

On declining enrollment

Criteria is listed by study committee to evaluate schools

By DAVE ROWNEY
Herald Staff

With a mandate to look at declining enrollment, a school consolidation committee has made a list of criteria needed to make some hard decisions.

Since March 19, a 48-member committee from Halton Hills has met each week to discuss possible school closures or the twinning of schools.

Ratepayers from 14 elementary schools in Halton Hills are to make recommendations to the Halton Board of Education by March 1986.

Now ready to break for the summer, the committee hasn't discussed the pros or cons of each school, co-chairman John Kavanagh said.

The committee has spent all of their time thus far discussing the criteria needed to evaluate each school, Mr. Kavanagh said.

"Things have been going slowly, but it's a large committee," he said.

It's been difficult dealing with the wording of the criteria statement and committee members feel it must be clearly defined, he said.

The committee members are "like mini-trustees who want to make the criteria reflect well on their school," he said.

Mr. Kavanagh calls the consolidation study committee a "very high calibre group" who are all "very verbally eloquent."

Each week the committee met at a different elementary school in Halton Hills and listened to a five-minute presentation by the principal. They would then be free to ask the principal about the strengths and weaknesses of the school and walk the hallways.

The 48-member committee has a voting body

Scheduled then is a meeting with the region and Halton Board of Education planners to discuss future development.

With information on the town's expansion, the committee will go back and look at each of the schools.

In March the consolidation committee will make presentations to the Halton Board of Education. However, before the conclusions of the study are presented to the board, a public

meeting will be held, Mr. Kavanagh said.

After September, Mr. Kavanagh is hoping the committee can stay in contact with the community through newsletters or the three newspapers in north Halton.

The meetings each week are closed to the press and public. However, the minutes for each of the meetings are available, and ratepayers are encouraged to talk to the two representatives in their school area, Mr. Kavanagh said.

Schools compared with each other

How do you rate one school against another? It's a tough question, but one that has to be answered by a school consolidation committee.

The 48-member group is looking at declining enrollment in Halton Hills and their job is to list criteria and choose which schools, if any, should be twinned or closed.

The committee started with a goal statement, outlining their common objectives. It states: "the goal of the Halton Hills Consolidation Committee is to make recommendations to the Halton Board of Education on the enhancement of educational opportunities for students through the most efficient and effective use of the Board's resources."

Having said that, the committee listed a variety of criteria in order to evaluate the 14 elementary schools in question.

Topics listed include the community, facilities, financial, human resources, location program, regional growth and development and transportation.

Criteria for "community" include trying to maintain peer group continuity from Kindergarten to Grade 13 where possible and the use of the school by the community for other uses.

Consideration should be given to what alternative facilities are available in the school area, the statement says.

Facilities should be evaluated according to present and future maintenance needs and the adaptability for modification or expansion, the committee feels.

Consideration should also be made for any existing special purpose rooms, equipment and facilities.

Another criteria addressed is the accessibility to handicapped currently or for the future.

Under "financial", it is necessary to look at schools that have high renovation, maintenance or capital costs, the committee feels.

The potential ability to dispose of a school and increased costs of busing will also affect any decisions made, based on the criteria.

The committee recommends that a full time non-teaching principal be provided where possible. Also, consideration for a vice-principal should be given where numbers warrant, says the committee.

The statement recommends that each school have a special education resource teacher, at least one half-time librarian and full-time library services.

A school site location has four criteria. One is that it be in a centrally located area for the present and future. Another consideration is for safety of the children from traffic.

A school site should have favorable zoning that wouldn't affect the growth of future student populations. Also, school closures shouldn't reduce student access to sports or library facilities unless absolutely necessary, the committee recommends.

Plans by the region, town and the province plus other organizations like the Credit Valley Conservation Authority have to be considered in the criteria, the statement says.

In addition, school location is considered important based on time spent on a bus and any safety hazards resulting from a school closure.

Elementary schools population guide

About 175 students is about the right number for a school holding grades Kindergarten to 5, or Kindergarten to 6.

That's what a consolidation study group says is needed in order to ensure a list of six objectives relating to programs at schools.

The 48 member group also says a Kindergarten to Grade 8 school should hold about 350 students.

Six objectives could be facilitated by maintaining the school populations listed above, the committee says:

- minimize split classes
- increase the potential for extracurricular activities
- strive to meet staff allocation guidelines to provide a minimum of one half-time librarian, adequate music service, teachers with specialities for Grades 6, 7 and 8, adequate non-teaching and support staff.
- utilize budgeted program funds to the best advantage
- recognize the respective characteristics of both large and small schools
- Strive to have two units of kindergarten (i.e., a.m. and p.m.).

Acton swim lessons

New and exciting lessons and swims have been added to the Acton Indoor Pool. After an incredible response from the public, the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department decided to allot time for Adult Lessons. These lessons will run during the same sessions as the Learn to Swim Program. The sessions are July 1-12, July 15-28, August 5-16 and August 19-30. The Adult Lessons will run Monday to Friday, from 5:30 to 6 p.m.

