

**School budget**

**Ratepayers won't feel entire 9.2% increase**

By SANDY CAMPBELL  
Herald Staff  
The proposed Halton Board of Education 1987 budget will increase expenses by 9.2 per cent, but local taxpayers won't feel the entire pinch of that increase.

If the \$1.83 million budget is approved March 23 it will be the largest increase in spending by the Board since 1982. The increase to the local taxpayer will be considerably less than the 9.2 per cent increase.

Taxpayers would be paying 5.64 per cent more in 1987. For a home assessed at \$7,000, that increase translates into \$41 to \$49 more in 1987. Local taxpayers will be getting a break because grants from the Ministry of Education were increased 2.8 per cent.

From the Ministry the Board will be receiving \$66.2 million in 1987. That 2.8 per cent increase in grants is considerably more than the Board has been receiving in recent years. Recent increases have been only a fraction of a per cent, said Trustee Dick Howitt.

The budget was first presented before the Board Thursday night in Burlington. The Chairman of the finance committee, Dave Coons, in-

duced the budget. Trustee Coons said the budget "will allow a minimum of expansion of service to occur."

Improvement to services mentioned by Trustee Coons include: a reduction in the pupil-teacher ratio, transportation for French immersion students, upgrading computer services, money for new textbooks and the addition of support staff. The proposed budget also includes putting \$1.5 million in reserves.

Since Chairman Bruce joined the Board in 1980, this year is the first time the Board has had money for reserves. The money will be a great asset in the future and help the Board fulfill long-range financial commitments, such as buying more text books and improving computer programs, Chairman Bruce said.

Over the next five years, plans to improve computer programs offered could cost as much as \$9 million, according to a report on the computer education long range plan released by the Board.

Trustee Coons said the 1987 budget shows controlled spending and that the Halton Board continues to provide one of the lowest costs of education in Ontario.

**Silver acorn falls upon Scout leader**

By CHARLIE GIBBS  
Herald Special  
Halton Hills resident Elaine Hannah will be formally "acorned" by the Lieutenant Governor at Queen's Park, Sept. 18.

At a prestigious ceremony, Mrs. Hannah will receive the Silver Acorn Award for her 15 years of dedication towards the Scouting movement.

The Silver Acorn Award is the second most prestigious honour for which a Scouting volunteer is eligible. Mrs. Hannah is one of only five or six people in the Halton area to receive the award in its 30-year history.

Mrs. Hannah is the Akela of the 1st Limehouse Cub pack and Scout troop. She received notice of her selection March 7 at a conference in Oakville, and it "came as a total surprise."



Elaine Hannah  
"I think it's fantastic," Mrs. Hannah said. "It's very high honor. I'm pleased about it."

The Silver Acorn Award is meant to recognize long standing contributors to the Scout movement. Only about 30 volunteers from across Canada win the award each year.

Mrs. Hannah won the Medal for Good Service in 1982. Both the Good Service and the Silver Acorn Award are chosen from the local, provincial and national levels. A group of six people from the North Halton district submitted an application on behalf of Mrs. Hannah to the Provincial committee, who in turn approved and forwarded the nomination to the National Council.

"Elaine has provided service to this organization at a group, district and provincial level," said Mr. Doug Macdonald, Provincial Field Executive. "She's been both a creative

person in the things she's done, but more importantly, she's been an outstanding example."

Mrs. Hannah's activities include the organization of Kub Kar Rallies, District Cub Camps and the first Pack Program Planning course for Ontario at Blue Springs Scout Reserve. She was also a volunteer staff member at three Scout jamborees.

In 1981 and 1983, Elaine travelled to Calgary for jamborees involving 1,700 scouts each time. The 1983 jamboree was international, with representatives from African, European and Asian countries.

"It was just a super experience. The World Jamborees really bring the world together," Mrs. Hannah said. Also participating in the World Jamboree was a female Scout troop from the Philippines.

Mrs. Hannah also participated in the 1985 jamboree in Guelph, and was involved with the site technical aspects. This jamboree was held at Guelph Conservation Area, at a 100-acre site, which housed over 1,400 Cubs, and Scouts for 10 days.

"She's always there to help," said Mr. Macdonald. "She always gives the proverbial 120 per cent."

Elaine Hannah became involved in Scouting "the same way every other parent does," she said. "Someone said: 'Elaine, you seem to be so interested in your son earning badges, would you like to come down and help out?'"

And Elaine Hannah has been coming down to help out ever since.

