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## Esme Ball named top citizen

By ANI PEDERIAN  
Herald Staff Writer

Over 25 years of contributions to the Georgetown community is being recognized by the Georgetown Lions Club in their selection of Esme Ball as Citizen of the Year.

"Of all the candidates this year, she seemed to stand out more than the others. Her name has come up two or three times before as a candidate over the years," Lions Club second vice-president Carl Hanson said. "She impressed us as a very energetic woman."



A quiet worker who has done much for both young and old residents in the community, Mrs. Ball is going to be honored Feb. 26 by the Lions Club and local politicians.

In the early 1950s, she was responsible for bringing Guiding back to Georgetown, after the association had been closed for several years.

Mrs. Ball explained she got involved in guiding on a "chance" comment from the Anglican minister christening her son, Christopher. The minister happened to mention a Guide leader was needed, and with that, Mrs. Ball devoted herself to getting the girl guides going in Georgetown.

The association has grown considerably since that day, and although no longer involved in Guiding, Mrs. Ball still keeps in touch with the girls she taught.

"Several of the Guides are very good friends of mine. I've watched them grow up, get engaged, get married and have children of their own," she said.

Interested in children, Mrs. Ball carried on a warm relationship with youngsters when she joined the staff of the Georgetown library 14 years ago. For many years, she was the children's librarian in charge of story hours.

Mrs. Ball received many youngsters' letters and drawings written especially for her and posted up on the library walls.

The children pet-named her "Mrs. O", and even the postmen knew that local mail addressed that way was for her.

"My little people couldn't write, 'Ball', so I would get letters from them with a round circle for ball," Mrs. Ball explained.



ESME BALL

Her work with the visiting school classes gained her many special friends who still pop in to see "Mrs. O".

"To this day I'm overjoyed to have them come in and say 'Hi, Mrs. Ball'," she said. "From being wee things they're now in first year of university. It's a tremendous plus to what's happening to me."

While being a part of children's lives for a quarter century, Mrs. Ball also managed to study and earn her Doctor of Philosophy degree from Oxford University in England. She's been invited to England several times to present papers.

Last fall, she presented a paper on the 1979 International Year of the Child.

The Maple Avenue resident has also done a lot of work for the elderly and handicapped.

She was instrumental in establishing the Sunshine School for retarded children in Milton and once lived with children in the Smith Falls hospital for retarded children.

"Mrs. Ball's done a lot of work for the elderly and the shut-ins through the library - 80 per cent of it on her own time," Mr. Hanson noted. "She's that type of person. She gives of herself to help other people."

The co-ordinator of extension services at the library, Mrs. Ball brings the library's book services and collection to seniors and handicapped in the community unable to come to the library.

Every month, Mrs. Ball fills boxes of books for the three seniors' residences in Georgetown, which are dropped off with the help of local volunteers.

"I've always had, and still have, fantastic people who help me and in a way I'd rather they had this honor instead of me," Mrs. Ball said.

"My first reaction was, there must be someone else who deserves it more than I do, and I felt like running away," she said modestly.

The winner of the 1983 honor, bestowed last year on businessman and Halton Hills Hydro commissioner Ab Tennant, has been called the honorary granddaddy to a lot of the town's children.

Respected and loved by Georgetowners of all ages, Mrs. Ball deserves recognition for her work on the individual level, Mr. Hanson said.

## Quality education endangered?

# Teachers urge class size restraint

By ANI PEDERIAN  
Herald Staff Writer

A busload of teachers from Halton Hills, along with others who came on their own, were among the more than 500 elementary school teachers who packed the Halton board of education offices Thursday night.

The polite demonstration was organized by the Halton Elementary Teachers' Association (HETA) to bring attention to the teachers' demand for additional staffing.

Negotiations between the teachers and the board to settle a 1983 contract have gone long beyond their usual wrap up period. Monetary issues have been resolved and it's only the staffing issue which is holding up the settlement of the contract.

HETA is looking for an additional 36 elementary teachers for 1983-84, but the board is only willing to add 24. The issue of 12 more teachers brought out teachers en masse to the board's Thursday night meeting. HETA wants the extra staff to meet the needs of implementing new board programs like core French and special education.

"For a fairly affluent board, it's disappointing that the pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) is so high," George Kennedy Public School teacher Judy Luker told The Herald Thursday night.

