

# "De-streaming" won't hurt students - Williams

By BEN DUMMETT  
Herald Staff

The "de-streaming" of Grade 9 won't dilute the education process if educators change their mindset and teach students more individually, the Region's director of education, Bob Williams, said recently.

Mr. Williams was addressing audience members at Centennial Public School, asking if de-streaming will have a "watering-down" effect on how and what is taught in the classroom. He said this will only happen if "you want it to." But he believes the board

can adapt the system so that it would work well.

The provincial ministry of education is considering the introduction of de-streaming for the 1992-93 school year.

Grade 9 students would be taught subjects at the same difficulty level. Students would no longer have the choice of taking a course at the basic, general or advanced level.

Mr. Williams told audience members ministry research shows Grade 9 students are not ready to choose a stream that will determine their future after high school.

Mr. Williams pointed out elementary and middle school students are taught subjects at the same level. Therefore there is no reason it couldn't work at the Grade 9 level, he said. But high school teachers, like their elementary counterparts, would have to be more accommodating to the individual students, said Mr. Williams.

Along with Mr. Williams, Halton Hills trustees Arlene Bruce and Dick Howitt also attended the meeting put on by the University Women's Club. Mrs. Bruce agrees with the ministry's reasons for de-streaming. She told the audience,

"Grade 9 isn't the time to be separating students. It's a very difficult time because they are just finding themselves."

But like Mr. Williams she agreed teaching methods would have to change. Teachers will have to make more allowances for students' differing abilities, she said. Teachers will have to know each student much better and will have to plan their lessons much more carefully, she explained.

Trustee Howitt is less certain about de-streaming. He told the audience he recognized there are always late bloomers, saying he himself was more interested in

sports than homework until Grade 12 and 13. "I only realized then, I was going to be in trouble unless I pulled up my socks."

But he also said at some point students have to make a decision and "get going."

The quality of the board's French immersion program was another topic addressed at the meeting. Georgetown resident Rod Taylor asked whether the board would elicit public input when the program comes under review next year.

He said a quality program is necessary if students entering the

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## Town will re-tender contract after J.C. Duff complaint

By DONNA KELL  
Herald Staff

Halton Hills town councillors voted Tuesday to re-tender a winter sand contract recently awarded to an Erin company.

Tenders from three companies were opened Sept. 22, but last week Ian Duff of J.C. Duff Ltd. in Limehouse approached councillors, saying the tender was unfair. Mr. Duff said the tender did not state clearly that three separate services of providing sand, delivering sand and mixing the sand with the town's road salt would be awarded together.

McNicholl Trucking of Erin offered the town a \$7.28 package deal for the three services. This included providing sand at \$3.40 a tonne, delivering sand at \$2.98 a tonne, and mixing the sand for 90 cents a tonne.

J.C. Duff Ltd. bid on the three items separately for a total price of \$7.75 a tonne. Mr. Duff said if the tender was for a package deal, his company would have bid a lower price.

After the contract was awarded to McNicholl Trucking, J.C. Duff countered the \$7.28 offer with a reduction to \$1 per tonne of mixing, from \$1.50. This brought Duff's total cost down from \$7.75 a tonne to \$7.25 a tonne for the package deal.

Councillors decided last week that it would be out of line with the tendering process to accept J.C. Duff's informal offer. But this week councillors concluded after reading the tender, that instructions in the document were unclear.

"It's ambiguous," Acton Coun. Norm Elliott said. "It's ambiguous to the point where someone who

has been tendering for the past 20 years is confused," Mr. Elliott said.

Mr. Elliott said the three contract services should be awarded separately to the lowest bidders. He said if this did not "sit well" with the companies involved, they could refuse the contract.

But the town's purchasing agent Hugh Patterson said McNicholl's Trucking would not accept part of the contract for winter sand.

"I know from my conversation with (John) McNicholl that he did not intend his 90-cent-rate (for mixing sand) to be included with any other tender."

He said the town would face a "legal debate" if the tender package was split.

Acton Coun. Gerald Rennie said he would have changed his vote to accept McNicholl's tender last week if he had read the tender document before the meeting.

"Because it is a document that is flawed, it should be re-tendered," Mr. Rennie said Tuesday. He said the tender could be interpreted as containing bids for separate services.

Any route that the town takes could have legal repercussions. Mr. Patterson told councillors, "Either (J.C.) Duff challenges you now, or McNicholl (Trucking) challenges you later. Either way."

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller said the town would prefer to give the contract to a local company, but the fair bidding process must be followed.

Town councillors voted to re-tender the winter sand contract with sand mixing, and delivery prices included as a package.



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### Crafty work

People at the North Halton Centre for Special Needs were hard at work putting the finishing touches on the crafts and the baked goods that will be on sale during the group's bazaar and bake sale Oct.

24 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Acton Arena. Here, Barbara Robb (left) and Shirley Raszewski cut and paste to complete a wall paper all-purpose gift box. (Herald photo)

### Halton Hills Village Homes

## Developer pushes for water

Halton Hills Village Homes Inc. wants water for 144 house lots to finish the Fernbrook Homes construction in Georgetown South.

Lawyer Bert Arnold representing Halton Hills Village Homes Inc. (HHVHI) Tuesday at a Halton Hills council meeting said the developer wants to finish a subdivision already approved by town councillors.

HHVHI's plea for water is in response to a Regional water report that said Georgetown does not have enough water to service all the applications coming before Halton Region. The Region is

responsible for allocating water.

The report says there is presently enough water for 24,750 people in Georgetown, which now has a population of 18,000. But applications submitted to the Region ask for water for another 14,140 people.

Mr. Arnold said a report soon to be filed by the Halton Hills planning staff "could leave the Fernbrook lots out" when it recommends where water should go.

"That would be turning back a development that's already approved," he said.

HHVHI project manager Toby Barwick wrote a letter to Halton

Region recently saying he would challenge any water applications for redevelopment in Georgetown South by appealing those applications to the Ontario Municipal Board.

That letter was not meant to threaten the Region, but to assure HHVHI's water supply, Mr. Arnold said.

"The situation, as we saw it, was that the lots were serviced," Mr. Arnold said, referring to Fernbrook Homes. "As soon as it was identified that there was water, those lots could go."

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