

Special services planned

Members of the scout and guide organizations in Halton Hills will honor the founder of scouting, Lord Baden-Powell with parades and church services this Sunday, marking the beginning of Scout-Guide Week, which runs Feb. 19-26.

Three ceremonies are planned for 11 a.m. as the 1st Glen Williams troop gathers at St. Alban's Anglican Church, Glen Williams; 2nd Georgetown meets at St. George's Anglican Church, Georgetown; and 1st Ashgrove

and 1st Hornby gather at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Hornby.

Another ceremony has been planned for Sunday for 1st and 3rd Acton troops, with line-up time set for 1 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton.

Two special events are also planned for Sunday, Feb. 26.

Fourth Georgetown will meet at St. Andrew's United Church, Georgetown at 10 a.m. and 1st Georgetown will congregate at St. John's United Church, Georgetown at 11 a.m. on Feb. 26.

Board of education approves five-year plan

By DONNA KELL
Herald Staff

Despite a motion to defer the matter for another two weeks, the Halton Board of Education voted Thursday to approve a \$1 million, five-year plan to treat emotionally-disturbed students in the schools.

The object of the plan, said Superintendent of Special Education Services Garry Crossman, is to reduce the average four students in every Halton classroom who could be dangerous to themselves or others.

A motion introduced at Thursday night's board of education meeting asked the board to delay a decision on the plan until the next board meeting Feb. 23, but a tie vote was broken by chairman Pat Hillhouse and the motion to defer was lost.

Five trustees who voted against the five-year plan did so because they felt the motion was not well-researched in terms of the number of staff needed and the amount of money required.

A proposal originally submitted by Mr. Crossman asked for 14 speech pathologists among the increased staff. The new report requests 17 speech pathologists.

"The whole thing seems self-perpetuating," said Burlington trustee Noel Cooper. "I can't buy the cost based on no data to support it," he said. "You've asked for a million dollars on some pie-in-the-sky numbers."

But as far as knowing the precise number of para-professionals, including in-school psychologists and speech pathologists needed to be hired in the future, Mr. Crossman said, "I wish I could be a prophet, but I can't."

The board proposal cites the need for one social worker for every public school in the Region. School child-care workers will be

assigned to each elementary school.

The board also plans to hire four senior psychologists, 21 psycho-educational consultants, and 17 speech and language pathologists. The original cost of the hirings, spread out over five years, was an average increase of \$200,000 annually before the three additional pathologists were included.

Bill 82 released by the provincial government in 1985, held schools responsible for the treatment of emotionally-disturbed students within the system.

Problems with students can be detected at the kindergarten level, said Acton and area trustee Arlene Bruce. If trustees have "any kind of conscience," they would support the motion, she said.

But Burlington trustee David Coons said that although the program is "exceedingly necessary and very important," the board of education is "running out of money."

Burlington trustee Peter Abbott agreed. "Halton does not have unlimited resources," he said. "I do not feel that we can just support this program in its total, as you presented it," he said to Mr. Crossman.

But of the majority of the 11 who voted in favor of the special services plan (five were opposed) was trustee Judy Watson who said the treatment is a board responsibility.

"If the children (with psychosocial disorders) are not able to learn because of the things happening in their lives, or are interrupted by other children who have emotional problems," they should be helped, she said.

The special services plan budget will be reviewed annually, said Mrs. Hillhouse. The plan itself will be up for review in 1994.



Dramatic Interlude

The chap in the chair doesn't seem to be too worried about the fate of Rob McCarroll (who plays Dan), while others attempt to revive him, in a scene from the upcoming presentation of *Night Must Fall* by the Georgetown Little Theatre. Dan is attended by

Ron Hunt (Insp. Belsize), Adele Armstrong (Nurse Libby), Jacky Willows (Dora), and Margaret Eggleton (Mrs. Terence), while Doug Ladoucer (Hubert Laurie), puffs on his pipe. *Night Must Fall* opened at the John Elliott Theatre Feb. 17. The play runs Feb. 18, and Feb. 22-25. (Herald photo)

Fairy Lake remains under study

Acton's Fairy Lake will once again be the target of an in-depth study by Guelph University limnology and oceanology students.

The town of Halton Hills has agreed to pay \$1,000 in expenses for a Guelph University class, led by Professor J.C. Roff, to study the lake during the winter.

A similar study conducted last year by Guelph University students showed the lake could be affected by storm water drainage which is bringing pollutants into the lake.

Guelph students have already begun work on the lake with the intent of producing a report on their findings in April.

The students will investigate the water and nutrient level in the lake, and assess its chemical and biological characteristics.

Students hope to assess the suitability of the lake for fish stocking programs and examine the impact of waterfowl on water quality.

The new beach at Fairy Lake

was closed for several weeks last summer due to high levels of bacteria caused when sand dumped in the lake stirred up excrement from the bottom of the lake.

Guelph University has also proposed to keep two students studying the lake fulltime during the summer at a cost of \$9,000.

The town has not yet responded to the offer.

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Canadian wildlife artist

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