

Board of Education tackles sports safety

Although they set aside a tentative \$29,000 sports expense for football helmets for another year, the Halton Board of Education will raise its \$10,000 budget for sports safety by 60 per cent, for 1989.

The sports safety budget, termed "risk management," sees the board spending over \$18,000 next year on sports equipment and safety programs.

"It will include sideline care provided by Sheridan College trainers, or St. John's Ambulance or other sources who have a minimum St. John's Ambulance or first aid," said Susan Amos, the Board's Co-ordinator of Physical and Health Education.

But football helmets, \$29,000 worth a year if replaced every six years for 23 regional teams, won't be on the board agenda again until 1990.

Mrs. Amos said that although the item is deferred, the board is "still looking" for the money. They will consider asking individual schools to contribute funding, she said.

And Pauline Laing, Superintendent of Curriculum Services, said the board needs a year to "fully gather data."

But for now "we do have sufficient safe equipment," she said.

Risk management funds for both 1988 and 1989 had allocated budgets of \$10,000 annually. The board recently approved the additional \$6,000 for 1989. And \$7,000 of the total amount for 1989 will go toward "high risk" sports, such as football.

Other sports, rated "high risk" are alpine skiing, field hockey, field lacrosse, gymnastics, ice hockey,

rugby, and wrestling. The "low risk" sports are badminton, baseball, basketball, bowling, cheerleading, curling, cross-country running, cross-country skiing, soccer, squash, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track and field, volleyball and water polo.

But some trustees disagreed with the board's choice of categories. Trustee Patty Wilcox said soccer is a dangerous sport, sometimes involving concussions. She asked at Thursday's Board of Education meeting that its category be changed to "high risk."

Mrs. Laing responded, by saying such a change would have "budget implications" for the board.

Trustee Cheryl Reid said she would like to see sports personnel, such as coaches, better able to handle emergencies without assistance. She asked Mrs. Laing if coaches knew how to administer CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) and the Heimlich Maneuver (for patients who are choking).

Mrs. Laing said, "the availability of people with higher levels of training is very much in doubt."

"We have received (legal) advice that some kind of standard is the best way (to provide emergency service)," she said. "In terms of our policy, we have set a level of care we can provide assuredly."

Trustees Reid and Wilcox asked the board to inform parents of risk levels attached to various sports. Mrs. Laing said the board would try to provide this information.

"The board is conscientious about the health issue," said Mrs. Amos.



Colorful Christmas

Todd Shelley, a Grade 6 student at Centennial School in Georgetown, helped to decorate the school walls last week for Christmas. Students arranged their own displays for the festive season. (Herald photo)

Logging reunion for Longlac

Longlac will host the 60th Anniversary of Logging of the district, July 13-16, 1989, and the organizing committee is trying to contact former residents of the area.

Former Longlac and Gerralton area residents are invited to return

to Longlac, Ont. and join in the celebration

Anyone interested, or wanting more information, may contact: Longlac - 60th Anniversary of Logging, Homecoming Committee, Box 479, Longlac, Ontario, P0T 2A0.

Yuletide music abounds

The Brampton Symphony Orchestra will present their Yuletide Symphony and Song this Sunday, Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at Mayfield Secondary School.

The gala evening of Christmas music will feature carols by a 200-voice choir, as well as works of

Mozart, Bach, Rossini, and more, under the musical direction of Andrew Rozbicki.

Mayfield Secondary School is located at Mayfield and Bramalea Roads, in Brampton. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors.

Lioness club members become Good Neighbors

For the third time in 16 years, the Good Neighbor Service drive for food hampers for the needy at Christmas has been handed down to another co-ordinator, Joyce Gosling, and the Lioness Club of Georgetown.

Roma Timpson co-ordinated the program for 11 years before handing the position over to Siena Van Hoekelen, who is now on the executive committee of the new seniors' centre.

"She felt that an organization like ours, (the Lioness Club), would have more people to handle it," said Ms. Gosling, on Mrs. Van Hoekelen's passing along the Good Neighbor Service.

The Lioness plan to run the Good Neighbor Service in the same way it has been run for years - on the assumption that the service is a good thing that does not need improving.

