

Will we all be left high and dry?



Kell's Korner

Donna Kell
Herald Staff

What games politicians play with us!

The issue of closing Halton Hills' swimming pools isn't all wet. To the contrary, there's a dry humor prevailing when one thinks of the shallow threats of emptying community pools.

They say romantics either swim or die. Perhaps the school board is being too romantic in thinking the municipality will hand over cash to fill and maintain the pools.

The school board says the municipalities are "essentially stealing" money from taxpayers. The school board pays over \$1 million a year to maintain pools in the Region.

The municipalities remind the Halton Board of Education of its legal responsibility that binds them "for the life of the pool."

So who do you side with? Everyone uses the pools. Okay, so I don't personally, but flocks of school children, in and out of the school curriculum let their aquatic spirits flow in the great gushes of chlorinated splendor.

But are we perhaps taking money out of one hand - the public school board - to put it in another - the Town of Halton Hills?

One small but insurmountable argument in favor of relieving the public board of their responsibility is the existence of a government-funded separate board. How much of the "for-the-life-of-the-pool"

dollars does the private sector, which includes separate board supporters, kick in for pool maintenance?

Figures presented by the public board point to 70 per cent of the pool use by the public and 30 per cent by public board students.

The money to pay the 100 per cent maintenance for the pools is a Halton Board of Education responsibility. This money could be used for other facets of education within the board, argued trustees when the motion to drain and close the pools was first brought forward.

For two years, since 1987 when the school board wanted to close down McKenzie-Smith pool which cost a whopping \$75,000 to repair, the swimming pool issue has been tied up in the courts.

Sources says that the school board is powerless to close down school pools without legal repercussions.

And the board's Business Superintendent said a feasibility study to close pools wouldn't begin right away.

So where does that leave us, the press?

It leaves us informing you, the public, of what we believe is happening, what appears to be happening on the surface.

But moving in for a closer look, the media has been a pawn to relay a threat to the municipal government, and has inadvertently threatened young swimmers like the Acton Aqua Ducks, who fear losing their pool.

"We are considering draining and closing McKenzie-Smith Pool," says the board motion. So, we write it in the local paper. But sometimes you have to write the inside story, that maybe the public is being exposed to a false threat. And maybe you have to realize that someone isn't showing all their cards.

CVCA appoints executive

Brampton Mayor Ken Whillans was returned to the chairman's post at the Credit Valley Conservation Authority recently.

Mr. Whillans re-assumed the chairman's position without opposition.

Caledon's Clark Glassford will

vice-chair the CVCA for the next term.

Executive committee members are: Paul Dray of Erin, Marilyn Serjeantson of Halton Hills, Harold Kennedy of Mississauga, Fred Wilson of Orangeville and John Hutton of Brampton.

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Workshops tackle stress

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Oakville Branch is offering an eight-week workshop series on stress management.

The workshops are comprised of a progressive relaxation exercise program, lectures, videos, discussions and take-home handouts. Some of the workshop topics the participants will explore are: identification of the sources of

stress; self-image; conflicts; lifestyle changes; coping strategies; and short and long-term resolutions. Casual, comfortable dress is required as each week will include practice of the relaxation exercises.

The workshop leaders are Deborah Jarvis, M.S.W. and Dale Graham, M.S.W., C.S.W., both of the North Halton Mental Health

Clinic. Mr. Graham emphasized that the atmosphere of all the workshops will be positive and friendly so to develop greater ease within each participant.

These two-hour workshops will begin Feb. 20, and are limited to the first 16 applicants. The cost for the series is \$125.

For more information and registration, call the CMHA, Oakville office at 845-5044.

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