on the northwest corner of Ransom Street and Main Street South has been

forwarded to council for approval.

The proposed subdivision, known as Adams Court, had been previously delayed because of concerns about storm drainage problems on the one-acre property. The problems, a staff report says, have been resolved since the Main Street reconstruction.

Council will deliberate on the development proposals next Monday.

HEARING CONTINUES

The preliminary hearing for three men charged with second-degree murder in the fatal Dominion Hotel fire in Acton will continue at least until the end of the week and possibly into next week.

Cosimo Mercuri, former owner of the hotel, Leonard Cripps and Michael McCrystal were charged December 28, following a lengthy police investigation into the August 19, 1979 fire. All three men were released on bail.

Norval poultry plant walk-out sends workers to picket lines

By CHRIS AAGAARD
 Herald Staff Writer

Approximately 300 workers at Maple Lodge Poultry Farms near Norval walked out on strike Monday morning, crippling one of the largest chicken processing factories in the nation.

The workers—members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 1105—and Maple Lodge negotiators failed to reach a settlement Saturday night, scuttling talks indefinitely. The union was in a legal strike position as of midnight Monday.

The workers' list of grievances attacks the company's policies on statutory holidays, vacations, overtime and life insurance. They are also seeking a two-year contract with an 80-cent per hour wage increase for each of those years, bring-

ing the starting wage of an employee to \$7 from \$6.20. The company has offered 65 cents over the same time period.

Union representative Don Dayman, who joined workers on the picket line Monday, said the union is also seeking an hour-long lunch, an increase of one-half hour, and is unhappy with the way employees are transferred from one department to another. He claims that workers are often shifted on the basis of a manager's personal likes and dislikes and the union is seeking transfers based on seniority.

Despite the fact that some workers had been up all night, the 100 or so well-ordered strikers manning the picket line were in high spirits and confident that 40 workers who refused to join the strike would soon walk off the job, bringing

production to an end.

Mr. Dayman said the employees still on the production line were bused in by the company earlier in the morning under police escort. One source estimated that the plant's regular rate of 16,000 chickens processed each hour had dwindled to less than 2,000 since the strike began.

Although the strikers were noisy, stopping one truck from pulling into the factory and cursing a worker behind the fence who had wandered out with a walkie-talkie, Peel regional police at the scene reported no violence.

Mr. Dayman, however, was angered that the company had stationed police even before the strike was officially underway. Calling the police "from the start only incites people," he said.

So far, there is no indication how long the strike will last. Two weeks ago, Mr. Dayman told The Herald it would either be a long strike or a short one, without much room for anything in between. On Monday, he said there would be no appreciable stress on the chicken market because of the Maple Lodge shutdown. Other companies operating in Ontario should quickly pick up the Norval plant's lost business.

A statement issued Tuesday afternoon by Maple Lodge management said a substantial number of workers reported to work that morning and that operations at the plant were continuing despite the strike.

The release stated that management had been in touch with provincial mediator Bob Pryor and is willing to continue negotiations.

Mayor settles rabies issue with letter

By CHRIS AAGAARD
 Herald Staff Writer

Mayor Pete Pomeroy says he is confident that the procedure for handling rabid animals in town is sound and that a recent incident involving a boy and a rabid bat was handled properly except for a minor misunderstanding.

Three weeks ago, six-year old Jay Burt was clawed by what was eventually discovered to be a rabid bat, which he and his grandfather had captured near Jay's Fourth Line home. Apparently, a misunderstanding led Jay's mother to believe that the bat wouldn't be tested for rabies unless there were visible wounds on Jay's hands.

The bat was tested and positive results meant that Jay had to undergo a series of 14 anti-rabies vaccine shots. Mayor Pomeroy reported to the town's general committee Monday night that Jay has finished the injection program and has suffered no ill effects.

In a letter to members of the committee, Mayor Pomeroy writes: "The only apparent variance to the procedure was in the return of the bat to the resident after it had been impounded. This variance, I believe, arose as a result of a lack of understanding or reasoning between the animal control officer and the resi-

dent."

Mayor Pomeroy included a letter from district veterinarian R.A. Beattie which outlines the procedure for dealing with an animal suspected of having rabies.

A captured animal suspected of carrying rabies should be restrained if possible and an effort made to determine whether or not the animal has bitten, or scratched, another animal or person.

The animal is then picked up by the district office of health for animals, which quickly sends it to Ottawa for testing.