Food and toy hampers will follow the same organization plan as the Salvation Army, with each box tailored to fit the need of individual families. Assistance on the needs of families are obtained from the Welfare office, and the Good Neighbor Service checks their list

with the Salvation Army to ensure there are no repeats or mix-ups with the hampers.

Collections are taken at all of the schools in Georgetown in the form of canned and package goods. These will then be collected by the police. Collections also come in the form of the Kinettes' Toy Drive headed by Jane Leonard.

"There's usually a lot that comes in," said Ms. Gosling, referring to the popularity of the Good Neighbor Service.

Although donations have already started, Ms. Gosling prefers people to wait until Dec. 16 when headquarters will be set up for the Good Neighbors Service at 5 Armstrong Avenue, Unit 3.

Monetary donations (which will be used to finance food for the hampers) may be deposited with Mrs. Merrill at 68 Greystone Cres. in Georgetown.

The Lioness Club took over the Good Neighbor Service in November.

"We plan to try our best and do as good a job as people have in past years," said Ms. Gosling.

Board plans for hirings

In a report last week, the Halton Board of Education announced it will hire 730 teachers in the next five years, 25 per cent of which will be French teachers.

The Thursday night report presented to trustees, included a plan breakdown which will see over 50 per cent of staff replaced, said Joanne Zywine, the Board's Human Resources Manager.

The bulk of staff hiring will be in the areas of primary levels, French language instruction, special education, computer teaching and music education.

Of 1,500 applications received by the board for consideration, 1,300 were English-speaking teachers and 200, French-speaking. Over 80 per cent of the applications came from experienced teachers, while just under 60 per cent came from faculty members and other sources, says the report.

So far, 158 elementary teachers have been hired, 87 per cent of them female, 13 per cent male. This figure

"reflects the current ratio" coming out of colleges and other sources, says Mrs. Zywine.

Most of the teachers hired are over 35 years of age. Over 52 per cent fit this description, while almost 31 per cent are under 24 years. Almost 17 per cent are between the ages of 24 and 35.

Teachers hired by the Halton board will participate in a new program called "Partners in the Classroom," a teacher-mentor program where new teachers observe senior teachers.

Mrs. Zywine said the program, implemented in August of this year, has been "enthusiastically received" by teachers and partners.

Mrs. Zywine said the five-year plan is designed to make Halton more "proactive" about hiring staff. "We need to do the hiring earlier," she said.

She said Halton's selection of teachers for the next five years would be "fair, objective and rigorous."

Police say rules of road apply with snowmobiles

With the temperatures dropping and snow piling up on the doorsteps, it's time to consider snowmobile safety, says Const. Garry George of Halton Regional Police.

The police would like to make residents more aware of local municipal bylaws and the Motorized Snow Vehicles Act of Ontario.

Snowmobiles can be "dangerous machines" if not properly handled, says Const. George, Georgetown's Crime Prevention Officer. "People have to remember that these machines are very powerful and very fast, and they don't slow down as quickly as cars will. The traction... is not nearly as great as on a motorcycle or an automobile," he said.

Police receive complaints about snowmobilers not adhering to the rules of the snow, says Const. George.

Reiterating municipal bylaws, Const. George wants to inform snowmobile drivers of the rules. No person shall drive a motorized snow vehicle on a highway or public property unless it is equipped with a fluorescent safety antenna, no less than five feet in height from the ground.

Motorized snow vehicles are not allowed on sidewalks, boulevards, parks or median strips. Failure to have an antenna, or the practice of operating a motorized snow vehicle in a prohibited area, will result in fines, say police.

No person is allowed to drive a motorized snow vehicle on highways within Halton Hills except for travelling to or from a designated site. "Basically, you can't drive up and down the streets for no reason," says Const. George.

And when snowmobiles travel on the road, they must obey traffic

signals and speed limits, he said.

With reference to the Motorized Snow Vehicles Act, Const. George said that most drivers are already aware of the laws.

Residents must register their snowmobiles unless they are a manufacturer, dealer, a non-resident of Ontario with a valid licence, or are operating their vehicle on private property.

