



Betty Fisher greeted the arrival of Conservative leadership candidate John Crosbie in an affectionate way last Wednesday in Huttonville. Mr. Crosbie came to speak to delegates from the Halton area in a swing through Ontario. Mrs. Fisher was the only declared Crosbie follower who was elected as a delegate for the Brampton-Georgetown riding.

How do you spell relief?

John Crosbie didn't try to hide his relief when he told reports that he was "encouraged" by the announcement that Premier Bill Davis wouldn't run for the Conservative Party leadership.

Premier Davis would have proven to have been a "formidable candidate," Mr. Crosbie said last Wednesday in a tour through Huttonville. He was wooing PC delegates from Brampton-Georgetown and Halton ridings at Huttonville's Somewhere Else restaurant.

Mr. Crosbie will be spending the next two weeks in Ontario before travelling to British Columbia and then to Alberta.

On his campaign swing across Canada Mr. Crosbie said the people he talks to feel the growth of the economy is the most important issue. They're worried about jobs and

the future of Canada, he said.

Mr. Crosbie called himself a conservative on financial issues, but a moderate on other party platforms.

On the question of cruise missile testing, Mr. Crosbie said he supports the tests because Canada is a member of NATO and because the Russians deployed the SS-20s.

Canada also manufactures parts for the cruise guidance system and therefore it would be hypocritical to deny the Americans a chance to test the cruise on Canadian soil, he said.

It is "media romanticism" to say the Conservatives are going too far to the right," he said in reply to one question. The danger is from the left with Prime Minister Trudeau and the Liberals, Mr. Crosbie said.

Support for French Immersion rescue

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

Feelings of frustration were high, as with a one vote margin, parents voted to accept the alternatives presented by Halton board of education representatives Monday night for 36 children in the French immersion program at Joseph Gibbons Public School.

Currently being taught by two full-time teachers, with class sizes of 19 and 17, the Grades 4 and 5 immersion students will be combined into one split grade class next year.

The board administration has offered three options to parents in an effort to reduce the impact of the high pupil teacher ratio in a split grade immersion class: the addition of a full-time bilingual paraprofessional, or two half-time paraprofessionals or a half-time teacher.

"There just aren't enough staff to cover the region for us to be able to

put in two full-time teachers," educational services superintendent Ron Chapman told over 30 concerned parents.

He said staffing has been allotted by the board for the region and board administrators have to operate within the numbers they are allowed.

Class sizes have dropped from the original 32 begun with in Grade 1, as families moved away or children who didn't do well in the program were put into the regular English language program, Halton Hills trustee Betty Fisher said.

There is a 90 per cent retention rate in the immersion program, coordinator of modern languages Dianne Pennock said.

"The administration has given you their best shot regarding what they can do for French immersion," Mrs. Fisher said. "You can appeal it to the board, however."

She didn't offer much hope the board would reconsider and give two teachers for September, although Mrs. Fisher offered her support in bringing the parents' concerns to the board table.

"I assure you, I'd fall over dead if the board were to go along with it," Mrs. Fisher said. "They'll turn it down because it's way below board guidelines for any class size including kindergarten."

Paraprofessionals are instructional assistants who work under the direction of a teacher, Mr. Chapman said. They can do most things in the class, but don't have the responsibility, he said.

"My personal preference, if I had a child in the program, I'd prefer to have a full-time bilingual paraprofessional," Mr. Chapman responded when asked which option he would recommend to parents. "That gives you the continuity in the classroom."

However, he noted, frequently with half-time people you get more than half-time work from them because of their dedication to the job.

With the paraprofessional, you have a "one-two punch," Mr. Chapman said, with the teacher giving the concepts and skills to the class, then, together with the paraprofessional working with the children to make sure they were understood.

Having a paraprofessional instead of another full-time teacher for the students was called "far less than ideal" by parent Murray Jann.

"That, to me, is going two giant steps backwards in terms of the quality of education our children will receive," Mr. Jann said. "I don't think you can treat it (French immersion) as a regular program and try to put it into the conventional guidelines you have."

Mrs. Fisher agreed that the quality would not be the same, but said having 17 students to one teacher was something the board could not afford to do.

Mrs. Pennock said she didn't feel students would be getting that much less a quality education if the board options were followed.

Another option not mentioned was that available to students currently in Grade 4 - transferring to Pineview Public

School, where there will be a Grade 5 immersion class in September. In a hands-up vote, however, parents showed reluctance to separate their children from the friends they had made at Joseph Gibbons.

