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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1982

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DANCING UP A STORM

Back in October, the Brian Foley Dancers entertained residents for the opening of the Halton Hills library-cultural centre. The group returned Saturday night, along with the 1981-82 national junior and senior line dance champions and presented "Ultimate On Tour"—an interesting revue featuring modern and classical dance numbers. Dancers recalled the days of the Klondike with their "Western Heritage" number, while other pieces were

entitled "Jazz Elastique", "Electric Horseman" and "42nd Street". There's more of the lively arts this weekend as Georgetown Little Theatre presents Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest", a wry look at British "haute couture" at the end of the last century.

(Herald photo by Harald Bransch)

No general service, elective surgery at GDMH

Our MDs join protest as negotiations end

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Georgetown doctors have joined a province-wide "walk-out" called by the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) as doctors continue their protest for a new salary agreement with Ontario's health ministry.

Local doctors' representative Alex Ashenurst told The

Herald Monday that there will still be full emergency service available, although most doctors will not be at their offices.

Dr. Ashenurst described public support for the Georgetown doctors' participation in the protest as "hail and hearty".

"People seem to be quite upset with the government," he said.

The month-old dispute with the government saw medical service in Georgetown suspended for three days last week and the week before.

Ontario's doctors, lead by

OMA president Lionel Reese, are seeking a 15.4 per cent increase in the average salary paid under the province's health insurance program this year, as well as a 4.4 per cent increase in each of the next four years, above proposed increases linked to the inflation rate.

Negotiations between the two parties broke off Sunday. The government's last offer proposed paying doctors \$122,000 by 1985, with a 14 per cent increase in salary this year, followed by an eleven per cent increase next year. Future increases would depend on the inflation rate.

Georgetown doctors have

yet to decide whether they will withdraw services next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday as has been suggested by the OMA if no agreement is reached.

Meanwhile, the province's Liberal and NDP opposition parties have been pressing health minister Larry Grossman to legislate doctors back to work, but Dr. Ashenurst said he isn't sure how a bill forcing an end to the dispute would work.

Doctors, he said, have an agreement with the province, not a contract and he speculated that measures forcing doctors back to work would be "pretty Draconian".

May 8 at Fairgrounds

Walkajogathon exercise for a good cause

The Georgetown and District Y Walk-a-jog-a-thon will take place May 8 at Georgetown's Fairgrounds Park.

Rally your family and get a bit of exercise while supporting the Y's activities here in Georgetown and abroad. For incentive, the person in each of the following age categories who returns the largest pledge will receive: eight years and under - a record player,

9-12 years - a radio, 13-18 years - gift certificate (North Halton Sports), and family - a family set of Y Sweatshirts.

With a location like the fairgrounds you can pack a picnic lunch for the whole family and enjoy a relaxing rest after the walk. The walk begins between 9 and 11 a.m. and finishes from 2 to 3 p.m. Our rainy day alternate is May 15. For further information, call the Y at 877-6183.



HUG OF THE YEAR

A blushing bride one and a half years ago, Karen Millson of Acton was married by Rev. Chuck Beaton at Trinity United Church. She said she was on the church's pastoral relations committee that selected him as the new pastor when she was only 18. Karen had a big hug for her by now dear friend. See page A3. (Herald photo by Ani Pedarian)

Province's Bill 82 blamed for 23 per cent increase

RC school budget \$23.6 m.

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

Bill 82's requirements for special education is being blamed by the Halton separate school board treasurer for a 23 per cent increase in the operating budget of the board over 1981.

Treasurer Tom Brady said the 1982 board budget, approved unanimously by the 16 separate school board trustees April 20, came to \$23,660,678.

It doesn't mean Halton Hills taxpayers or separate school board supporters will have to pay any more in taxes than they already have to pay for the Halton board of education's 1982 budget, Mr. Brady explained that the separate school board has a policy of keeping an equal mill rate with the public board so that residents pay the same amount in taxes.

He said the mill rate for Georgetown is 43.84, for Acton 55.22 and for Esquesing, 53.91.

Increasing enrolment within the separate school system requires the board to hire eleven high school teachers and one and a half elementary teachers next year. As well, the board plans to hire 15 and a half new staff to meet the requirements of Bill 82.

Mr. Brady said the board was spending \$316,000 for special education in its 1982 budget. A salary settlement bringing the average teacher's salary to \$27,000 was also found at fault for the jump in the board's budget. Mr. Brady said the salary settlement negotiated in the fall gave teachers a 16 per cent increase.

Almost \$17 million of the \$23 million budget goes toward salaries and benefits. The remainder is for operating the schools, Mr. Brady said.

Although keeping under Ministry of Education ceilings, the cost per pupil according to the new budget rises sharply from \$1,681 to \$2,053. There are



IRENE MCCAULEY

about 9,815 students in the separate school board schools. Because of the growth in student numbers, provincial grants for the board have increased from \$15 million last year to \$18 million for 1982.

The property budget has risen by \$1 million to \$4 million. Mr. Brady said many of the board's buildings are getting old, requiring repair expenditures. Also, he said gas, hydro and water rates have all shot up since last year, and fire department regulations that set higher safety standards must be met.

The tax levy for Halton Hills is \$349,953 with total municipal levies being \$4,623,470.

Halton Hills' separate school board trustee Irene McCauley said the budget would only bring about a 19 per cent increase in the mill rate, as did the Halton board's budget.

"I felt it was a very fair budget. We went over everything item by item, Mrs. McCauley said.

