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Halton education chief concerned

Some students suffer if Grade 13 dropped

By ANI FEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

Students enrolled in general level courses will have serious problems if grade 13 is done away with in Ontario, says Halton superintendent of program and director of education, Superintendent R.T. Dixon and director Wally Beevor were replying last Thursday night to 98 recommendations in a revised Secondary Education Review Project (SERP) report commissioned by the ministry of education.

The board objects to dropping Grade 13 in high schools in which the currently offered five-year, 23-credit advanced level program and the four-year, 27-credit general level program will be combined into one four-year, 30 credit program. Thus, both general and advanced programs will lead to the same single diploma.

At present, the advanced program leads to a Secondary School Honor Graduation diploma, and the general program leads to a Secondary

School Graduation diploma.

SAME PACE
According to the SERP recommendations, the general level student may not only be expected to work at the same pace as the advanced level student, but may also have to cover more content than is currently expected in 120 hours.

Besides increasing the time requirement for graduation for general level students by adding three credits to their load, SERP suggests increasing the

number of compulsory courses for these students.

SERP recommends that general level students start high school with compulsory English, math, science, history or geography, physical education and art, music or theatre arts. This leaves the general level high school student only two periods for business and technological credits.

Mr. Dixon said the Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers Federation (OSSTF), and the Halton Secondary Principals' Association support the board's position that the SERP recommendations for general level students will be aggravating problems faced by these students, not improving them.

ARTS HURDLE
Aldershot High School (Burlington) principal Roy Cooper questioned the value of the recommendations for general level students.

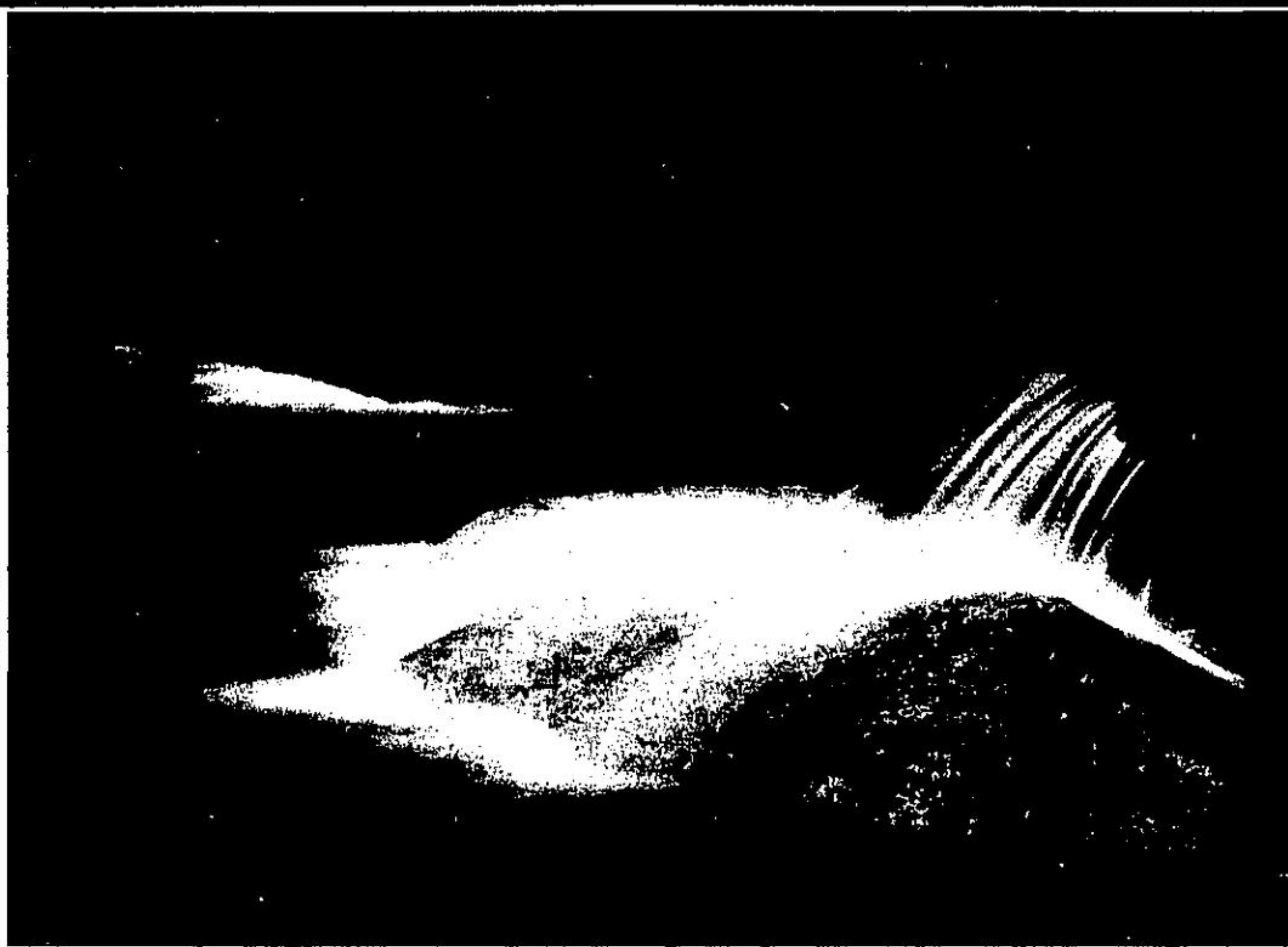
The suggested Halton board reply to SERP's recommendations states: "The liberal arts 'hurdle' of (SERP's) Recommendation 3 will exacerbate this situation. More students will likely be discouraged before they reach the senior years, where they can take a significant number of business, technological and other courses geared to their needs. If the curriculum for the general level student is expanded as proposed, it is likely that the failure and drop-out rate will continue at, if not exceed, the present unacceptably high level."

