

School board spends according to priorities

Recreation Report

For information on the below programs call 877-5185 ext. 260.

CALL IN NOW!

Nov. 10, the recreation department in conjunction with the Credit Valley Artisans are holding their Travelcrafts Christmas craft workshop - 1:30 to 3:30 at the Credit Valley Artisans cottage. Disabled adults and seniors are invited to attend.

ON-GOING REGISTRATION

Don't wait to register for any winter programs of your choice - downhill skiing lessons, fitness, CanSkate and power skating, broomball, leadership development, pre-school playshop and more. Mail-in registrations are welcome using the form in our fall and winter brochure.

AQUATIC PROGRAM

Registration for swimming lessons will be starting again soon. A limited number of levels will be held twice a week beginning Nov. 15. Registration begins Nov. 7th, 1983 at the Acton and Georgetown Indoor Pools. Pool office hours are Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m., and weekends, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

For more information call the pool during the above hours - Acton 853-3140 or Georgetown 877-7721.

FIELD USERS MEETING

The Halton Hills recreation and parks department recently hosted end of season meetings for sport field users in Halton Hills. The minutes of the meeting are being mailed to the 1983 contact people for each league.

Information packages that outline procedures for requesting fields for the 1984 season are available from the Recreation Offices. The 1984 sport contact persons are asked to drop in to pick up their group's information package.

FREE SKATING

Friday, Nov. 4, there will be free public skating at the Georgetown Memorial Arena from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. This has been made possible through the generosity of the Georgetown Optimist Club.

For information on future free public skating refer to your Recreation Department Brochure or call the Recreation Department.

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald staff writer

Society expects the school system to cover a great many social needs, but the time to say no to some of them may have arrived, the director of the Halton board of education said Oct. 25.

Speaking to about 30 parents at Burlington's Lester B. Pearson High School, Wally Beevor said the board has to continue to find its priorities and articulate them more clearly through its schools.

Perhaps we have to say no to things that are worthwhile but aren't in our mandate," Mr. Beevor said.

As the board strives to become more efficient, it needs to take closer looks at classrooms and assess maximum utilization of space in the schools, Mr. Beevor said. Spending has to be with reality, strictly following the board mandate and provincially and municipally established priorities, he added.

"We are efficient in terms of what we get for the dollar," board finance committee chairman and trustee Bill Priestner told parents. "Our costs are as low as any boards. But, what has bothered me for a long time is, why are our board's costs as high as they are when the U.S. costs are one-half to two-thirds what they are here?"

COSTS HIGHER

The U.S. average cost per pupil is \$2,000, he said. This year, it's costing the board \$3,218.57 a pupil. Ten years ago, it cost the board \$955.43.

There are many demands on the board budget and trustees must continually ask themselves "Do we need it?" Mr. Priestner said.

Superintendent of financial services Ron Warren said provincial grants are not likely to increase in the future, and there is speculation that there may be centralization of funds for all boards. This would

have a significant effect on the autonomy of individual boards, he noted. Currently, school boards have access to funding from the local tax levy on residential, farm and industry property, and from provincial grants.

The legislative grants are the principal source of funding and they're assessed according to the impact of inflation on education, the expected change in school enrolment and changes in programs being offered, Mr. Warren said.

EQUALIZE

Grants are used to equalize the mill rates as best as they can across the province, he said. This year, the province paid 44 per cent of the board's costs, compared with 46 per cent last year and 60 per cent in the mid 1970s.

