



### An honored group

Bob Williams, Director of the Halton Board of Education, was on hand at Glen Williams School recently to preside at an awards ceremony. Awards were presented to students for excellence in reading, public speaking, and academic excellence. Mr. Williams is pictured at the far left with the recipients

of the public speaking awards. Back row, from left, Rachel Kumar, Melanie McFarlane, Eddie Middaugh, and Krista Ferguson. Front row, Makala Smith, Tara Brooks, Alex Merrick, and at the head of the winners, Jordan Furness. (Herald photo)

## Shortage of teachers predicted

Halton, described as the "linking pin" between Toronto and Hamilton, will experience tremendous growth and a shortage of teachers in the next three years.

Peter Baker, a Ministry of Education spokesman and a liaison officer for Halton Region said last week that today's teacher shortage will get worse.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg. It's going to increase three years from now," he said.

He said growth trends first point to the "ring boards" of education that surround Toronto, boards such as Peel, York and Durham.

"They are the ones feeling the pinch," he said.

But he added that Halton would follow suit within the next few years. "It's new growth, it's new houses, it's expansion," said Mr. Baker.

The developers, he said, are the "key group" in determining where the population influx will next take place. First, developers move to the northwest of Toronto. Then, they will filter into Halton, he said.

The Halton Roman Catholic Board of Education is not experiencing a crunch in staff, but

they say each year they are hiring at an earlier date.

Superintendent of Curriculum Services Lou Plovesan said the board was "anticipating" vacancies in specific areas of study, including French language studies. The board has already hired 70 teachers for the 1989-90 school year, he said.

And the Halton Board of Education, the public board, says a "proactive" approach to teacher hiring must be taken. Superintendent of Employee Services Joanne Zwyne said teachers must be hired early in the present year to ensure enough staff for the following school year.

But Mr. Baker says the number of qualified teachers needed "just isn't there." Shortages are a result not only of an aging teaching population but of a lack of experienced teachers.

"The decline in enrolment is passing (but now) we're looking at a shortage of teachers," he said.

### Nelson high worked on

The Halton Board of Education has approved a \$2.4 million tender to a Hamilton company bidding on a repair contract for Nelson High School in Burlington.

Canadian Engineering and Contracting bid \$2.416 million, undercutting seven competitors in a sealed tender. Six of the companies

bidding were Hamilton-based, and one was Toronto-based, says a board report.

Alterations to the high school's auditorium were completed in 1988. Last May, the board approved an additional \$2.8 million, added to the over \$800,000 price tag for Phase One of reconstruction.

Phase Two of the Nelson High School repairs will bring the total cost up to almost \$3.5 million. Funds will go toward construction, architects, equipment, contracts and "miscellaneous" costs, says the board report.

### Time to quit

Would you like to stop smoking this spring?

The Lung Association - Halton Region can help. The now popular "Countdown" program is again being offered in Burlington starting April 17, and in Oakville starting April 4. For participants who are seriously committed to quitting smoking and who attend most sessions, the success rate is around 88 per cent at the end of the program.

The registration fee is \$95 for this seven-session course and enrolment is limited so register now by calling 632-8499.

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## In The Schools

### Halton has good value

The Halton Board of Education leads the way in getting full dollar value when it comes to educating students, says the Board's Superintendent of Business Services.

"Halton remains one of the lowest per pupil costs boards," said Jerry Jenkins at a board meeting last week where the 1989 budget of \$223.3 million was up for review.

Although a large portion of the budget is "fixed" because over 77 per cent goes to paying staff wages, anywhere from \$4,700 to \$6,300 will be paid for each of Halton's 24,000 elementary and secondary students in 1989, says a board report.

And Halton compares favorably with other boards. Although cost increases have been in the seven-per-cent range, they are still under costs for comparable school boards.

Figures for 1989 have not yet been compiled, but in 1988 the Metropolitan Toronto, Durham, Hamilton, and Peel school boards had higher per-pupil costs than Halton.

A student in Metro cost the public board between \$5,970 and \$6,994 in 1988 compared to the Halton cost of between \$4,287 and \$5,704.

And the Hamilton Board of Education, with "tremendously high (costs) for a low enrolment" of 22,632 pupils (about 1,500

students less than Halton) paid from \$5,099 to \$6,053 to educate students last year.

The Peel Board of Education with a population of 49,537 students paid between \$4,665 and \$5,916 per student. The Durham Board of Education with a student population of 31,457 paid \$4,370 to \$5,293 per student last year.

Although Halton was at the low end of the scale provincially, the Lincoln County Board of Education was lower, paying from \$4,190 to \$5,416 to educate students last year. Lincoln County is located near Niagara Falls, said Mr. Jenkins, and has a student population of 14,500.

The board of education will approve its final budget - in the works now for five weeks - after it receives word from the provincial government concerning government grants. The board has calculated monetary needs on the premise that this year's grants will be similar to those approved last year.

But if grant approval is not received by the end of March, the board of education will miss its Ministry April deadline, said board chairman Pat Hillhouse.

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