Jills gym camp

The Halton Hills Jills gymnastics club will be holding registration next week for their upcoming summer gymnastics camp.

Registration is being held at the Rose Room located at Memorial Arena Tuesday from 6:30 p.m. and Thursday from 6:30-8 p.m. Fees are \$25 for a half day and \$45 for a full day.

For more information those interested are asked to call Kim Dryden at 877-8690.

Collision

A McGillivray Crescent resident backed their 1979 Buick into the side of a parked 1984 Plymouth while leaving their driveway last Tuesday (July 2) at 5:45 p.m. Only the Plymouth was damaged an estimated \$1,000.

THE PREPPIE LOOK



Dozens of local students answered Walt Disney's call for preppie extras last Friday for the film "Young Again". Sharnhill Productions Inc. will be shooting the film July 9, 10 and 11 in Georgetown. Seen here are preppie would-be extras (left to right) Francine LeBlanc, Brent Hull and Wendy Leuenberger.

Region owned

Daycare centres could go private

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

Taking the region out of the daycare business is taking a backward step, two Oakville councillors said last week.

At the regional council meeting last Wednesday, Couns. Peter Arch and Carol Gooding objected to the proposed move which would see Georgetown's Maple Avenue Day Care Centre, Oakville's Sedgewick Crescent Day Care Centre and Margaret Drive Day Care Centre all handed over to the private sector.

Coun. Arch said most referrals from day care centres of child abuse, or of children at risk handled by the Children's Aid Society come from the regionally operated day care centres. He's a vice-president of the society.

"Because there may be a fear of reprisals from private operators,"

the councillor said. "Whereas regional operators have the protection of regional staff and us as employer."

"If we as a council are advocates of child welfare, this is a backward step in terms of child welfare," Coun. Arch said.

Coun. Gooding said day care is one of the most important services the region can provide in society, calling it an investment in children.

"It's far more important to spend money on children than on burying garbage in the ground, on which we get no return, and look at the money we've already spent (on the garbage issue)," she said.

Burlington Coun. Joan Little felt the councillors' concerns were premature, and noted the region is only entertaining proposals from the private sector regarding

these regional centres.

"Inherent in the discussions is somehow that private daycare isn't as good as public daycare," she objected. "We have some pretty darn good ones (private)."

Fellow councillor Keith Bird noted there is now a different government at Queen's Park which promises different programs. Until its day care direction is given, the region shouldn't make any moves with its daycares. He wanted delay for about a year on the matter.

Halton Hills Coun. Mike Armstrong supported deferral, but was outnumbered by Halton Hills Jake Kuiken, John McDonald, Dave Whiting and Mayor Russ Miller.

On the urging of Coun. Arch, regional councillors agreed that the Children's Aid Society be contacted and asked for its observations on Halton's proposal call. As well, regional councillors and staff are to consult with the provincial government within the next 30 days.

Re-tendering cheaper

The region was able to pare off \$3,000 by re-tendering a contract to renovate the regional administration building and make it accessible to the physically handicapped.

Chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin informed regional councillors that re-tendering the project resulted in even better bids for Halton, lower even than the lowest bid the first time around.

May 22, the low tenderer Pine Tree Construction Company had to back out from taking on the job because of excessive workload.

Regional council re-advertised the building renovations and Nadeco Limited came up with the lowest bid of \$47,980 to improve the washrooms, the entrance door and ramp of the big green building on Highway 25, just south of Highway 5.

APPLE Auto Glass

WINDSHIELDS

VINYL ROOFS AUTO UPHOLSTERY
CONVERTIBLE TOPS SUNROOFS

Insurance Claims
After Hours Appointments Available
Open Day 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

360 Guelph St. **873-1655**
Georgetown

AFTER FIVE

AND THINGS TO DO AND PLACES TO GO

PREMIER MILTON CINEMAS

1 SEE REGULAR AD FOR THIS WEEK'S SHOWS AND TIMES

2

3

HWY. 25 - S of 401

The McGibbon Hotel

LISTENING & DANCING PLEASURE

79 MAIN ST. S. **877-3388**

Jack Tanners

CANADIAN ODEON THEATRES

Showing Movies All Day Wed. Must Be 18 Or Over

223 Guelph St. **877-6232**
Georgetown

For underprivileged kids

Scotsdale neighbours dislike camp plan

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald Special

It will probably be the end of the year before a final decision is made by the Ontario Heritage Foundation on the future of Scotsdale farm south of Ballinafad.

Consultants, however, expect to make recommendations on use to a subcommittee of the foundation by August.

The farm, along with furnishings, paintings and a \$500,000 endowment was left to the foundation by Mr. and Mrs. S.G. Bennett who died in 1983.

After an open house at the farm on Trafalgar Road Wednesday, Henry Scars and Russell, said their study is to be ready for presentation to the subcommittee the end of July.

