

Board complies with ministry regulations

No more early kindergarten admission

Herald Special
The Halton board of education has decided it must comply with the ministry of education guidelines and refuse admittance to a number of pupils who had expected to enter kindergarten next fall.

Although the ministry of education stated in 1974 that pupils must be five years old by Dec. 31 of a school year in order to enter kindergarten that September, the board continued a non-conforming policy which allowed children to enter kindergarten in September provided they turned five by Feb. 28 of the school year.

The board has been unsuccessfully trying to arrange a compromise with the ministry since last fall in the hope it would be given one more year to phase in the change.

The board received a letter early last week in which Education Minister Bette Stephenson refused its request made at a meeting between board and minister the week previous.

Acton trustee Arlene Bruce says the minister gave the board the option of starting a pre-kindergarten class to run from January to June, 1982, for the youngsters who won't be able to enter kindergarten in September.

WON'T HELP
This won't help the situation Mrs. Bruce feels because many of the about 500 pupils affected by the change are already in pre-kindergarten or nursery school programs and

are going to get no benefits from this sort of class. If they're ready for kindergarten in September, pre-kindergarten the following January is too late and won't offer any great stimulus for them, she said.

Janet Fleming, the Acton mother who collected names of parents in the area whose children would be affected by the change, is bitter.

"Personally at this point I'm bitterly disappointed that the Halton board had no choice but to comply with the minister's directive," Mrs. Fleming said. "If this had been properly dealt with over the years the unfortunate timing factor could have been avoided."

NO ALTERNATIVE
"If the change had been made last spring, or even last summer, the parents could have adjusted their plans for their child. Now we've been left with no alternative available to us through the Halton board and we have to consider other alternatives outside the board if we want to carry on our children's programs as we had expected to do."

Mrs. Fleming said the only alternative available now would appear to be private schooling. Not only is that probably an expensive solution for an average family to consider on top of school taxes, it will have to carry on for two years.

Age restrictions are set for both kindergarten and first grade pupils. Therefore, just attending a private school for kindergarten won't let an underage pupil into Grade 1. It will only result in a wasted year unless the family carries on so the child can enter second grade in the Halton system.

The closest private schools operate in Norval, Georgetown, Brampton, and Guelph, Mrs. Fleming said, but most of them don't have a kindergarten level and therefore won't meet the needs of the Halton youngsters.

About the Hills

Start making Crazy Boats

Georgetown Jaycees have picked April 4 as the date for the 14th annual Crazy Boat Race on the Credit River. Employing the same format, the club will launch canoes from the Terra Cotta Inn at noon and the crazy boats from the Tenth Line bridge a half-hour later. All craft finish at the paper mill dam above Glen Williams this year. Spectators are urged to pick their viewing spots along the river as early as possible, since parking facilities are limited. Last year's race attracted about 140 boats in five different categories and hundreds of spectators. For entry information, contact Jaycee Jack Lee at 482-7400 weekdays.

Endorse death penalty

Although town council usually makes a practice of receiving and filing, rather than endorsing, resolutions sent to it from other municipalities, councillors Monday strongly supported a Hamilton-Wentworth region recommendation calling for the return of the death penalty for police killers. Coun. Walter Biehn said that the resolution should include the death penalty for all murderers, but he added he prefers another way of implementing the penalty other than hanging. Recalling the death of metro Toronto police constable Sweet in January, 1981, some councillors said that the courts do little to discourage criminals from shooting policemen. "I shudder to think about what little support what little respect (policemen) receive before the courts," Coun. Russ Miller said.

Saving hearts

Acton's Murray Memorial YMCA will offer three five-hour heartsaver courses during the next month. A heart foundation instructor will teach the courses set for Feb. 18 and 25, March 2 and 9, and March 12 and 19. Participants will learn about the anatomy and function of the heart and lungs, understand a "Healthy Heart" Lifestyle, learn how to reduce risk factors, be aware of heart problems, learn the signs and symptoms of heart attack and stroke, learn to help prevent a heart attack victim from going into cardiac arrest, learn one-man cardiopulmonary resuscitation and learn how to save a choking victim. To register or inquire about the courses visit the office Wednesday or Friday, or call 853-1070.

