

School board briefs

Is average child getting short end?

Is the "average" child getting the short end of the stick at school? The new Chairman of the Halton Board of Education is concerned about that.

"In our quest to deliver the best possible education to students with special needs, we must endeavor to ensure that equal energy and emphasis are directed to our average students in both elementary and secondary panels," Arlene Bruce said.

Educating the "average" child is a challenge, today, the Acton resident said.

A former teacher, Mrs. Bruce questioned whether teachers are being drained trying to meet the needs of special needs children as well as regular children in the same classroom, that perhaps in caring for the special education pupils they aren't able to give enough attention to the "average" students in the same classroom.

As the board provides for more integration of special education children in the classroom, "average" children who are coping on the surface may not be getting enough teacher attention to do their best, Mrs. Bruce said.

As long as the Ministry of Education isn't supporting special education to the real cost in dollars for the board, there are going to be difficulties integrating special education in the classroom, the chairman said.

"Special education will take a long time to get in place to the level we'd like to see it," Chairman Bruce said.

Bruce called dedicated

The new Halton Board of Education chairman had the support of more than just two Oakville trustees who nominated and seconded her bid for the chairmanship Thursday night.

In a secret ballot, Arlene Bruce of Acton won the most votes. "I've found her to be a very dedicated person, a person of strength," Oak-

Skin and bones

It's just skin and bones, the new Halton Board of Education chairman claims, when it comes to board finances.

"We've cut right back as far as we can, cleaned back to the foundation," Arlene Bruce told The Herald. "Anybody who says there is any fat in our system doesn't know what they're talking about."

She said accountability is a key word when it comes to spending taxpayers' dollars on education.

"Anything else we add on now, there has to be clear rationale for it...how much will it cost and the ramifications of it down the road," Mrs. Bruce said. "We don't have money being used foolishly. There's just not that freedom to spend."

Financial restraint is still governing board spending, she said, pointing out trustees realize how education dollars are spent directly affects the quality of education for students.

Sharing is 'in'

Parochialism is out and sharing is in, with the new Chairman of the Halton Board of Education.

Arlene Bruce said trustees are starting to look at their work with more of a regional eye, rather than just focussing in on their own particular ward needs.

"We can't afford to be parochial," the new chairman told her fellow trustees at the inaugural meeting of the board Thursday night, after she was elected to the position.

Mrs. Bruce said trustees are recognizing they're part of a regional whole and have moved from being too protective of their individual areas to working for the betterment of the whole.

She noted a lot of sharing goes on in the north of the region especially because of the geographic distances and lack of population.

Santa fools Bell, makes calls locally

To save on his long-distance bill, Santa Claus will be making some calls to children in Georgetown tonight.

St. Nick is finishing up a program named Call From Santa. By the time he re-joins his reindeer for the long and cold trip home, Santa will have talked

town and let him use their offices on James Street. Santa had help from the Optimist service club, who made sure he wasn't overworked through the ordeal.

The Call From Santa program will reach children from Joseph Gibbons Public School, Glen Williams Public School, St. Joseph's Separate School and St. Francis of Assisi Separate School.

This is the first time the recreation department has asked Santa to call area children. Next year the recreation department hopes more schools will be involved in Call From Santa, said supervisor of youth services Debbie Powell.

Children had the opportunity to tell Santa what they want for Christmas. Among questions to be expected are: "What do you want us to leave you for a snack?" or "How do you fit down the chimney when you're so fat?"



Debbie Powell

to 192 children. He began his calls Monday night and will complete his list of children by 8 p.m. tonight.

The Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department invited Santa to

Best turkey shooter award goes to Bert

By RUBY BAILEY
Herald Special

The Children's Christmas party will be held tomorrow night Dec. 12 with the clowns arriving at 6:30 p.m. and Santa at 7 p.m. Anyone with tickets not turned in please do so before Thursday night.

The winners of the turkey shoot are

Pooling 'wheels'

Getting "wheels" can sometimes be a problem, especially if you're too young or too old. Since the fall of 1984, the Golden Age Club in town has volunteered to provide a transportation pool.

Already they've given more than 100 rides, with the Acton Social Services and Information Centre acting as a co-ordinating body.

The drivers are seniors, so passengers must be able to get in and out of the car by themselves and handle their own parcels. For each drive, a contribution to help cover mileage is expected.

Most drives are about-town or as far as Milton or Guelph. Drivers willing to make the trip to Toronto and Hamilton where some medical specialists and services are located, are needed.