The letter states that if the rabid animal has made contact with a person, test results are available within 24 hours. If the animal has bitten another animal, the priority is lower and results are issued about a week after the initial investigation.

Generally, if the suspected animal is known not to have made any human or animal contact, it is destroyed without being tested in Ottawa. Dr. Beattie's letter states that this system works well, and is meant to insure that "bona fide" rabies cases are given the proper attention.

"As far as I'm concerned," Mayor Pomeroy said about his investigations into the Burt issue, "this thing has had enough exposure."

ELECTION CENTRAL

'Lots more to do' -- Pomeroy seeks return

Speculation that Mayor Pete Pomeroy might leave municipal politics to challenge MPP Julian Reed ended Friday when the mayor announced his intention to campaign for a second term as mayor.

"There are still many important matters for the upcoming council to deal with," Mayor Pomeroy commented, taking pride in his administration's accomplishments over the past two years, including a start on the town's new library-theatre complex, the construction of Silver Creek Towers and a reduction of the town's long-term debt.

Speculation about the mayor's political ambitions peaked last week following the sale of his 12-year old sporting goods business in downtown Georgetown, which wife Judy had operated throughout the current term of council.

Mayor Pomeroy denied any intention of pursuing a provincial Conservative nomination to challenge Liberal MPP Reed and likewise said he has no interest in becoming Halton's next regional chairman, to be elected by incoming regional councillors this winter.

"I don't have any aims other than being the mayor of Halton Hills," he said Friday. "I like the town, and there are still some unre-



Mayor PETE POMEROY

solved issues left to take care of."

Mayor Pomeroy said he is particularly interested in having council complete urban boundary studies for Acton and Georgetown.

"I feel that the experience I have gained and the contacts I have made can only enhance my abilities and the contribution that I can make in the community," the mayor commented.

Seeks Esquing council seat

Sheldon enters Ward 2 election race

Speside resident Pam Sheldon has announced her candidacy in the race for local councillor in Ward 2.

Mrs. Sheldon told The Herald Tuesday she decided to enter the race because she believes she can make a positive contribution to Ward 2, and to the future direction of Halton Hills.

"I believe strongly in the preservation of Halton Hills' rural area," she said. "Without it, Halton Hills is just another urban centre with urban concerns."

Mrs. Sheldon said the effectiveness of the local representatives on council is "critical" to maintaining the rural nature of the rural areas.

"The main issue in Ward 2 should always be solid rural representation."

Among the issues Mr. Sheldon identified as being of prime concern is the upgrading of rural roads.

"It was far too easy for council to allocate \$135,000 for a substandard piece of passive

parkland in Ward 4 to facilitate the needs of a handful of urban dwellers. Yet the rural residents must wait for the results of a roads needs study before a penny more is spent to fix substandard roads."

Mrs. Sheldon's other concerns include the sense of identity in each hamlet area, whether or not they are desig-

nated as hamlets in the official plan; the control of the gravel industry and its attendant truck traffic on rural roads; an understanding and commitment to the concerns of the farming industry; development of a well-planned and aggressive approach to attracting industry; sound planning

processes which take into consideration the rights of the individual as well as following the official plan; and the ability of the local council to direct their regional counterparts to act more effectively on behalf of the residents, at the regional level.

Mrs. Sheldon has been a

member of Halton's Land Division Committee for two years.

She is a member of the Rural Development Outreach Project and chairman of the Rural Living Task Force. She was the editor and author of Ruralities, a magazine on rural lifestyles in Halton Hills.



PAM SHELDON

Mom after board seat

Betty Walker, a single parent living near Norval, has announced her candidacy for the newly-created Ward 2 seat on the Halton Board of Education.

Mrs. Walker has three children, the youngest of whom is in high school. She has a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of Toronto, and has been active in working with families and children.



BETTY WALKER

Mrs. Walker had been working with the ministry of correctional services, but is now on a leave of absence.

While not prepared to unveil a platform at this point, Mrs. Walker said she is interested in assisting in the planning of education in the region.

"Having seen what happens when it goes wrong, along with the other things which cause problems in children's lives, I want to get involved," she said.



Maple Lodge Poultry Farms in Norval all but shutdown Monday when over 300 workers—members of the United Food and Commercial Union, local 1105—walked off their jobs in a legal strike. The workers are seeking an 80-cent per hour increase in

each year of a two year contract, as well as a number of other demands concerning overtime, holidays, lunch hours and inter-departmental transfers. (Herald photo)