She said budgeting for special education needs had been guesswork, with the recommendations of the special ed committee due shortly. She doesn't expect they will change the budget all that much.

Mrs. McCauley said the separate school board tries to operate competitively with the public board in that it tries to offer the same programs as the public board.

She said the board turned down requests from parent delegations for French immersion and junior kindergarten programs. "With the price of it, you just can't," Mrs. McCauley said.

"Everything's escalated in

cost and we felt at this time that with the ministry saying we have to now, by law, start implementing special ed, we just didn't have the money to go into such programs," Mrs. McCauley explained.

However, the board did have \$4,000 to put towards the installation of a special elevator in an Oakville school so that one handicapped child can get to all the school floors in his wheelchair, she said.

Area chambers of commerce condemn education budget

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

With a plea that the 1982 budget approved March 18 by the Halton board of education be opened to review and the figures set equal to or below the rate of inflation, Burlington and Oakville chambers of commerce brought their complaints to the board's meeting Thursday night.

The unprecedented move was requested by the two chambers concerned with the 18.5 per cent increase in mill rate, an increase they called "irresponsible".

"We believe that in tough economic times, trustees have an obligation to residents and businesses of the region to show more restraint," Burlington chamber president Don Enns said.

He said the chamber is concerned that businesses, which make up 35 per cent of the board's revenue, don't have representation on the

board and aren't in a position to elect trustees or benefit from the board's services.

"We don't come in great numbers, like ratepayers groups, but don't underestimate us," Oakville chamber president B.R. Markow said.

"Business everywhere, not just in Halton, is struggling terribly to survive."

He said even well-managed and well-established businesses will have difficulty surviving in 1982. With company sales down due to a slow economy, and Oakville bankruptcies at 34 per cent for the first three months of 1982, Mr. Markow said businesses' ability to pay has been curtailed, "and we question your right to a larger share of our decreased revenue."

"It appears to us that there is a widespread public sector assumption that any increase, whatever the size, can be borne by the private sector. We believe there is a limit,"

Mr. Enns said. Trustees were invited to ask themselves "Are we directly contributing to the hardship of business?" and "Are we a factor in business failures?"

TASK FORCE

Volunteering their services for future budgets, Mr. Enns said the chambers are willing to appoint a task force to meet with the board's finance committee.

Trustees did not take the delegation's criticisms lying down. Trustee Jim Cleland said the board has been "unfairly accused" of misoperating its budget. He said reducing the budget by five per cent is deducting a considerable sum of money.

"It's not our position to get into the nitty gritty of your budget," Mr. Enns said. "We'd be delighted to help as volunteers, but we think you're totally out of step with reality."

Trustee Doug Morton asked the visitors if they were aware of changes in education funding, referring to provincial cutbacks.

Mr. Enns said he believes the cutbacks are intended to set the board an example to cut back on municipal funding.

Why Bill 82? Why French programs being required of Ontario boards, asked trustee Morton, if the ministry's intention is to encourage cutbacks in the education system?

Asserting the board looked very seriously at what they were doing and weren't bringing in the 1982 budget with "any great delight", Halton Hills trustee Betty Fisher asked where the commitment to education lay — with the provincial or the municipal government?



PAT ON THE BACK

The Town of Halton Hills honors and recognition evening Monday saw Coun. Mike Armstrong present cross-country runner Allison Irvine with a medal marking her achievements. The awards night is an annual event at which the town honors the achievements of the year's cultural and athletic endeavors. See page A10 for more details.

(Herald photo)

German firm gets FIRA nod to buy out Fortamix plant

The federal Foreign Investment Review Agency (FIRA) has approved an application to buy out Fortamix Chemicals Ltd. of Georgetown.

The company received word Friday that FIRA approved the sale to BASF Canada Incorporated of Mount Royal, Quebec. BASF Canada is a wholly-owned

subsidiary of BASF Aktiengesellschaft based in Ludwigshafen am Rhein of Germany.

Employing 28 people, Fortamix Chemicals manufactures and supplies eastern Canada with vitamin trace mineral premixes for livestock and poultry feed. It was established in Georgetown 13 years ago by seven individuals.

\$33,000

CANCER DRIVE '82

\$11,550

As the Canadian Cancer Society's April campaign for funds draws to a close, local cancer unit volunteers continue to welcome donations at their 164 Guelph St., Georgetown, office. If you haven't been canvassed and haven't made a donation elsewhere, please contact the unit by phoning 877-1124. Your contribution is greatly appreciated, since as the campaign slogan says, the Cancer Society "needs you now more than ever".



A WITTY LITTLE SATIRE

Georgetown Little Theatre will open its run of Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" Friday night at the John Elliott Theatre and viewers can be assured they have never seen traditional English tea breaks generate so much laughter. First presented to Londoners in 1895, "Earnest" is acclaimed as one of the all-time finest pieces of British theatre and takes a light-hearted dig at the establishment of the day through a dumber love story. GLT's version is directed by Derek Joyner and besides its Friday debut, runs Saturday and May 5 through to May 8. Tickets are still available for the May 5 benefit night sponsored by the Xi Delta Beta sorority, proceeds from which are going to the town's ActiVan project and the Cancer Society. There are also seats left for the May 6 performance. Contact the GLT box office at 877-5407 or visit the box office at the theatre between 4 and 8 p.m. this week. Among the crusty characters are (seated) Lady Bracknell (Vera Macdonald), and (left to right) Cecily (Susan Stevens), Miss Prism (Pat Joyner) and Gwendolen (Jill Evans). See page A11.

(Herald photo by Ani Pedarian)