

Affected students . . .

. . . will be anonymous

# Region: parents won't know AIDS patients

By ANI PEDERIAN  
Herald Staff

If one of the teachers at your child's school has Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, popularly known as AIDS, you're not going to know about it.

Other parents, school staff, and the school board also won't know about it. Only Halton Region's medical officer of health will know who has the deadly disease.

That's the new policy Halton councillors approved for the management of AIDS in Halton schools last week. The policy was approved in a 13-7 recorded vote with Halton Hills Couns. Pam Sheldon, John McDonald, Martyn Serjeantson and Rick Bonnette voting in favor of it. Mayor Russ Miller was absent.

The new AIDS policy was developed by a committee chaired by the Medical Officer of Health Graham Pollett and included

representatives from the administrative staff of both boards of education, members of the home and school associations and a family practice representative.

A statement from the Ministries of Health and Education last October gave the medical officer of health the responsibility to decide whether or not children with AIDS would be allowed to attend school.

Under Halton's newly approved

AIDS policy, Dr. Pollett is the one who decides whether to exclude infected persons from the school system. If special educational arrangements are required, then the school principal will be told about the infected person.

School boards, staff and parents won't be told "since this information would confer no benefit on either the school or the patient," says the policy.

Not all councillors agreed with this.

"I have compassion for the child who has AIDS, and I have compassion for the other children in the school too," Milton Coun. Bill Johnson said. "I take exception to the fact that school staff and parents won't be notified if a school child has AIDS."

Dr. Pollett said he's asked for a legal opinion from the Ministry of Health on the case of cardiopulmonary resuscitation being performed on a person who has AIDS, by someone who doesn't know. If that emergency helper then contracts AIDS, who would be responsible?

An answer isn't expected back for another couple of months, Dr. Pollett said, urging councillors to accept the policy before then without waiting for the legal opinion.

A motion to defer acceptance of the policy until the legal opinion comes in was lost.

Halton Hills Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson expressed fears that staff from another region could teach in the Halton schools and Halton wouldn't know if they had AIDS.

"There is excellent communication between the medical officers of health from one region to another, although there's no legal obligation to pass that information on," Dr.

Pollett said.

Oakville Mayor Bill Ferras worried the legal answer may change how councillors feel about the policy and wanted council to wait.

There are no cases of AIDS in Halton schools, yet. The policy has been developed in order that Halton be prepared when one does come up, given the increasing number of cases of this disease in Ontario.

## Children won't be responsible enough

You can't rely on school children to be sexually responsible, especially not when it comes to AIDS, says an Oakville councillor.

Regional Coun. Kevin Flynn objects to Halton's new policy on AIDS management.

"I tend to think of myself as a lot more socially progressive than a lot of people here, but I cannot support this," Coun. Flynn said. "I believe we're on the right track, but the report has far too many assumptions."

"It's assuming that a child in the school system who is going to be sexually active will use some form of protection. You only have to look at the number of unwanted pregnancies to realize very often school children don't do what they're supposed to do," he said.

Under the policy, no one at a school will know if a staff member or student has AIDS, not even the principal. Only Halton's medical officer of health will know.

According to the Centre of Disease Control in Atlanta, United States, casual person-to-person contact as would occur among schoolchildren appears to pose no risk of contacting the viral disease.

The AIDS policy is similar to the policy for hepatitis B infection in the province.

### Fire Victims

Fires kill more children each year than any other accident. A child is seriously burned every four minutes.



## Thunder wonder

Children pressed forward to meet Lion-O, one of the ThunderCats, Sunday afternoon. A couple burst into tears when they neared Lion-O's red mane. Among the brave fans of the

cartoon character who appeared at the Georgetown Burger King Restaurant were Tara Foster, 9, and Neil Foster, 6. Tara is Neil's aunt, although still of tender age. (Herald photo).

## School bus route nixed


Sideroad 22 at the Fourth Line intersection isn't going to be used anymore as a bus route for Halton Board of Education schoolchildren.

That makes up part of the answer to a letter from Thelma and Nigel Pettipher of RR4 Acton. The couple were concerned earlier this summer about the bus routes to be taken by their three children who will no longer be going to Speyside Public School, but will be attending Limehouse Public School this fall. The Board has closed Speyside.

Coun. Pam Sheldon said she disagreed with a town staff report on the safety of the hill on Fifth Line just south of Limehouse. Buses have used this road for several years.

"That anyone would allow children in a bus down Fifth Line hill boggles my mind," Coun. Sheldon said.

Town Engineer Bob Austin said he didn't know of any accidents involving school buses on that stretch of roadway.




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### FOR INFORMATION TELEPHONE

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