A member of St. Andrew's United Church in Georgetown, her hobbies include reading and knitting. Both her family and bazaars benefit from her needlework. Elaine is the mother of four children, three boys and a girl. She lives in Limehouse with her husband Frank and the children. Her husband is a pilot with Air Canada.

Mr. Hannah is also a group committee chairman at the 4th Georgetown of St. Andrew's. Daughter Wendy is an Ordained United Church Minister, serving in Maxwell, Ontario.

David lives in Toronto and Doug and Michael are still at home.

Five years ago Frank Hannah received the medal of merit for his outstanding work in the Boy Scout movement.

**Cowardly lion proves he's king of comedy**

By MARY-LEZ SHAW  
Herald Special

Centennial Middle School's production of The Wizard of Oz at the John Elliott Theatre had its ups and downs, but many of the young actors showed promise and surprising professionalism.

It is not easy for any young troupe to stage a live production of the Wizard of Oz. The story line is jagged, the songs demanding and let's face it, competing with Judy Garland and Ray Bolger on any level is difficult at the best of times.

But the efforts of the cast and crew of Thursday's production gave the luxurious Hollywood version a run for its money. Director Paul Brisley made the most of a large cast and the costumes and sets were spectacular.

Lisa Sheppard (Dorothy) had a strong speaking voice. Although she was in virtually every scene, Lisa's performance was consistent and believable. The other leads played by Angie Cook (scarecrow), Leanne Inglis (tin man) were also very talented.

Paul Gardiner as the cowardly lion seemed to be having the most fun with his role. His good stage presence and singing voice drew appreciative applause from the audience.

Louise Williams as the wicked witch was the most popular character with the audience. Although she was one of the few without a song to sing, each time Louise crossed the stage, she delivered her lines with gusto drawing big laughs and big claps from the crowd.

In fact, the witches death scene was the most interesting and comical part of the play. It opens with three witches at a cauldron exchanging recipes in a twisted version of the witches' scene in Shakespeare's Macbeth.

The sequence was so entertaining that when it was over and when the wicked witch was dead, few of us could hide our disappointment. The play did have its awkward moments - primarily during full cast scenes when timing is important. But for the most part, these problems were offset by the enthusiasm of the young cast members.

The only exception was the scarecrow scene. Four students dressed as crows accompany Angie Cook in a short dance that can best be described as the "solid crowd dancers visit the land of Oz."

The performance was sold out and the audience readily appreciated the efforts of all the students throughout the play.

**School land shored up**

Erosion of the riverbank behind Glen Williams Public School is going to be corrected this year by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

The Authority plans to spend \$30,000 to design and construct improvements to the riverbank.

"The erosion problem and the proposed solution is straight-forward," says the Authority. "The bank may either be protected by utilizing gabion baskets or armoured stone blocks. In addition some regrading, revegetation and fencing work will

be required."

The Credit River has been realigning itself naturally in recent years, eating away at the riverbank approximately one metre annually.

The riverbank bluff is 4.5 metres high and the top of the bluff is only 4 metres from the school building, making for a dangerous situation for children playing in the school yard.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is being asked for funding for this project of 55 per cent, with the remainder to be paid for by the Town of Halton Hills.

**Physics talk for girls**

A Guelph University experiment designed to encourage young women to pursue the sciences was labelled a success by Physics professor Bonnie Edwards and Georgetown High School principal Barb Singleton.

Twenty-four high school girls from Halton Region joined women physicists and lecturers at Guelph University for a day of discussion on

applied physics and a chance to use university level equipment for experiments.

A lecture on the structure of the universe and experiments on the speed of sound and the surface tension of the earth showed the Grades 10 and 11 students the value and interest of studying physics.

Since female enrolment in the sciences tends to drop in Senior grades, educators are hoping programs such as Girls in Physics will prove that sciences are not just for boys.

Ms. Singleton noted students have clearer choices for careers if they are able to see and use facilities at universities.

Dr. Edwards is hoping to open up the university to more groups on a regular basis.

**Fire beat**

**Chimney defect**

A flaw in the chimney of a 34 Moultrie Cres. home caused a fire which resulted in \$10,000 damage Saturday. Firefighters were called to the home at 11:45 p.m. A flaw in the chimney led to the drying out of wood surrounding it and lowering the ignition temperature of the wood, and official from the fire department said. The fire began in the basement, and the fire began between the basement ceiling and the first floor.

**Neilson expands**

The William Neilson Ltd. plant in Georgetown has plans for expansion.

This year, the company plans to build a 2,674 square foot addition to its yogurt processing section and a 1,134 square foot service building for plant maintenance.

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