Carrying blue placards reading "We Care About Kids", the Grades 2 and 3 teacher said a lot of parents had complained about the high numbers of children per class.

The current ratio is 20.4 students for every teacher and puts the Halton board at the bottom of the list in comparison with other Ontario boards.

"While 20.4 looks very good, it doesn't come out to be that way at all," HETA president Robert Filman said, explaining that included with the classroom teachers in that ratio are also principals, vice-principals, librarians, guidance,

special education and co-operative education teachers.

Regular class sizes are much larger than 20 students indicated, teachers argue.

A teacher for four years, Miss Luker said she has 31 children in her class and it's hard to give "individualized" programs when the PTR is high.

"We're not radical," Miss Luker said. "We just want to show we care."

Five other George Kennedy school teachers made the 45 minute drive to the Burlington board meeting to show their concern over the PTR.

"It's the kids who end up suffering when there's a high PTR," Miss Luker said. "Our concern isn't for more money—that's been settled—it's more of a 'caring' issue."

Stewarttown Senior Public School teacher Paul Hynds, also at the demonstration, said 16 of the 20 teaching staff at his school came out to the board meeting.

"You see, teachers don't usually find a common front—even on money issues they differ—but this issue of staffing and PTR has teachers really united," Mr. Hynds said.

Traditionally teachers have given in on the PTR issue, he said, but for the first time, they're saying "No, we've really got to make a change here."

Along with the increased numbers of students per class, demands are being put on teachers to offer individualized programs, to meet the provincial legislation for special education, he said.

Mr. Hynds teaches special education to Grades 7 and 8 pupils and this is his sixth year with the Halton board.

"My numbers fluctuate from year to year, but the regular classroom teachers are noticing they're having more and more kids in their classes from year to year," Mr. Hynds said, adding that the average Grade 7 class at Stewarttown has 33 students, and the average Grade 8 class has 35 students.

"That's too many," he said. "When you apply the Peel board's PTR, almost every school would have another teacher."

"Not one teacher at this school feels we shouldn't fight for PTR," Mr. Hynds said. "That's unusual to have that commitment and no

spits. We think the quality of education is important."

He said he was pleased with Thursday night's turnout, and that it accomplished teachers' intentions.

"We weren't there to disrupt," Mr. Hynds said.

"We wanted to impress upon the board that we think this is a significant issue for teachers," Centennial Public

School science teacher Brian Cosgrove was also pleased with the quiet issue for teachers."

Continued on page A2



GETTING A GRIP ON WINTER

This team of Limehouse Public School youngsters put every bit of strength they could muster into a snow tug-of-war Friday morning. The students weren't the least bit discouraged with the scarcity of snow which has

threatened many planned winter outings and seemed to enjoy themselves immensely as they moved from one challenging activity to another. (Herald photo by Chris Asgaard)

## First Choice gets boost

So far only one voice of protest has been raised against Playboy-oriented programming on pay TV, says the manager of Halton Cable Company.

Jim Magee told The Herald that, on the contrary, once news came out that the First Choice station would be offering Playboy type programming, subscribers called to switch to First Choice.

Whereas 60 per cent of subscribers initially wanted Super Channel, when First Choice announced its Hugh Hefner connection, the numbers reversed, Mr. Magee said.

"It shot up 2-1 for it," he said. "Not many people in Halton Hills are upset about the Playboy decision. If you don't want it, don't buy it. That's our philosophy here."

There are 11,500 cable subscribers in Halton Hills and Milton, of whom 1,000 have asked for pay TV. The three new pay TV stations launched their first season yesterday (Tuesday).

# Wrecking yards under scrutiny

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald Staff Writer

Three Halton Hills wrecking yards have six months to conform to articles in the town's licensing bylaw or they may find their operating permits revoked.

Meanwhile, as part of the same general committee recommendation made Monday night, three other wrecking firms, Acton's Halton Hills Collision, Johnson Auto Wreckers and York Auto Wreckers, will likely have their permits renewed for a full year by council next week because they have followed municipal wrecking yard guidelines.

Fence repairs are needed before the operating permits for Watson Auto Wreckers, Brown's Auto Wreckers and Halton Auto Wreckers are extended to cover a full year.