Parking laws tightened

In light of a recent Supreme Court of Ontario ruling concerning the legality of certain parking violations listed in many municipal bylaws, the town has tightened up its own parking regulations. First, the owners of cars, regardless of whether they were driving at the time of the infraction, can still be held responsible for paying fines, unless the car was used without the driver's permission. The same bylaw amendments, which will be forwarded to council next week, affect parking violations in metered areas as well.

A tribute to Scouts

This week, Feb. 15 to 22, is Scout-Guide Week around the world, when millions of boys and girls, men and women, pause to celebrate the spirit of the movement. In a special tribute to scouting, Herald reporter Lori Taylor spoke to hard-working scout and guide leaders of Halton Hills for an inside perspective on scouting in the community. For a glimpse into the activities of over 1,000 people in Halton Hills alone, see pages B1 and B2.

Town prays for a miracle for Terry Fox

Monday's Day of Prayer for Terry Fox at Holy Cross Church drew a strong response from the community. Father Dave Cote said a "fair number" of people were in the church at all times during the day. There was no formal service organized. "It was simply a place to come and to be united in prayer for a common purpose," Father Cote said. Phyllis Meeks, one of the main organizers behind the day of prayer, said that there were over 50 signatures in the guest book, but a number of people came into the church from the auditorium where a blood donor clinic was being held and never signed the book. Father Cote said he was "pleased and pleasantly surprised" by the response to the idea. He also said he was encouraged by the number of young people who took time from their lunch hours at the high school to drop into the church. "I think it was an indication of what Terry Fox means to all of us," he said.



CLOWNING AROUND

Snow clowns Tom and Norma Rash of Georgetown revealed to the raised eyebrows of Glen Eden skiers last Saturday that "skiling is indeed believing!" They were two of the contestants in Glen Eden's costume competition. The ski area was celebrating their carnival day with various activities which included a pancake brunch, obstacle course and downhill racing. (Herald photo)

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FUTURE SKATING STARS

Cedarvale's Maple Avenue nursery school students turned out in force Friday to spend a few hours with parents at Gordon Alcott arena. Among the eager skaters were (left to right) Krystin McBride, Bruce Ryan, Adrian Seiberras, Neal Butcher, Elliott Glass, Anglea Lee, Heather Robinson, Keith Tippett, and Yvonne Moore. Tracy Hitchcock and Kristen McElhone are seated in the middle. (Herald photo)

Planners' concerns allayed

Grants available for both BIAs

Acton and Georgetown Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) are both eligible for the provincial housing ministry's Main Street revitalization grants, it was announced during Monday night's town council meeting.

Vitaly important to the town's plans to improve the physical appearance and commercial viability of the BIAs, the grants could amount to \$150,000 per community, depending on the budget share the provincial government allots to the program in 1981 and the outcome of BIA studies in Acton and Georgetown.

Planning department officials expressed concern last fall when applying for funds that the ministry would recognize only one eligible business core in each community. Prior to Monday's announcement by letter from housing minister Claude Bennett, the Main Street program didn't consider Halton Hills' unique dual-community structure.

While emphasizing that the government's action doesn't confirm whether Halton Hills will receive funding, Mr. Bennett said that each of the two BIA studies would get \$5,000 or 50 per cent of the study costs, whichever is less.

Meanwhile, council is expected to pass a property standards bylaw for the downtown cores of Acton and Georgetown March 2. Regulations in the bylaw, which deputy planning director Bruce McLean told a public meeting Monday night establish minimum maintenance and not construction standards for the BIAs, will also be included in the town's official plans for the two communities.