If six children did leave the Joseph Gibbons program, the class size would be under 30, and Mrs. Fisher said the reduced numbers wouldn't warrant the extra cost of paraprofessionals or a half-time extra teacher. The options currently being offered by the board would be retracted.

The board of 20 trustees is the final decision maker, Mrs. Fisher told parents.

Residents oppose rec centre bid

Citizens living near southwestern Milton-Halton Hills border are concerned about yet another recreational centre planned for Halton Hills' rural area, and they want town council to do what it can to snuff out the proposal before it ruins the rural life they've come to enjoy.

A 260-acre parcel of land south of Speyside and west of Highway 25 has been rented by a group known as the International Peace Camp. The group's plan to develop the area as a recreational centre will be reviewed shortly by

the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC), the body which has planning control over the area.

But even though the NEC meeting has yet to take place, there are already signs of activity on the property, Milton resident Colin Muspratt told the town's general committee Monday night.

And recently, that activity threatened the homes of residents neighboring the property as Camp workers tried to clear the land with fires.

One recent blaze ignited a treeline within fifty feet of his home, Mr. Muspratt said, and

narrowly missed engulfing another property.

Halton Hills and Milton fire departments have been called out to the property to control fires, Mr. Muspratt said, adding that Camp workers "are nowhere to be found when the fire trucks arrive."

Halton Hills deputy fire chief Bob Hyde said that chief Bill Cunningham had been in touch with a representative of the Camp, and in a May 3 letter, advised him that some of the actions on Camp property could be contravening the provincial fire code.

The Peace Camp's plans, he argued, will turn the property into "a small-scale CNE - without the midway".

"It will totally change

the character of the rural neighborhood," Mr. Muspratt said. "We don't want the CNE in our backyard."

He noted that the NEC file number on the Camp's application is prefixed by "HC" - Halton Commercial - which suggests that the recreational centre will be run as a money-making enterprise.

The issue concerns not only immediate neighbors of the property, but also affects the whole township, Mr. Muspratt maintained.

"It could consume council's time for years," he said. "Because the property falls under the NEC's planning guidelines, Halton Hills zoning bylaws don't apply in the area."

In addition to clearing land, Camp workers have also moved a construction trailer on the property.

When developed, Mr. Muspratt said, the Camp may accommodate up to 2,000 people on some occasions and will have parking for 500 cars, as well as sports fields and campsites.

He feared that council will face similar noise complaints to ones which have arisen concerning festivities at the Croatian Centre south of Norval and the Canadian-Yugoslavian centre south of Acton.

Spin nets charge

A spin around the block by a Weber Drive resident caused considerable damage on Duncan Drive Sunday at 1:40 a.m. The Georgetown driver was charged with impaired driving by Halton reg-

ional police following an incident in which there was \$8,525 damage to six parked cars and several fences before the car came to rest.

Police said there were no injuries to the impair-

ed driver or anybody else.

The 20-year old driver lost control on the wet road as he came south around a bend on Duncan Drive, police said. Mounting the west curb, the driver crossed the boulevard and sidewalk striking a hedge at 44 Duncan Dr.

The vehicle also took out a hydro pole support behind the hedge before continuing across the roadway and mounting the east curb where it rear-ended a vehicle, pushing it forward into a third car which in turn pushed into the rear of a fourth.

The driver then continued southbound, tearing down the fence on the south side of the driveway at 47 Duncan Dr. and continuing across the front lawn of 49 Duncan police said. There, it broke off a pine tree approximately six inches in diameter at the trunk.

The Chrysler then collided with a vehicle parked in the driveway at 49 Duncan, pushing it through a fence dividing 49 and 51 Duncan Dr. The pushed car then collided with a sixth vehicle.

POLICE BEAT

Weapons incident

A 42-year old Georgetown man was charged with having a weapon dangerous to the public peace Saturday in connection with an incident in front of the Sinclair Avenue A and P store around 6:30 p.m.

A 27-year old man was threatened with a knife during an argument, Halton regional police reported. There were no injuries.

Traffic mishap

Two northbound vehicles on Eighth Line north of Wildwood Road collided Saturday at 12:45 p.m. when the first made a left turn into a private driveway at the same time as the second was about to overtake it.

There was \$3,500 damage to the two cars and James Edward of Acton, 19, was taken to Georgetown Memorial Hospital with minor injuries.

The turning car struck a hydro pole on the east side of the road, causing \$150 damage to hydro property. No charges were laid by police who recorded conflicting statements from the drivers involved.

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