The board is concerned students may be "overloaded", although the brighter students will probably be able to handle the push to cover more material quicker.

CAN ADJUST
"Our opinion is that the academic type student can adjust to it. We're not convinced, however, that the maturity level of the student is as advanced as they say," Mr. Cooper said.

Citing educators like Jacob Epstein and Benjamin Bloom, who believe the brain and body of young adolescents need time "to consolidate, review, drill and rest", the board attacked the SERP report for not suggesting more time.

Continued on Page A2



STATE OF THE ART

"Waterfall" by Paul Savoie, who recently moved to Brampton from Georgetown, is one of the black and white highlights in "Photoart", the new show at House Sol. Painstaking processing in the darkroom combined with careful selection of subject matter make Mr. Savoie's nature photography a

favorite among the 26 pictures on display at the Charles Street gallery until March 11. Most of the camera connoisseurs involved in the show share Mr. Savoie's love of nature, as The Herald's reviewer found out. Stories and photos inside.



NEIGHBORS FROM 'OUR TOWN'

Life in Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, following the turn of the century may have been considerably different than it is today, but the community concerns and inter-family relations which playwright Thornton Wilder documented in "Our Town" are as relevant as they have ever been. One of two families who'll be portrayed in the Georgetown Little Theatre production of Wilder's drama starting this weekend are the Webbs, played by (standing) John Day and Melissa Bell and Joyce Holland and Peter Roe. GLT photographer Gerry Eggleton captured the "Webbs" in this period-style portrait in preparation for the run at the John Elliott Theatre this Friday and Saturday and March 4, 5 and 6. There is ticket information and a chance to meet another Grover's Corners family inside today's Herald.

Hydro sale to U.S. doesn't worry MP

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid wasn't one of the 118 senators and MPs who last week signed a petition condemning Ontario Hydro's proposed sale of electrical power to the U.S., a move critics say will undermine Canada's attempts to have American coal-powered generating stations cut down their sulfur emissions which greatly add to acid rain problems in the north.

For one thing, he wasn't asked to sign the document circulated among the three parties in the House of Commons.

However, he told The Herald Monday, he doesn't believe that the sale to New Jersey will short-circuit government and environmental lobbies which are currently trying to convince President Ronald Reagan that acid rain caused by the emissions is killing fresh water lakes in Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba.

"I think the petition is very unfair," Mr. McDermid said. "If you look at the situation very carefully, you'll see that hydro is, over the next ten years, cutting back by 50 per cent its sulfur emissions."

He charged that if the Americans use the hydro sale as an excuse for not becoming more concerned about the acid rain problem it would be "pure hypocrisy."

"If hydro doesn't sell them the power they need, the Americans will be forced to build their own plants."



ROCKIN' WEEKEND

It was quite a weekend in Halton Hills for rock 'n' roll fans. Toronto recording artists 'FM' (above) and 'Godde' performed Friday at Georgetown High School and Saturday at the Norval Junction respectively. The Herald will carry more photos from both shows in this Friday's Weekend Extra.