The bylaws received little discussion among councillors at the meeting but were praised by Acton businessman Paul Neilsen, representing the community's BIA.

Expressing surprise that the bylaw "hardly has anything new in it" that isn't already covered by building codes and health standards, Mr. Neilsen said it would enhance business life in Halton Hills.

Georgetown entrepreneur Al Piliutti pointed out that parts of the bylaw, and their effects on the official plan amendments, need to be clarified. Concerned that an apartment building he owns would not conform with an official plan stipulation calling for a third-floor fire exit if there is more than one apartment at that level, Mr. Piliutti was assured that windows could be defined as exits.

Mr. McLean told council that enforcement of the bylaw would be on a "complaint basis", with the bylaw enforcement officer sending the grievance to a special property standards committee.

People wishing to submit comments on the bylaw have until Feb. 27. Copies are available at the town office on Trafalgar Road South in Georgetown.



Chip Petrillo, left, guest speaker at the Acton BIA annual meeting Monday, chats with merchant Paul Neilsen after the meeting. Mr. Petrillo spoke about the advantages of promoting Acton as Leathertown, Canada. (Herald photo)

New identity may unify old new Acton

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald Staff Writer

It's very important to the life of the community for Actonians to have an identity they can be proud of, Chip Petrillo told members of the Acton Business Improvement Area (BIA) Monday.

Mr. Petrillo is chairman of the steering committee behind the drive to promote Acton as "Leathertown", Canada. Other members of the committee include Beardmore personnel manager Don Rankin, Acton councillor Terry Grubbe and representatives from the BIA and Acton service clubs.

The idea of promoting Leathertown actually arose from a discussion between BIA secretary Janet Fleming and Mr. Rankin, Mr. Petrillo said.

"People in the town of Acton have kind of thought that they're forgotten about in the region, being the smallest municipality, and in the town of Halton Hills as well," Mr. Petrillo said.

Working together to promote Acton as Leathertown will not only benefit the community commercially, but will create a feeling of unity among Actonians, he said.

"Acton has a resource no one has taken advantage of, a resource that has been here longer than the town, but the only thing you hear about is the smell. Well, it's a healthy smell because it creates jobs."

The project is going to take a great deal of work, he warned. Newcomers in Acton are not aware of the heritage of town because long-time Acton residents take the leather industry so much for granted they never discuss it, and the newcomers never hear about it.

"We need to bring those two sections together."

The competitors for Leathertown are here, from tanning at Beardmore's and Heller's, to manufacturing at Superior Glove, to retail at the Old Hide House, Mr. Petrillo said.

"There are no missing parts. The only missing part is the identity."

The first step towards establishing the image of Leathertown is to explore the history of the leather industry in Acton and possibly set up a museum-type structure, Mr. Petrillo said. The next step is to design a logo which residents can identify with the community.

"The logo can give us an identity and something to identify with," he said.

Mr. Petrillo pointed out that Acton has many other advantages which would help with the promotion of the community. He suggested that with Prospect Park, Fairy Lake, the Radial Railway nearby, the Bruce Trail, Chudleigh's between Acton and Milton and the retail store, Acton has the capability of becoming a popular tourist area, he said.

"The Chamber of Commerce and the other people involved with this are going to have something to be proud of," Mr. Petrillo said.

In his remarks, BIA chairman Larry Greaves commented briefly on the Leathertown promotion, saying, "Acton can be known as more than just a smelly place."

Mr. Greaves also talked briefly about the work of the BIA. As of June, 1980, there were 136 BIAs in Ontario.

"It is not something that's designed to rescue the merchants," he said. "It's an investment that will be paid back to the community, with an increased tax base."

He calculated that the businesses in the Acton BIA provide the community with 300 jobs.

Reed attacks PCs' handling of regional government issue

Regional government has failed the taxpayers of Halton, and Premier Bill Davis should "stand up in public and admit there are problems", Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed said Saturday.