Subcommittee chairman Christina Jennings said at least two committees must review those proposals before the full foundation sees them and full foundation meetings are held only four times a year.

The open house, which attracted about 40 people, was designed to get public input on four proposed uses for the property.

The Halton board of education, the Georgetown Optimist Club and the Ontario Equestrian Federation have all made proposals. A fourth use would include agriculture.

Mr. Scars said varying combinations of the four uses were being considered. The board would like to use part of the land for an outdoor education centre. The Optimists want land for a camp for underprivileged children and the federation wants to create a national horse park.

Other proposals would see the farm operation continue.

Area residents expressed concern at the thought of numbers of young people using the property as a camp or education centre and voiced unhappiness when no one had details of those proposals.

Mr. Scars said that the Equestrian Federation has been working on its proposal since 1983 but the board and the Optimists have had only a few weeks to work out their plans.

Residents were unhappy with the potential for tax dollars to be invested in more education facilities when the neighboring Silvercreek Education Centre, operated by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, appears to be under-utilized.

Halton board of education science co-ordinator Stan Percival said new programs are beginning at Silvercreek and the centre is expected to be filled this year.

Changes to the science curriculum in the next couple of years lean heavily towards conservation and agriculture, he added.

Halton is the only board in the area which does not have its own outdoor education centre and it would be willing to share such a facility with the Halton Separate School board and other boards who may wish to use it.

Optimist president Gerry Getty said the

club's proposal would establish a camp for children from the Brampton, Orangeville, Caledon and Erin area.

Residents were concerned about any of the uses causing increased demand for services, or increased traffic.

While education and underprivileged children may be motherhood issues, residents said, they want to see the property remain self-sufficient rather than become another drain on tax dollars.

Resident Murt Allison suggested the property might be developed for senior citizens' housing.

Courtesy Guelph Mercury

ABOUT THE HILLS

Travelling activities

The Travelling Activities Centre will be visiting the following locations to provide free supervised spontaneous programs on July 12 and 17. Stay tuned for further updates.

July 12: 10 - 12 Joseph Gibbons School, 1 - 2 Glen Williams Park, 2 - 4 River Run.
July 17: 10 - 12 Holmesway (Acton).

Escarpment plan approved

At the June 20 meeting of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the approved Niagara Escarpment Plan was the main topic on the agenda.

Highlighting the various components of the Plan, Commission Chairman Ivor McMullin stated that he was extremely pleased with the concepts in the approved Plan and with the directive to implement the Plan which will benefit the people of Ontario for generations to come. "It has struck a good balance between the pressures for development and the need to preserve unique Escarpment features."

The plan for the 725 kilometer Escarpment, which runs from the Niagara River to Tobermory, was given final assent by the government on June 12.

Mr. McMullin has been appointed Vice Chairman of the Niagara Escarpment Committee set up under the Ontario Heritage Foundation which will administer a \$2.5 million a year fund as part of the Ontario Government's ten-year commitment to Escarpment land acquisition.

Fall, winter brochure

Community groups, do we know about you? The Recreation and Parks Department maintains a list of all community groups in Halton Hills. If your group is not listed in our Spring and Summer issue be sure to give us a call. For more information, call 877-5185, ext. 263.

PREMIER MILTON CINEMAS

HELD OVER 2nd WEEK

"BACK TO THE FUTURE"

SHOWING DAILY AT 7:00 & 9:10 P.M.

Warning - Swearing

STARTS FRIDAY

MEL GIBSON is

"MAD MAX"

BEYOND THUNDERBOOM

SHOWING DAILY AT 7:00 & 9:10 P.M.

Adult Accompaniment

HELD OVER 3rd WEEK

"COCCON"

Starring DON AMECHE

SHOWING DAILY AT 7:00 & 9:10 P.M.

Warning: Swearing - Parental Guidance

ALL SEATS TUESDAY - \$2.00

For Adults and Youths 14-17

Seniors and Children Only \$1.50

ENROLL NOW!

Do You Need -

- DRIVING LESSONS
- DRIVER ED. COURSE
- CERTIFICATE FOR INSURANCE REDUCTION
- HAND CONTROLS (Handicapped)

* NEXT COURSES *

JULY 15

Special 8 Day Course

July 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24 and 25

am - classes pm - driving

JULY 30

3 WEEK EVENING COURSE

STARTING JULY 30 TO AUG. 14

Phone for more information

We Can Help You - Call:

BTS DRIVING SCHOOL

877-5844

Anything Goes

CONSIGNMENT STORE

Gorgeous, almost new clothing for a few dollars.

Women's and children's clothing - like new. Has to be seen to be believed.

MAKE MONEY

We also accept clothes in good condition.

81 MILL ST., ACTON

NEAR ST. MARY'S CHURCH

853-0100

DENTURE THERAPY CLINIC

J. Kohari, D.T.

122 Guelph St. on Hwy. 7

GEORGETOWN

Phone **877-8974**