

Letters to the Editor

Schools versus languages-- French course on the wane?

To the Editor of The Herald: Quietly and without much concern, the parents of north Halton are about to lose one option for educating their children in Canada's two official languages.

Since 1976, it has been possible to send Grade 1 children to Joseph Gibbons School in the Moore Park area of Georgetown, and to have them educated in both English and French under the French Immersion program.

It is predicted now by the

school that there will not be enough registrations this month for September 1981 to offer a Grade 1 French Immersion class. Therefore, we will have witnessed the birth and death of French Immersion in this part of north Halton when the current French Immersion Grades 1 to 3 pass through the grade system.

There is a question in my mind as to how well this excellent program has been advertised as being available

at Joseph Gibbons, so that parents of Kindergarten pupils, and new residents in the Halton Hills area can register their children, with a view to having them fluently bilingual by ages 12 to 14.

Via this medium, I wish to bring this opportunity for French Immersion education to the attention of your readers, so that those as interested as I am will enroll their child now, for the 1981-82 program at Joseph Gibbons, and so keep this

option available for our children and our community.

Yours truly,
John R. Walker

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Herald shares Mr. Walker's concern about the demise of Joseph Gibbons' French Immersion course, but found there is such a course available to Grade 1 pupils if their parents are willing to transport them to George Kennedy School. See story, this page.

Hospital staffers await word on strike

Herald Special
While non-medical workers on hospital staffs across Ontario prepare for a strike vote tomorrow (Thursday), their counterparts at Georgetown District Memorial Hospital are adopting a wait-and-see attitude.

Jerry Wright, president of Local 145, of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) says the union central bargaining unit hasn't contacted its local about the much talked about strike vote.

While 43 cleaners, kitchen staff, tradesmen and registered nursing assistants are represented by the central bargaining unit of the union, the hospital itself does not belong to the central bargaining unit of the Ontario Hospital Association, and therefore, the local is not officially recognized by the union.

This unofficial status has its good points in one sense, Mr. Wright said. Georgetown workers won't get caught in the same bind possible for officially-recognized locals elsewhere.

A positive response to the strike vote could find workers being told to strike by their union although legally they don't have the right to strike under provincial legislation.

Hospital administrator Fred Morris said the union contract expired in September. Because the hospital doesn't belong to the central bargaining unit, Local 145 must bargain on its own with the hospital and their contracts are usually worked out after CUPE and the hospital members of central bargaining reach agreement on their contract.

CUPE workers now receive an average wage of \$6.64 an hour and the hospital has offered an increase of 65 cents an hour across the board in each year of a two-year contract.

CUPE national president Grace Hartman said a strike deadline has been set for Jan. 26, giving the Ontario Hospital Association 11 days to continue negotiations if tomorrow's strike vote is positive.

Coverage makes difference -- grateful reader says thanks

To the editor,
Dear Paul,

I have put this letter off far too long. For a long time, I have felt especially appreciative to The Herald for the caring approach and support service coverage expressed to me over the years.

The media, being primarily, the newspapers in Halton Hills, played an integral role in getting information, service delivery and community participation to the public.

That role has been an essential part of our development in the north. First Maggie Hannah, and then Lori Taylor, have constantly expressed an objective concern while always giving me the feeling of personal-as well as professional--support.

The Herald seems to follow through by making sure that whatever the message, the public is sure to see the information, perhaps because of the choice of type

used or its position in the paper, or (more likely) a combination of all.

In my case, I cannot let another year go by without saying thank you so that others may know that The Herald (staff) care about their community.

I wish you and your reporters (Lori is the only one I know by name) the best in the new year.

Most gratefully,
Barb Stephens

**Supervisor,
Halton Helping Hands.**
P.S. This is definitely not a bribe; even when you may bury future information, I'll still be grateful for what you've already accomplished. But of course, you'll never hear the end of it.

Stand-off at region

'Dump's' a 4-letter word for Burlington aldermen

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Despite Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy's statement that Burlington is trying to re-establish battle lines between the municipalities and the region, regional councillors from that city have refused to hear private proposals for an additional garbage dump in their municipality.

"Burlington will take the position that 'we don't want it at any cost,'" Mayor Pomeroy said during last Wednesday's regional council meeting, National Sewer Pipe of Canada

Ltd. has offered to lease the region its 200-acre clay quarry adjacent to Burlington's King Road landfill site (Site "A") as an additional, interim dump.