Endorsing recent predictions by Mayor Pete Pomeroy and others that 1981 will see additional deficits in the regional budget, Mr. Reed celebrated his nomination at the Boyne Community Centre in Milton by railing against what he called the Conservative government's mismanagement of regional issues.

Nominated by Georgetown businessman Henry Helfant, Mr. Reed had the uncontested support of 100 delegates at the meeting. He'll try to win a third consecutive election for the Liberals March 19.

A Norval resident, Mr. Reed called Conservative candidate Fran Baines "a formidable and well-organized opponent", but pointed out that, since the election was called Feb. 2, Premier Davis has suffered through "12 bad days" of campaigning while Liberal leader Stuart Smith has enjoyed "12 good days".

In challenging the Tories' perennial leadership campaign platform, the MPP criticized Mr. Davis'



Melanie Reed gets sandwiched as parents Julian and Deanna celebrate Julian's nomination Saturday, to lead Halton-Burlington Liberals in the March 19 provincial election.

unwillingness to correct substantial flaws in the structure of regional government, which the Davis government introduced here in 1974.

"It doesn't show any lack of leadership to admit you're wrong at times," Mr. Reed contended.

And because Tory environment minister Harry Parrott waited so long before ordering regional council last week to examine alternative landfill sites throughout Halton, he said, regional politicians wasted "unneces-

sary years, hours of work and thousands of dollars" bolstering their case for landfilling at Site "F" in rural Milton while the proposal's foes expended similar energy lobbying against the scheme.

"Let me ask the government how they could allow the Site F controversy to exist for all those years," he said.

Being organized by Mr. Reed's brother Laurie, the Halton-Burlington Liberal campaign will involve three riding offices. Opening three and operating hours for offices in Georgetown and Acton will be announced shortly.

Council sets \$10 fee for rest home licences

Rest homes and lodging houses in Halton Hills face a \$10 per bed licensing fee, up to \$100, following passage of a new bylaw during Monday night's town council meeting.

Originally proposing a flat rate of \$100 per lodging home, councillors agreed to reduce the licensing fee following a presentation from Rest Home Owners Association of Ontario communications director Mary Gurney.

"I'd like to point out to you that the licensing fee in Ottawa is \$10, in Windsor \$25 and in Kingston \$10," Mrs. Gurney told councillors during a public meeting to discuss the bylaw.

The town had based its fee structure on more extensive lodging house regulations found in larger Ontario municipalities.

However, at least one area rest home owner said she is disappointed that the bylaw lumps rest homes under the same regulations as lodging houses.

The bylaw, Acton's Katherine Kelly, maintained, doesn't go far enough to

protect the level of care provided in rest homes and has argued for more stringent guidelines.

However, clerk-administrator Ken Richardson said that the lodging house bylaw has to encompass rest homes since the Municipal Act doesn't give municipalities the power to directly legislate rest homes.

Other municipalities have managed to more directly deal with rest home guidelines by breaking down "lodging homes" into a number of different classes.

Mrs. Gurney admitted she felt the town's bylaw hadn't covered as much as she had hoped when she met with members of the town staff and rest home owners Monday afternoon.

"I now realize it goes as far as it can," she said, urging council to lobby for changes in the Act, enabling the town to set clear regulations.

When the town's bylaw overlaps with provincial safety and health standards, the more stringent regulations would apply, Mr. Richardson pointed out at a general committee last month.

Murder charge laid

A charge of second-degree murder has been laid against the Georgetown youth arrested in connection with the death of Glen Williams resident Herb Wild Feb. 1.

Brian Donald Reid, 17, was originally charged with manslaughter and two counts of theft over \$200. Following a

consultation with the investigating officers from the Halton Regional Police Criminal Investigation Bureau, Crown Attorney Jim Treleaven decided last week Mr. Reid should also be charged with second-degree murder, breaking and entering and taking a vehicle without the owner's consent.