A snowmobile licence may be issued to anyone 12 years of age and older providing they meet the requirements of the Motorized Snow Vehicles Act. A person 12 to 15 years of age may operate a snowmobile only on a designated trail. A person 16 years of age or older may also cross the highway at a 90-degree angle.

The holder of a valid Ontario driver's licence or a snowmobile operator's licence who is over 16 years of age may drive a snowmobile on the highway where permitted.

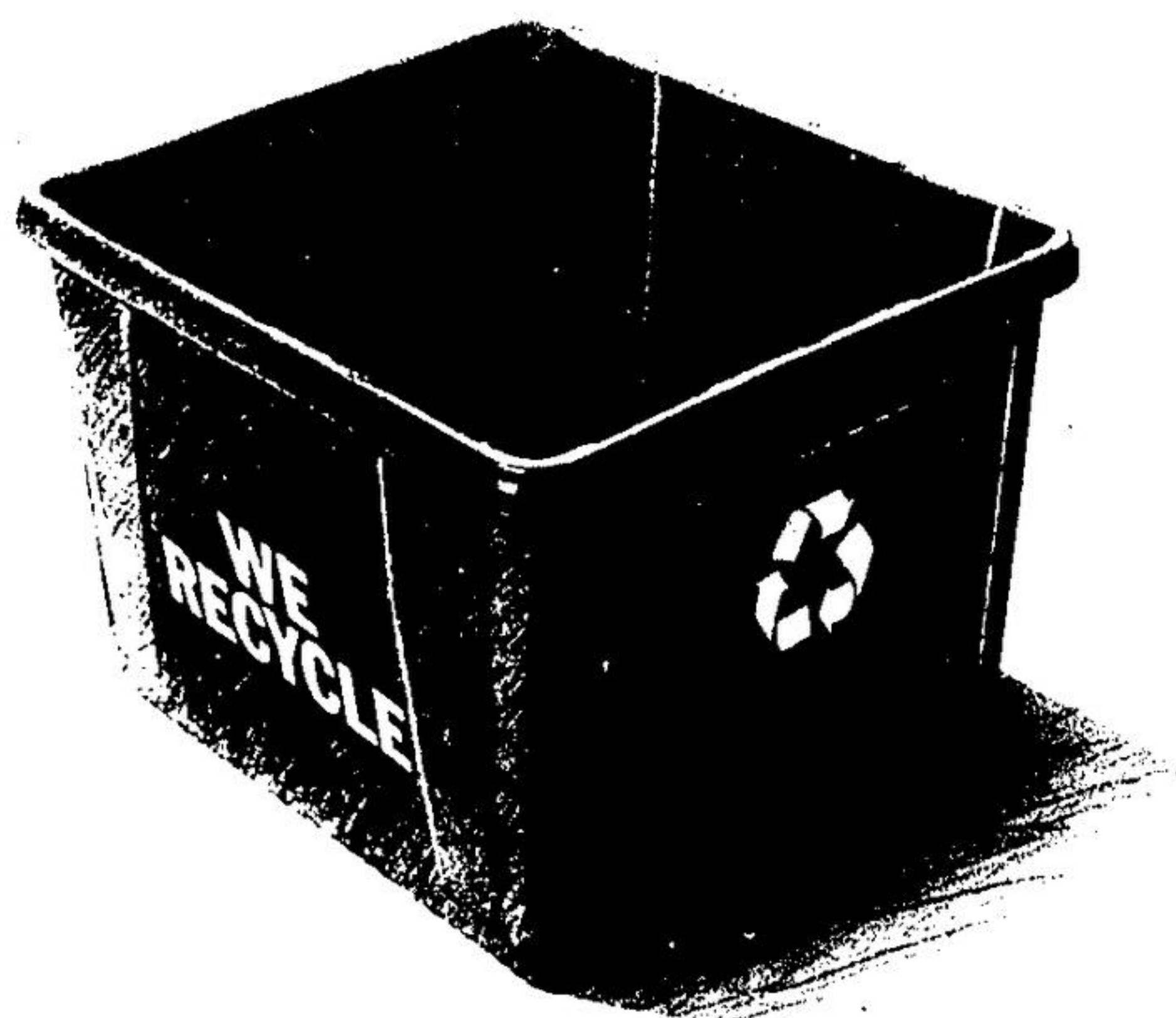
Either licence must be produced upon demand by a police or conservation officer. No person is allowed to drive unless insured except for those travelling on private property, and proof of insurance must also be produced on demand.