Regional staff, National Sewer Pipe and the authors of a groundwater study conducted at the site want to make a special presentation to Burlington city council.

Burlington regional councillors insisted last week, however, that the study should be circulated among the city's staff before making any decisions on who should be part of the presentation.

"People living in the area

are very concerned that it is not suitable for a landfill site," Burlington Coun. Walter Mulken said.

Underground streams have already been polluted in the area because of liquid leachate percolating through garbage buried at the existing dump.

However, Milton Coun. Bill Johnson strongly supported the idea of a presentation on Site "A" to Burlington council and speeding up the search for solutions to Halton's ballooning waste disposal problem.

"Garbage is going to Site 'A,'" he said. "It's no longer economical to ship Burlington's garbage 17 kilometres to Site 'F'. It's a good (hydro-geological) study report and I'm 100 per cent behind these recommendations."

The town of Milton and a local, 500-member citizens group are protesting the region's proposal to use 246 acres of prime agricultural at the northwest corner of the Tremaine-Brittania Roads intersection as a landfill site.

Acting chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin maintained that the region has not committed itself to using National Sewer Pipe lands in the future. The region is trying to get comments from "crucial people" before fitting Site "A" into its solid waste management plans, he said.

While Burlington councillors received enough support from around the table to defeat the presentation proposal, council decided that regional staff should investigate Site "A"'s inclusion in the solid waste management program. Costs associated with turning Site "A" into a landfill site will also be studied.

French at Joe Gibbons? Parents say 'non, merci'

Applications for admission in a Grade 1 French immersion program at George Kennedy Public School will be accepted until Jan. 26.

The Grade 1 French immersion class had originally

been planned for Joseph Gibbons School, where it has been active for three years, but there weren't enough enrolments for a grade 1 class for September, 1981.

The classes at Joseph Gibbons in grades 2 and 3 will

continue at that school, with the students attending grades 3 and 4 there this fall.

Jack Reed, principal at George Kennedy, said he expects there will be enough students applying to have the class at his school this fall. George Kennedy has so far received 33 applications. To start a class, 30 students are required.

"We advise people to apply anyway, because some of the applicants may not pass the screening, and others may not choose to enroll," Mr. Reed said.

Parents interested in enrolling their children in a French immersion program, which educators say will see children fluently bilingual by the time they're 12 or 13 years old, should submit an application at the child's home school. Deadline for applications is Jan. 26.

No French Immersion program is being offered in Acton, but parents may enroll their child either in George Kennedy or in the program at Martin Street Public School in Milton, whichever is closer.

What price planning?

The costs of copies of the town's various official plans will rise according to a new bylaw expected to be approved by town council next week. The Acton plan, which originally cost \$6, will now cost \$10 per copy, as will the Georgetown plan which cost \$7 last year. The Esqueping official plan will double in cost from \$10 to \$20. Records, accounts and other municipal documents cost 25 cents for letter-sized copies and 35 cents for legal-sized pages. Maps of the town have been set at \$3 each.

Here's why...

The rent has risen at the town's planning offices at 232 Guelph Street. The town, which leases 1,600 square feet of office space from Colossus Development Corporation Ltd., had its rent increased recently from \$466 to \$513. The town's general committee decided to sign a two-year lease for the Guelph Street office Monday night. Plans for consolidating municipal staff under one roof are being settled.

AHS teacher

Continued from Page A1

matters would constitute a violation of his contract.

If Mr. Black is fired he could seek a board of reference to hear his case. The federation would work politically to be sure that the minister of education dealt with his case if the board recommends Mr. Black lose his teaching certificate.

"We feel the price Mr. Black has had to pay was enormous," Mr. Ness said. "I've never had a similar situation to deal with and I hoped it would be resolved tonight."

Mr. Black told reporters he has lost his family farm established in 1823, and his home.

"I'm devastated," he said.

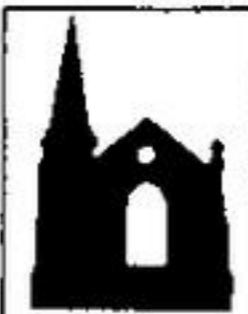
"I suppose I should go into personal bankruptcy but so far I've refused. I don't feel that's right. Even the judge said I should keep my job."