For more information call 853-3310.

Christmas Caper

Tickets are available for this children's show at the Recreation and Parks Department offices. Show date and time is Dec. 28 at 1:30 p.m. Call today 877-5183 ext. 261.

Possible goal

The Halton Hills United Way might shoot for a goal of \$100,000 in their first year, said co-chairman Merlin Kobas.

In 1984, the Milton United Way's goal was \$110,000, but they actually did better than that, he said.

Car tapes stolen

A locked truck parked on 59 Wallace St. had \$150 in cassette tapes taken from it last Wednesday.



Legion Lines

By RUBY BAILEY
Herald Columnist

as follows, 1st Bert Porter, 2nd Rita Rudiger, 3rd Barb Lorusso, 4th Trudy Paul, 5th Gord Bottoms, 6th Harry Bottoms. Gord King and his committee would like to thank everyone for their support.

IN HOUSE DARTS DEC. 14: Registration time is from 12 to 1 p.m. with play to commence at 1:30 p.m.

CAR CLUB WINNERS: Dec. 5 - 105 Ray Ackroyd, 289 Linda Armstrong, 07 Susan Knight, 182 Don Latchford, 450 Rod Presswood, 42 Rick Appleyard.

EUCRE WINNERS: Dec. 6 - Ladies 1st Gretta Stoddart, 2nd May Swanson, booby May Lawr, Gents 1st Bob Dumper, 2nd Oliver Scragge, booby Keith Mallette.

SICK LIST: P. King in Sunnybrook Hospital, F.W. Cowan, P. Norton in Georgetown Hospital, Barb Burns in Hamilton County General Hospital, Stan Swann in St. John's, B. Postlethwaite in Acton, Wm. Bryden, Bill Gibbs, Fanny Weaver in the Bennett Centre, G. Hayes, and Chubby Stapleton at home.

ENTERTAINMENT: Dec. 14 by Sheila and Rick.

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Reason to howl

Cubmaster Theresa McLaughlin recently invested Cubs (left to right) Simon Fraser and Todd Chumley, 2nd Acton Trinity had two impressive ceremonies Nov. 27 during their regular meeting. Cubmaster Theresa McLaughlin, Assistant Leaders Hans

Lindfors and Eddie Ebbinge invested Simon and Todd into the pack. Then, Cubmaster McLaughlin presented her son Eddie Ebbinge with his part one woggle, which he recently earned while on the part one Woodbadge training course. (Photo submitted)

Alzheimer patients share

The third Monday of each month, at 7:30 p.m. at the Acton Social Services and Information Centre, a group gets together to share information and experiences about Alzheimer's disease.

The group meetings have been going on since last May and new members are welcome to attend. Films are viewed occasionally and there's always a listening ear and support.

According to national statistics, Acton's population of 7,000 could have approximately 91 victims of Alzheimer's disease.

The Information Centre may be able to arrange sitters so that those

caring for victims can attend these meetings. Call 853-3310 for more information.

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ASSIC packs their bags Dec. 20

There's a third move afoot for the Acton Social Services and Information Centre. Dec. 20 and 22, the Centre will be loading up trucks with boxes of brochures, files and books as it moves into its new quarters on Willow Street, Acton.

This is the Centre's third move in as many years, and staff are hopeful it will be a last move.

Currently at 115 Mill St. E. in Acton, the Centre will find itself with more room for operating, in the Old Town Hall which has recently been restored.

Employee Carol Clark said the former Acton council chamber will be the main office for Centre staff.

The room across the hall will serve as a counselling room and two smaller

Ozzie wants you

"Ozzie" is going to be visiting the Georgetown Indoor Pool Dec. 27, 28, 29, 30 and the Acton Pool January 2, 3, 4, 5 during the recreation swims. Ozzie can't wait to meet you.

rooms at the back will also be used for counselling clients.

"It will be more space, and boy, we're needing it now, too. The lovely big windows will be nice," Mrs. Clark said in anticipation.

The centre has three staff. Peggy Balkind works full time and Mrs. Clark and Eileen Dix work part-time.

It's confidential

If you want to know more about birth control or venereal disease, there's a free and confidential service available for you in Acton.

The Acton Social Services and Information Centre has a Halton region public health nurse, Marilyn Silk, available Mondays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. to counsel and provide information on these subjects. Appropriate referrals can be made and pregnancy testing will be available.

For more information, call 853-3310 or drop in at 115 Mill St. E. in Acton.

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