Accidents involving snowmobiles must be reported when there is personal injury or when damage exceeds \$400.

For the sake of safety, Const. George adds that snowmobilers travelling through a forested area should proceed with caution. Obstructions are often invisible when they are covered in snow, he said.

And to protect your machine from theft, Const. George recommends not leaving the key in the ignition when the machine is unattended. Vehicles should be parked in a well-lit area. For added safety, engraving your Social Insurance Number on the vehicle, and keeping a photograph of the snowmobile along with its make, model and serial number, is a good idea, he says.

For more information on safe snowmobiling contact Const. George at Halton Regional Police in Georgetown.



The Blue Boxes are Coming!

In Halton Hills, we're recycling pioneers. Ten years ago we started a successful "Divide and Conquer" curbside program to collect newspapers, glass and tin. Now Halton Hills with the help of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Ontario's soft drink industry and its container suppliers, is making it easier for you to recycle.

The Blue Boxes are coming and are easy to use. Within the next few weeks, each house in Acton

and Georgetown will receive its own recycling Blue Box.

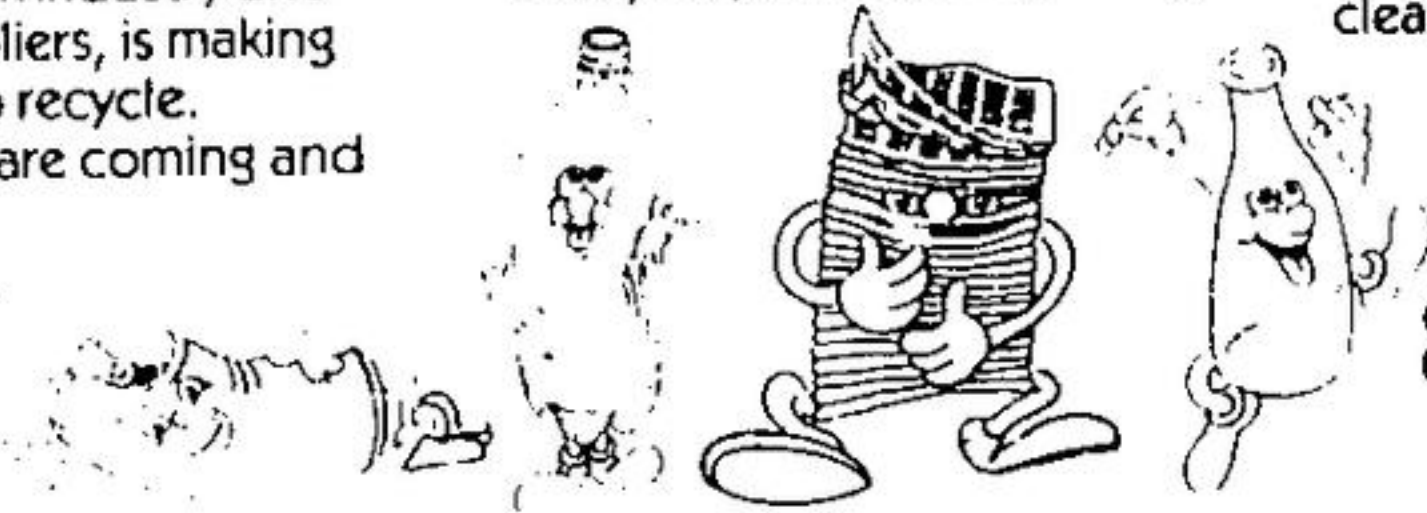
You can do your part by collecting glass bottles and jars, beverage and food cans, newspapers and plastic soft drink containers in your Blue Box.

Then, on your regular garbage

day, put the Blue Box at the curb for pick-up. The contents will be taken to a collection centre, processed and made into new products. By recycling we all help preserve precious natural resources, reduce demand on landfill sites and contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment.

So please do your part. If you have any questions or would like more information, call the "Blue Box Line,"

877-5185 ext. 226



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