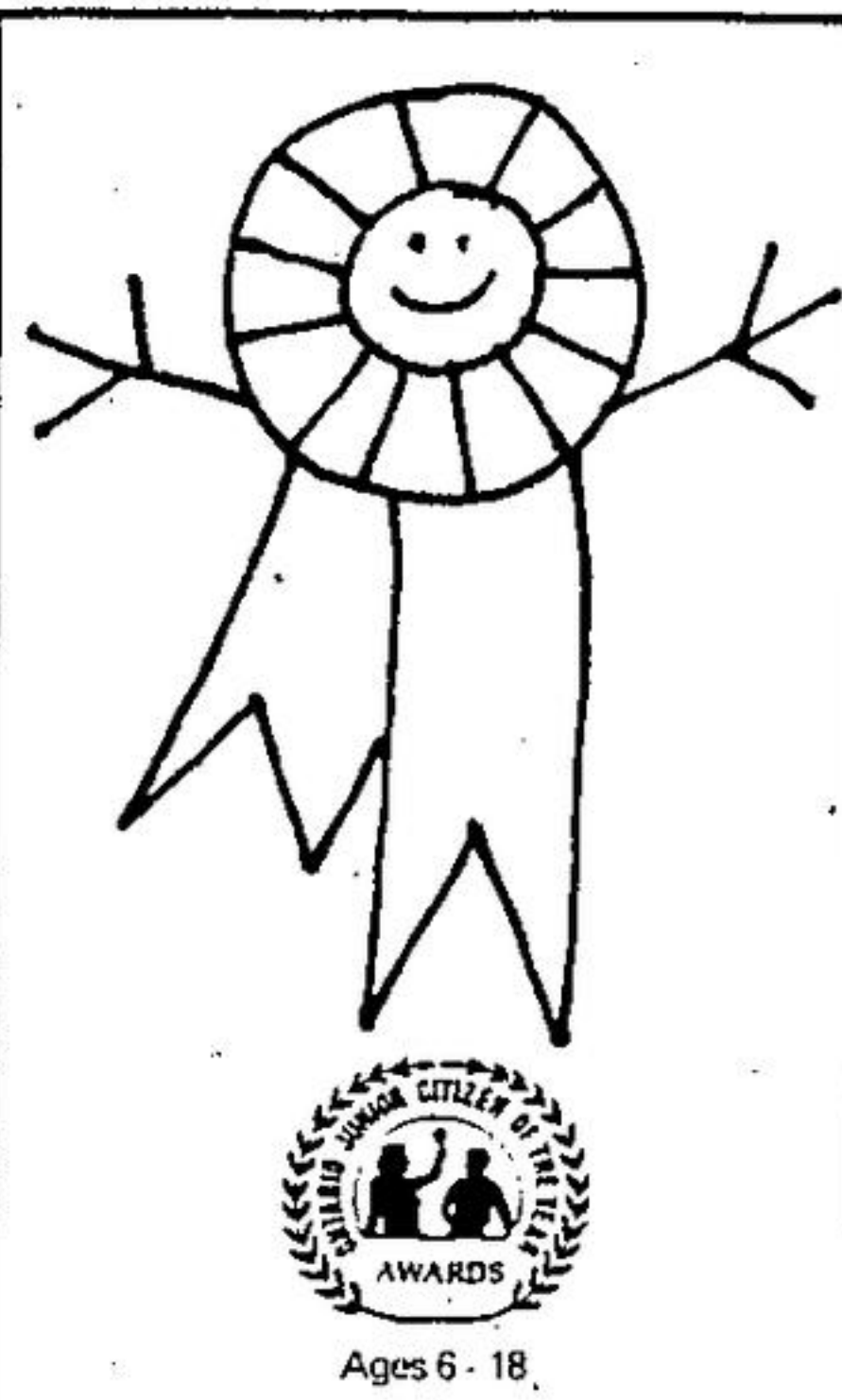
"In 1972, the grants were on their way up, and it was easy to come in with a reduction in

the mill rate. It's not easy to do any more. In fact, it's impossible because of the reduced provincial funding," Mr. Priestner said.

Education spending costs are increasing with the programs the province is demanding of boards. Mr. Priestner said that through Bill 82, the province is encouraging more children be identified as special education pupils. He estimated it will cost Halton \$20 million more to do what Bill 82 wants by 1985.

"Fewer corporations are making profits, fewer businesses are staying in business, so the ability to pay corporate tax is shrinking," Mr. Priestner said.

"Government deficits are at a rise provincially and federally and that has to be addressed. We're not taking in enough money to pay government spending each year and that's no doubt one of the reasons they're cutting back



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Ontario's community newspapers and CP Air, co-ordinator and patron of the Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year Awards Program, are seeking entries for 1983.

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the Halton Hills
HERALD
45 Guelph St. 877-2201
Georgetown

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Georgetown **OPTIMIST CLUB**

By JOHN KESTELOOT

The John Elliott Theatre is the centre of attention on two occasions this week, on Thursday Nov. 3rd and Saturday Nov. 5, 8 p.m.

Thursday features the Louisiana Jazz Band with Georgetown's own Bryan Day. Saturday, tickets are \$5 and are still available from Jim Broughton 877-0331. Proceeds go to the "Lift for Georgetown High". This fund is to install a disabled persons elevator in our five level high school. This will enable students and adults who are restricted to wheelchairs or on crutches as well as asthmatics to get around the school more efficiently.

The cost has been reduced greatly from the original \$123,000. We are talking in the \$70,000 range - plans are not final yet.

Free public skating is available during the "Optimist Skating Hour". This winter our club in co-operation with the recreation department has arranged for 10 - one and a half hour skating periods. These go at 1 p.m. on all P.D. days, Christmas holidays, except Christmas and Boxing Day, and the March break ending March 26th.

While this program is set up with the school kids in mind all kids from 6 to 60 are welcome.

A special thank you to all those that participated in our annual cross country run at Cedarvale Park. The coaches, teachers, parents and especially the 700 kids. A special thanks to life member John Shaw for his help.



Rev. Peter Scott and Mary Beth Scott. (Photo by Jean Layman)

St. John's 144th birthday

St. John's United Church of Georgetown observed their 144th anniversary Sunday Oct. 30.

The mini choir sang "God's Surprises" with Mrs. Ruth Forgraves playing the piano.

Rev. Jeff Davison and Student Assistant Marjorie Ostrander conducted the service.

Mr. Bud Livingston introduced and welcomed guest minister Rev. Peter Scott of Woodstock. Rev. Peter Scott chose "The Journey is Our Home", for his sermon.

Rev. Peter Scott was Student Assistant to Rev. Bob Scrivens from 1969 to 1972 at St. John's. The Rev. Scotts have been at St. David's United Church in Woodstock for the past eight years, having two children Alana 12, and Adam, 9. Rev. Scotts went to Tobemore in 1972 following Peter's Ordination.

The teen choir sang "I Will Praise Him" with Sue Kelly soloist. The senior choir providing music of praise with Organist - Adam Brown at the console.

The U.C.W. members served lunch following the service and a social hour was enjoyed renewing the friends in the Church Hall.

Thank You...

Esquising voters for your support and confidence at the polls. Also a special thanks to all my volunteers.

Should you have a problem or a question - please phone me at 853-0211 (Bus.) or 853-1175 (Res.)

Yours truly,

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