Committee's tough conditions arose following a debate about problems at the Limehouse-based Halton Auto Wreckers, a firm owned by Fred Tolton. The firm, located near the centre of the village across from Limehouse Public School is an "area of concern for everyone in Limehouse", resident Mary Shier told the committee.

Village residents, she said, have had to put up with "less than adequate conditions" at the wrecking yard for 13 years. Recently, Esqueving town councillors have had complaints about cars piled too high in the yard, vehicles and junk bins parked outside the wrecking yard fence and vandalism-caused graffiti painted on the fence itself.

Speculating that Mr. Tolton is succumbing to town pressure to clean things up, Halton Hills bylaw officer Jack Lusty noted that Halton Auto Wreckers has made an effort to clean up the graffiti on the fence and has plans to make extensive fence repairs to put as much of the junked cars out of sight as possible.

In addition, Mr. Lusty

said, Mr. Tolton has arranged to start crushing and compacting the cars. This operation was expected to begin yesterday (Tuesday) and would move 2,000 tons of junk out of the yard. Earlier Monday, Mr. Tolton was able to have two large privately-owned industrial junk bins removed from the front of the property, Mr. Lusty noted, commenting that

he believed Mr. Tolton would operate his business closer to the bylaw in the future.

Mrs. Shier told committee members that Limehouse residents aren't

asking Mr. Tolton to relocate the wrecking yard. She called on the firm to set an example by showing "civic pride" and being a good neighbor.

"We feel we are entitled to a better quality of life as residents of the village," Mrs. Shier said.

If the auto wrecking firms fail to comply with the bylaw, their permits can be revoked by council at any time, Mr. Lusty said. Charges could be laid against yard owners who operate without a permit after that.

But while council will be keeping a close watch on the Limehouse operation, another neighbor still has his own problems with Halton Auto Wreckers.

Torrell Tanner says that fill used by Mr. Tolton to build a new access way into the yard has spilled over into his property and he's also concerned that the new construction threatens Limehouse's ancient lime kilns.

The new access, which Halton Auto Wreckers hopes will alleviate space shortages that have kept yard operation vehicles out of the enclosure, lies almost directly above the kilns.

Mr. Tanner told The Herald later that he's concerned about the structural safety of the access way which appears to be supported by an old limestone wall into which the kilns are constructed.

Having had his own survey conducted, Mr. Tanner said that at least part of the slope, the bottom half, of the access way, spreads into his property. He also maintains that the grade of the slope is too steep and doesn't conform with Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) regulations. (The NEC has planning control over the area).

Mr. Tanner explained that he has had difficulty trying to resolve the matter with Mr. Tolton, telling committee that they have had only "limited communication".

Although it was indicated that the school also has a problem with customers of the wrecking yard using its parking space, committee members pointed out that that issue would have to be worked out between the firm and the Halton board of education.



The Halton Auto Wreckers yard in Limehouse has come under council's scrutiny recently. Yard owner Fred Tolton has been building an additional access to the yard which he says will help remove some of the vehicles and junk occasionally left outside the fence. But construction of the new access has caused at least one neighbor to express concern that it endangers unused lime kilns below the access way. The lime kilns were once an important part of the area's industrial prosperity. (Herald-photo)

## Honors nominees sought

In appreciation of individuals who have brought recognition to Halton Hills in 1982 or have achieved provincial fame or better in an activity unrelated to their means of livelihood, the town is accepting applications for an

awards evening to be held in spring. If you would like to nominate

an individual or group for an award, please complete an application

form and return no later than March 10. Recognition and

Honour 1983, Town of Halton Hills, Recreation and Parks Department, 36 Main St. South, Halton Hills (Georgetown), Ontario, L7G 4X1.

Application forms are available at either

Recreation office (Georgetown or Acton), finance department, 36 Main St. S. or clerk's department on Trafalgar Road.

For more information, call 877-5185, ext. 60.



ROD'S SQUAD

Two-year old Matthew Crawford found it a big hat to fill. The St. Alban's Playschool student was one of 14 preschool children being given the grand tour of the Halton regional police station in Georgetown by Safety Officer Rod Beaumont. The little ones giggled and watched wide-eyed as Const. Beaumont showed them the ropes of being a good policeman Friday morning. (Herald photo by Ani Pedarian)