

# Students eat lunch on floor, board launches policy study

The Halton board of education has approved the setting up of a committee to examine its lunchroom policy and the facilities in Halton's elementary schools.

Trustees Betty Fisher and Jackie Cunnore proposed Thursday that the committee be established because they had received complaints about

the lack of facilities at some schools, where children are eating their lunch on the floor of the gymnasium. "A number of parents have contacted me about the lack of lunchroom facilities," Mrs. Fisher said. "In most cases, the children go into the gym and eat on the floor, and the parents feel it is unsanitary and cold."

The administration of the board's lunchroom policy has been left with the principals, as being the people in the best position to know the needs in their schools, and the principals are getting the complaints about the lack of facilities, without having the funds to do anything about it unless they take money from the academic budget, Mrs. Fisher said.

While the board policy, which was set by the ministry of education, seems to take it for granted that only small numbers of students are eating lunch at school, in one school in Acton, 340 of the 440 students eat at school, Mrs. Fisher said.

**LUNCH HOUR**  
The lunchroom programs also provide problems for the teachers, director of education Em Lavender said. Teachers are by law entitled to a lunch hour of 40 minutes, but providing lunch room supervision and supervision in the school yard are causing problems in this area.  
Trustee Cam Jackson

expressed his reluctance to see a committee established because the problem of lunchroom facilities and supervision has come up in negotiations with teachers.

"We need a thorough study so we can respond to the concerns expressed in the community," trustee Edna Robinson said. "I would like to see the arrangements handled outside the collective agreement. I think we're in danger of throwing everything into the collective agreement."

Mrs. Robinson proposed an amendment to the original motion, which called for the setting up of the committee and the completion of a report to the board, saying that the report should include a comprehensive report on supervision, the programs now in use and the facilities, with recommendations for improvement and a cost analysis.

The motion was passed as amended.



**TIMELY GIFT FROM RONALD**

A "timely" gift considering the approaching Christmas season, Nicole Savard (right) receives a watch from McDonald's restaurant hostess Chris Hayes after winning the October coloring contest. Look for the contest entry form every week in The Herald to cash in on the opportunity to win a watch or a McDonald's gift certificate.

(Herald photo)

## Board looks into careers

# Job advice proposed

The Halton board of education may establish a vocational advisory committee which would advise the board of career-related courses.

The committee would include trustees, the superintendent of program, the assistant co-ordinator of business education, the assistant co-ordinator of technical education, a representative of Employment and Immigration Canada, a secondary

school principal, and representatives of business, industry and labor.

Superintendent of program Dr. Robert Dixon, who recommended setting up the committee, proposed a number of areas in which the committee could advise the board: curriculum content for existing and future courses;

equipment, facilities and instructional resources; community resources available; career guidance and placement services; program evaluation; public relations in the community; and professional development.

The board will discuss the proposal and vote on it at its next meeting Nov. 27.

# No special fund for staff retirees, board decides

The Halton board of education has decided to continue funding retirement gratuities for staff out of its current budget rather than establishing a special reserve fund to spread the payments out more evenly.

Superintendent of business and finance Bruce Lindley brought a report to the board Thursday evening to show the cost of a reserve fund to the average taxpayer. The report was actually a revision of a report submitted to the board at the last meeting on alternatives for funding the gratuities.

A retirement gratuity is a sum of money paid to a staff member on retirement after a minimum number of years' service in lieu of accumulated sick leave. The trustees would like to see the practice abolished, but it is included in the collective agreements with staff and staff have so far refused to give up the benefit.

Trustee Bill Priestner from Burlington objected to setting up a reserve fund because this would "enshrine it forever and ever".

"I think most trustees in Ontario would like to see this practice end," he said. "If I were worried about liabilities, I'd go for a sinking fund to cover the depreciation of our buildings, because they're losing value and they're going to have to be replaced."

Trustee Elaine Richm agreed that if the board were to fund retirement gratuities totally, it would enshrine them, "but we're only looking at funding it partially, recognizing our past and present liabilities."

"To me, this is a question of public finance and nothing but public finance. There are other places to discuss retirement gratuities."

Trustee Cam Jackson pointed out that the board can approach the ministry of education for money to cover the depreciation on school buildings, "but we're not going to get money from them for a benefit we freely gave ten,

# Assault prompts search

Halton Regional Police are seeking a sex offender who may be responsible for a series of sex-related offences in the region in the past few months. The latest incident occurred in Milton Oct. 18, when a man exposed himself to a young girl near the Milton Library, and later on the same day tried to molest an 11-year-old girl near E.C. Drury School for the Hearing Handicapped.

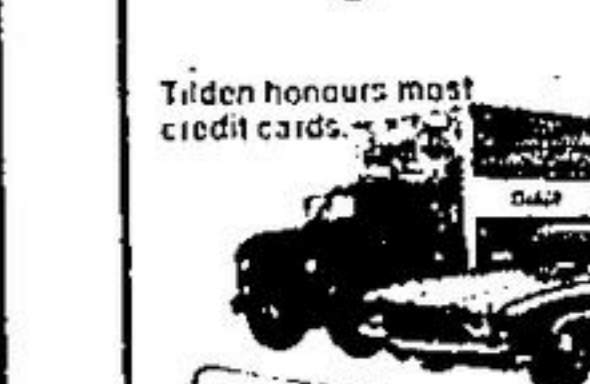
Police describe the suspect as having sandy-to-red hair and a bushy red moustache. He is believed to be about five feet, nine inches tall, with brown eyes.

Police are also trying to alert parents and the Block Parent Associations to warn children of the danger of talking to strangers or accept rides in a car from strangers.

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