

Separate School Board trustee defends junior kindergarten

North Halton Separate School Board trustee, Irene McCauley, said junior kindergarten is not a substitute for day care but a head start for children.

However, North Halton Board of Education trustees are concerned junior kindergarten will only cost taxpayers more to solve babysitting problems.

Since the Ministry of Education will force all school boards to implement junior kindergarten by 1994, the separate board felt it was better to add the program as soon as possible, Mrs. McCauley said.

Trustee Dick Howitt insists Halton public schools should hold off implementing junior kindergarten for as long as possible because the region doesn't require the extra program.

Parents wanted to see their children in the school system earlier because they believed it is a good way to acclimatize the children in a school setting, Mrs. McCauley said.

Halton is surrounded by school boards with junior kindergarten and when people moved to Halton Region they expected to continue

keeping their children in junior kindergarten programs, she said.

"There was some concern about schools being overcrowded and that we had to put in some portables," she noted. But the separate school board was approached by several schools who were quite willing to have junior kindergarten in added portables, Mrs. McCauley said. There was not a great deal of opposition, however, she added.

Public school board trustee, Arlene Bruce, argued there is not adequate space or funding to provide classrooms for junior kindergarten students. It could cost more than \$13 million to add junior kindergarten in 1993 to the Halton public school system. Mrs. Bruce is also concerned the needs of the students in the existing school system are already difficult challenges to meet.

Lou Piovesan, Superintendent of Curricular Services at the separate school board, strongly rejects the concept that junior kindergarten is glorified day care.

There have been no regrets after adding junior kindergarten a year

ago, Mr. Piovesan said. This is despite major concerns about funding and accommodation in a system where severe budget restraints already existed, he added.

Approximately \$500,000 was spent to add 12 portable classrooms, equipment, water and educational facilities to the new program, Mr. Piovesan said. But these costs are recoverable because these are only initial expenditures, he maintains.

Mr. Piovesan insists there is a substantial need for junior kindergarten and that the program has been well received by parents. The September enrolment for the half-day program was 800 students but by the end of June there were 1,200 students registered in the junior kindergarten classes, he said.

The children are not too young to begin schooling, contended Mr. Piovesan. "It's just another year of preparation, socially, emotionally and academically," he said. He said there should be no concerns about the children being bused back and forth to school because the older elementary children will watch over the junior kindergarten students.



Retirement party

Dominion Seed House in Georgetown held a retirement party Thursday for two of its employees, Duncan McFarlane, (sitting), and Douglas Peck. Mr. McFarlane was presented with two reclining chairs in recognition of his work as the farm foreman for 20 years. Mr. Peck was awarded a gold watch and a travel gift certificate in appreciation for the 45 years he gave to the company, the last 10 of which were served as general manager. (Herald photo)

Police task force slows speeders

Although the number of accident fatalities in Halton is the same as last year, none of the accidents were caused by high speed driving in rural areas, said Sergeant Ken Bonham, of Halton Police Traffic and Safety.

A regional rural task force put into place last summer in response to rapidly climbing high speed fatal accidents made the no speeding message clear, said Sgt. Bonham.

The rural pilot program last August and September hoped to curb an expected fatality rate of 50. By July 11 of last year there were 13 fatalities, many involving high speed accidents in rural areas, said Sgt. Bonham. As of July 9 this year there have also been 13 accident fatalities, however, the

accident causes involved everything from foggy weather conditions to a loss of control due to medical reasons, he said.

Sgt. Bonham explained that rural area drivers are still affected by last summer's task force. "The program is still taking a toll on speeders. They're complying with the law," he said. "People expect the police to be out there now."

Sgt. Bonham added that increased fine structures such as \$283 fines for driving 40 km over the speed limit, are making a tremendous difference in cutting down high speed accidents.

Since there isn't the threatening fatality rate as there was last year, the project will not be under regional supervision but conducted by individual district police forces.

LITERACY

FACT-20 One out of two students has less than three years of primary schooling.

FACT-21 Without literacy, controlling disease and population, using and maintaining complex machinery, setting schools and government as well as democratic government become almost impossible.

The CORE Literacy Foundation
321 Chapel St. Ottawa,
Ontario K1N 7Z2
(613) 232-3547

Moore paints are best!



MOORGLO
Latex House & Trim Paint
■ Distinctive soft-gloss finish
■ Fade-resistant colors
■ Soap and water clean-up



A quality finish for wood siding, doors, trim & metal.
■ Easy to apply - covers most surfaces with one self-leveling coat
■ Fade & mildew resistant.



Colors that last and go on fast!
■ Fade-resistant white and colors for wood, brick, concrete and metal
■ Quick drying, easy latex application and clean-up



SPECIAL
Benjamin Moore Exterior Semi Transparent
DECK AND FENCE STAIN
\$14⁹⁵ 4 LTR.

BERGSMA PAINT & WALLPAPER
DIVISION OF GEORGETOWN DECORATING CENTRE
GEORGETOWN MARKET PLACE
877-3248 877-4193

WHAT?

X&?!X
O?&XZ★!

Country Lane re Country Video has not been sold nor is it for sale, contrary to a recently published report.

NOT GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SPECIAL

1 Round 18 Hole Mini Golf
1 Sm. Basket Balls Driving Range
2 Rounds of Batting In Cages
1 Hot Dog and Pop

ALL FOR \$7.99

COUNTRY LANE
10TH LINE AND RIVER ROAD
(across from Georgetown Golf Course)
877-2254