(Herald photo by Harald Braunsch)

Peterson's victory pleases local Liberals

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

For local members of the Halton-Burlington Liberal riding association, last weekend's provincial leadership convention had a few outstanding surprises, but the election of London Centre MPP David Peterson was welcomed by everyone.

"There is lots of confidence that (Mr. Peterson) can unseat Bill Davis," association president Al Wilson told The Herald Monday night. "I think we can

campaign on a good financial base and compete against the Tories using the media and other ways of getting our message across."

Although he had been leaning toward Mr. Peterson's candidacy as leader prior to the convention held at the Sheraton Centre, Mr. Wilson acknowledged that he and other Halton-Burlington delegates spent a great deal of time on the convention floor studying Mr. Peterson's competitors; MPPs Sheila Copps, James Brethaupt and John Sweeney and actor-alternative energy advocate Richard Thomas.

Mr. Peterson was swept to the leadership on convention's second ballot, taking 1,136 votes of the 2,958 delegates. His nearest contender was Sheila Copps, a 29-year old MPP from Hamilton who picked up 774 votes. But the biggest surprise for area delegates and other members of the convention was the strong eleventh hour showing by Mr. Thomas, who

defeated Mr. Brethaupt and Mr. Sweeney to clinch a third-place finish.

Both Mr. Wilson and Wallace Davis, a Georgetown delegate at the convention, agreed that Mr. Thomas' strong finish was largely due to his appeal among younger delegates.

"Mr. Thomas' speaking ability and his message on ecological responsibility attracted a certain age group," Mr. Wilson said, adding that despite fourth and fifth place finishes by Mr. Brethaupt and Mr. Sweeney, he expects all candidates to have some role in Liberal policy making as Mr. Peterson settles into the leadership.

Twenty-four members of the party's riding association were at the convention scrutinizing leadership hopefuls and the organizations behind them. Mr. Davis was among the riding's Liberal contingent and said he found "different interpretations—a wide spectrum—of liberalism on the floor."

Continued on Page A5

FIRA okays new firm's location here

The Foreign Investment Review Agency (FIRA) has approved a proposal by a foreign owned company to establish a new business in Halton Hills.

R.P.L. Hydraulics Inc. plans to distribute and later to assemble hydraulic controls, motors and related products. The firm is owned by two French citizens and a Canadian.

FIRA is the federal agency which rules on proposals by foreign-owned companies and individuals to establish new businesses in Canada or take over existing businesses.



GRAVITY PROBLEM?

Who says bazars don't come with strings attached? Tammy Leferink appears to know better with her hand tethered to a balloon which she picked up as the Georgetown and District Christian School held its annual bazaar Friday. Bazaars like this one offer not only a chance to rummage for treasure in someone's discarded property, but the opportunity to socialize and play a few games.

(Photo by Karen Fokkens)

Town's bill from CVCA over \$34,800

By ANI FEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

The town of Halton Hills is expected to contribute \$34,879 in 1982's general levy to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. That sum is up less than ten per cent from last year.

The 1982 budget estimate of \$5,151,444 was approved by members of the CVCA Thursday night at a full authority meeting.

As in previous years, it includes a built-in over-commitment of approximately 20 per cent.

A surplus revenue of \$22,000 from park entrance fees last year has kept the net increase in the general levy down for 1982.

The authority is hoping to receive \$961,020 in provincial grants, and a federal grant of \$100,000 for surveys and studies on water and related land management.

Among the CVCA 1982 budget expenditures are several new and continuing projects for Halton Hills. Re-designing the Glen Williams cemetery is estimated to cost \$4,400 with

the town contributing \$1,980. Under the special levy, the benefiting municipalities contribute 45 per cent of the cost of CVCA projects in their area.

Constructing an erosion control design will cost Halton Hills residents \$3,600 of a total \$8,000 cost.

A study on controlling floods in Norval will cost \$15,000, 45 per cent of which is \$6,750 and construction of a water control project to follow it will cost town tax payers \$13,500 of the total \$30,000 price tag.

The Metcalfe Court ravine project will go into phase II, costing taxpayers \$2,137, and erosion control at the North Halton Golf and Country Club \$11,250 of the total \$25,000.

Erosion control at Regan Crescent in Georgetown will cost \$1,125, down from the total \$2,500, and channel improvements to Glen Williams \$10,668 from \$25,000.

The authority has also included a proposal to redesign and construct an administrative office in its 1982 budget. If provincial funding comes through on it, the CVCA will go forward on the \$800,000 they've budgeted for it.