

New policy should increase interest in tech courses

By **BENDUMMETT**
Herald Staff

The Halton Board of Education, like other boards in the province, is planning to introduce a new technology policy that it says will reverse the declining enrolment in technology programs at the Region's schools.

Board trustees approved a new technology policy recently focusing on programs that are more relevant to students' daily lives and the needs of business. Trustees still have to approve the policy's costs before it can be implemented. They will go before the board in November.

Currently five to 50 per cent of the Region's students at composite schools are enrolled in technology programs, the board's coordinator of technological studies, Aldo Cianfrini told trustees.

The Technical Director at Georgetown District High School, Dave Lawrence, confirmed the decline of technology program enrolments saying at Georgetown they have dropped by 50 per cent over the past five years.

Mr. Cianfrini told trustees that of the 850 students polled about the new policy 93 per cent said they would enrol in technology programs if they were more ap-

plicable to their everyday experience.

Grade 9 and 10 students will be able to enrol in programs like "home maintenance" or "getting to know your car," Mr. Cianfrini said. The courses will also be more inter-related. Rather than learning just about building construction students will also learn about wiring and plumbing. In other words students will learn about all aspects of building construction, he explained.

As well, problem solving will be stressed. Instead of the teacher showing students how to build a shed, for example, students will be

encouraged to come up with their own designs.

In Grades 11, 12 and 13 students will be able to specialize in one of four areas: The areas are personal use, service programs, the skilled trades or high tech.

The first two years allow students to determine their interests, Mr. Cianfrini said.

He describes the program as "consumer driven." Schools will run programs that their students and local business want.

Halton Hills Trustee Arlene Bruce summed up the majority opinion of the board when saying, for too long technology studies have

been a low priority; "It's time to move now," she said. "It's costing the board money the longer it stalls in improving the program."

The few trustees objecting to the motion said they supported the changes but first wanted to see the cost of programs.

Mr. Lawrence supports the program. "I like that the program stresses problem solving and that it appeals more to girls."

But the Technical Director at Acton High School, Murray Swanston, doesn't necessarily share Mr. Lawrence's enthusiasm.

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Task force wants changes on Halton's rural roads

A task force assigned to review Halton's rural Regional roads will recommend safety changes for Winston Churchill Boulevard near Norval, the location of two traffic deaths and several serious car accidents earlier this year.

Proposed changes to that road - also known as Regional Road 19 - are among 31 suggested changes by the rural roads task force. The task force was formed in the spring of this year. It includes representation from all four Halton

municipalities, with Halton Hills Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson heading the committee.

The proposed reduction from 80 kilometres an hour to 60 km-h at Regional Road 19 south of Sideroad 10 is part of the review compiled by Coun. Serjeantson, Milton Coun. Bill Johnson, Oakville Coun. Fred Oliver and Burlington Coun. Barry Quinn.

The four councillors, a member of Regional staff and a Halton

Regional Police traffic sergeant conducted a roads tour two days in June to make suggestions to increase or decrease speed limits on Regional rural roads, and to take those findings to Regional council.

Informal findings have shown that many drivers exceed the speed limit, Coun. Serjeantson said. The task force was in a radar-equipped car while touring the roads with Halton police Sgt. Ken Bonham.

Halton Regional Police report 17 deaths in the Region so far this year, with 10 of those taking place in North Halton. That compares to last year where there were a total 22 traffic fatalities on Regional police-patrolled roads. Ten of last year's traffic fatalities took place in North Halton.

The rural roads task force will ask for reductions in speed limits, increased speed limits and clearer road signs across the Region, especially in Milton and Halton Hills.

The task force recommends increasing the speed limit on Trafalgar Road 800 metres north of Maple Avenue to Highway 7 from 60 km-h to 80 km-h and decreasing the speed limit on Trafalgar Road from 80 km-h to 60 km-h between Highway 7 and Silver Creek Drive.

The roads committee will also ask Regional staff to lower the speed limit from 80 to 60 km-h on Regional Road 43 near the Acton quarry. This would affect a stretch of road between Fourth Line and Highway 25.

The rural roads task force will ask for a check-of "visibility obstructions" at the intersection of Winston Churchill Boulevard and Sideroad 5. A driver was killed at the intersection earlier this year when his car brakes failed after he attempted to stop to avoid hitting another car, police said.

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Digging against AIDS

Halton Region wrapped up AIDS Awareness Week (Oct. 16 to 22) with a tree planting at the Regional headquarters in Oakville Wednesday. The eastern white pine symbolizes hope for AIDS victims. Left to right are Oakville Councillor Peter Arch, Regional commissioner of health Dr. Graham Pollett, Regional AIDS advisory committee chairperson Jackie Cutmore and Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy. (Herald photo)

Seniors, high-risk groups can get free flu vaccine

The chilly weather is a reminder that flu season is approaching and senior citizens and other high risk groups can get an influenza vaccination free from their doctor.

Dr. Alex Furness of the Georgetown Medical Associates says senior citizens over the age of 65 have always been able to get the flu vaccine for free, courtesy of the provincial government, but a whole range of other high-risk

groups can also receive the vaccine for free starting this year.

Other groups who can get the vaccine for free include adults and children with chronic cardiac or pulmonary diseases, and people with metabolic disorders (e.g. diabetes), renal dysfunction, anemia, immuno-deficiency or immuno suppression.

Those who don't fit into these groups can get the flu shot for about \$5 from their local doctor.

Halton's HQ

Green or "dull" grey

It's been a while since the Color Purple was such a smash, but the color green was popular at a meeting of Halton Regional councillors Wednesday.

Green is the sentimental favorite of councillors who say the green exterior of the Regional headquarters on Highway 25 near the Queen Elizabeth Way should stay. The headquarters will be expanded and will include the Halton Regional Police headquarters.

"Somebody wants to make this building as dull and drab as they possibly can," Burlington Coun. Walter Mulkewich said of plans to finish the expansion in grey.

Mr. Mulkewich said councillors should have "some vision and some sense of excitement. Let's get rid of that drab grey, please."

Councillors argued that the building, nestled in a green belt of Oakville north of the QEW, is affectionately called "the green machine" and is useful as a landmark for overhead Air Canada flights.

Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale, Oakville Coun. Peter Arch, and Halton Hills Coun. Marilyn Ser-

jeantson agreed with keeping the bright green on the Regional building.

But Milton Coun. Bill Johnson has different ideas.

"I'm convinced the architect was color-blind," he said.

Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy said he heard the building's original color was chosen from a test swatch of green paint. Councillors in the 1970s had no idea the color would be so bright when finished, he said.

Councillors heard the Halton police want blue in their building.

"You can't have a green aluminum can at one end and a blue one at the other," Halton Hills Coun. Joe Hewitt said.

Burlington Mayor Roly Bird said he has no preference for color, but if he did have one, "my preference with color would be that it would be invisible," the mayor said. "(If) only for the very slightest hope that it might fade away at some time."

Councillors voted to follow the architect's plan and finish the Regional headquarters in grey with stripes of blue and green.

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