Mr. Black is a life-long area resident with 23 years teaching experience including eight years at Acton's Robert Little public school and 10 years at the high school. His wife is also a teacher and they have a four-year-old son.

"It's archaic," was the way one of Mr. Black's supporters irately described the board's handling of the matter.

"If the judge thought he was guilty he'd have given him time (in prison)," another supporter chimed in. "But he didn't. He suspended his sentence."

TOWN OF HALTON HILLS LIBRARY AND CULTURAL CENTRE



Mural's a sell-out - \$2,000 for complex

By JOHN ROE
Herald Special

The first big fundraising "happening" of 1981 is off and running! Halton Hills Arts Council sold the last advertising space on its gigantic historical mural Friday, thereby realizing its target of \$2,160 towards the new Library-Theatre Arts Centre.

Prior to setting off early this week on a tour of all 18 participating schools, a delighted Arts Council president Gretchen Day said: "It's finally happening. We're not sure what it's (the mural's) going to turn out like - but it will definitely be an artistic 'happening'!"

At the schools, there is mounting enthusiasm in the unique project as students begin designing the different scenes of old-time Halton Hills which are being painted on 36 individual, eight-foot high by four-foot wide hardwood panels. As yet, there is guarded "secrecy" as to what each school is choosing to depict - the choice of subject matter being left to the students in consultation with the teachers. The names of those sponsoring the different sections will appear at the top of each panel.

The final sponsors are: Towels 'n' Things, Barber's

Gifts, Toy Magic, Royal Trust, Neil's Music, The Carpet Barn, The Old Glen Mill, Ann's Carriage and Piano Movers, University Women's Club of Georgetown, Fendley Florists, Geric Electric, Halton Cable Systems, The Goblet Restaurant, DRG Stationery Co., It's A Small World, Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, Mr. and Mrs. John Caton, the McGibbon Hotel, The Cellar Dining Lounge, Georgetown and District Y and Armstrong Insurance Agency.

Mrs. Day said she knew the "happening" was getting to her when she dreamed that the students were painting the panels lengthwise instead of vertically. Just to be on the safe side, she checked with the schools and discovered that two were originally planning to do as she had feared in her dream.

"Thank heavens I phoned," she laughed in recollection. "It wouldn't have been so funny if they had been painted that way."

In addition to painting two panels, the students at George Kennedy Public School are also sponsoring one. Principal Jack Reed said the proceeds were raised primarily from a Santa cake raffle.

Georgetown Little Theatre donated two tickets to its Christmas production as a

consolation prize.

Plans call for the different panels comprising the mural to be completed by the end of this month, at which time they will be collected by town staff and erected at the Church-Market Street construction site. The mural is expected to be on show for the next four months.

Not to be outdone by their younger peers, 30 Georgetown and District High School students went out carolling at Christmas and collected \$42.30 for the Library-Theatre Arts Centre Fund. GLT member Bill Marchant, president of the school's Musical Drama Club which organized the event, presented the proceedings to the Little Theatre fund-raising drive at last week's general meeting.

The GLT drive now stands at \$25,076.81. Most recent purchasers of plaques:

Mrs. M. Linton and family, Georgetown Little Theatre - Founded 1960, Irene and William Kinrade.

The complete list of plaque-purchasers is presently on display in Georgetown Library. Details of the Little Theatre fund-raising approach can be obtained from John Roe at 877-2824 or Mary Rae Main at 877-0806.

New police HQ has monitors but no muzak

Police officers at the new Halton Hills precinct on Georgetown's Guelph Street will have six monitors to keep an eye on prisoners in the cells, but background music for the station is out, at least for the time being.

The Halton Regional Police Commission approved the purchase of a security system for the cells which will include five cameras, two triple monitors and a playback system.

At a cost of \$13,743, it was brought forward from the 1980 budget to allow the building to come in under budget.

The commission also approved an expenditure of \$755 for an intercom system for security at the rear door of the building.

Several members of the

commission questioned the need for background music. Chief James Harding responded that studies have shown such music helps reduce stress, and "studies show the job is very stressful".

The commission approved the security system and intercom system, but didn't vote on the music system.

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