

Wholistic approach keeps children in school

If students felt more comfortable and valuable in Grades 7, 8 and 9, they may stay in school longer, maintains Graeme Barrett, a Halton Board of Education Instructional Services Superintendent.

Although Halton has a high student retention rate, the board is implementing informal restructuring phases to promote a more wholistic learning approach which places more emphasis on the social needs of students, Mr. Barrett explained. Anything the board can do to better the learning disposition of students should be addressed, he said.

In Grades 7, 8 and 9 students face not only physical and emotional changes, but they also face a greater range of expectations and must begin making significant choices about education, explained

Mr. Barrett. He believes the education system does not emphasize the social and emotional needs of changing students.

Although the Ministry of Education has not released any policy direction concerning curriculum restructuring, the Halton School Board has already made several instructional alterations in schools across the Region, Mr. Barrett said.

Some schools are designating a teacher to a group of students who will follow and act as an advisor for those particular students. The concept is to "build a relationship with a significant adult giving students someone to go to," Mr. Barrett said.

Building a relationship with one adult may make students more comfortable with all the changes going on in the transitional years,

he said. Mr. Barrett believes a more secure learning environment addressing academics, social and emotional needs would enhance a student's self-concept.

In Grades 7 and 8, some schools are using team teaching methods in which one teacher may teach math, science, technology and computers, he said. Using this method, students have to contend with fewer teachers, he said, adding that team teaching cuts a student's teachers from about seven to four each day. "The students will have to adjust to fewer changes when being taught by the same teacher," Mr. Barrett said.

Ann Galioto, President of the Federation of Halton Women Teachers' Association, attended the annual Federation of Women Teachers' Association of Ontario conference at the Royal York Hotel

Commenting on a study on student drop-outs commissioned by the teachers' federation, Mrs. Galioto said students in the transition years should have a more consistent curriculum and less rotary. She also believes students should be grouped so that they have regular contact with a "homeroom" teacher. "Someone they can identify with and feel free to talk to," Mrs. Galioto said. Guidance counsellors are going to become more a part of school staff and will be available to students in lower grades as well, she said.

The Halton Board of Education is fortunate because the board is large and has access to resources

which other boards don't. "The women teachers in Halton are well educated and are providing well for the students in Halton," she said.



Georgetown farmer dies in boating accident

The death of 47-year-old Keith Leslie of Georgetown will create a void in the lives of most of the community, said Harry Brander, President of the Halton Federation of Agriculture.

While listening to the radio, Mr. Brander heard that Mr. Leslie drowned after falling off a motorboat in Lake Muskoka last weekend. "For a person who's only 47 and in good physical health it's

quite a shock," he said.

A friend of Mr. Leslie for about 30 years, Mr. Brander recalled the plowing match competitions he and Mr. Leslie used to enter in the early 1960s and 1970s. Mr. Leslie won the Ontario championship several times and went on to represent the province at the Canadian plowing championships.

Mr. Leslie was a member of a well-established farming family in Georgetown and was farming on land passed down through generations. Mr. Leslie was also a town weed inspector.

"He was a keen competitor and very smart," said Mr. Brander.

"You never wanted to underestimate (Mr. Leslie)," he said. At a time when farmers were moving towards mounted plows, Mr. Leslie outsmarted them all and converted his trail plow into a mounted one by altering a bridge on his trailer, said Mr. Brander.

Although Mr. Brander had not competed against Mr. Leslie for some time he said "I used to see him locally hauling grain to the Norval elevator or buying fertilizer," said Mr. Brander. But Mr. Leslie will always be remembered as a "guy who liked to have a good time."

Clarification

The Herald would like to clarify that the Aug. 23 all-candidates meeting will be held at the Acton High School at 7:30 p.m. and the Aug. 29 candidates meeting will be held at Georgetown District High School, also at 7:30 p.m. Saturday's edition of The Outlook indicated the locations incorrectly.

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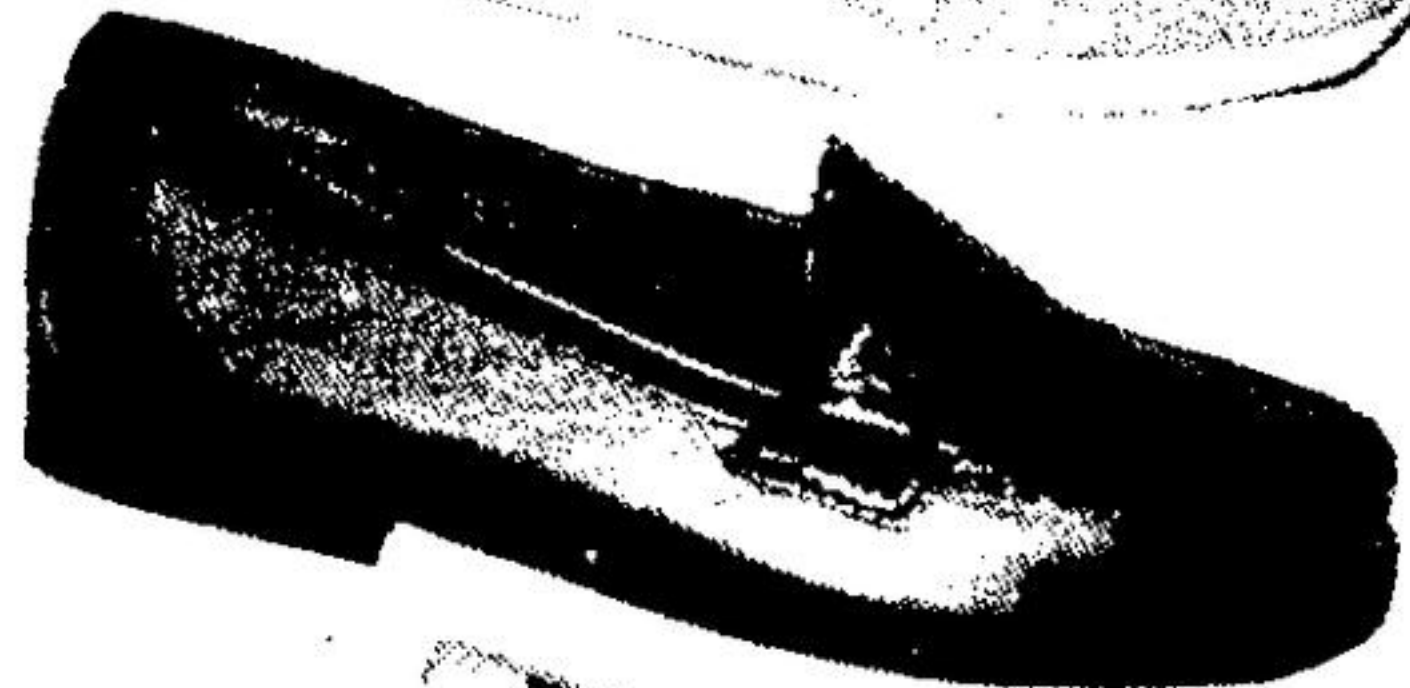
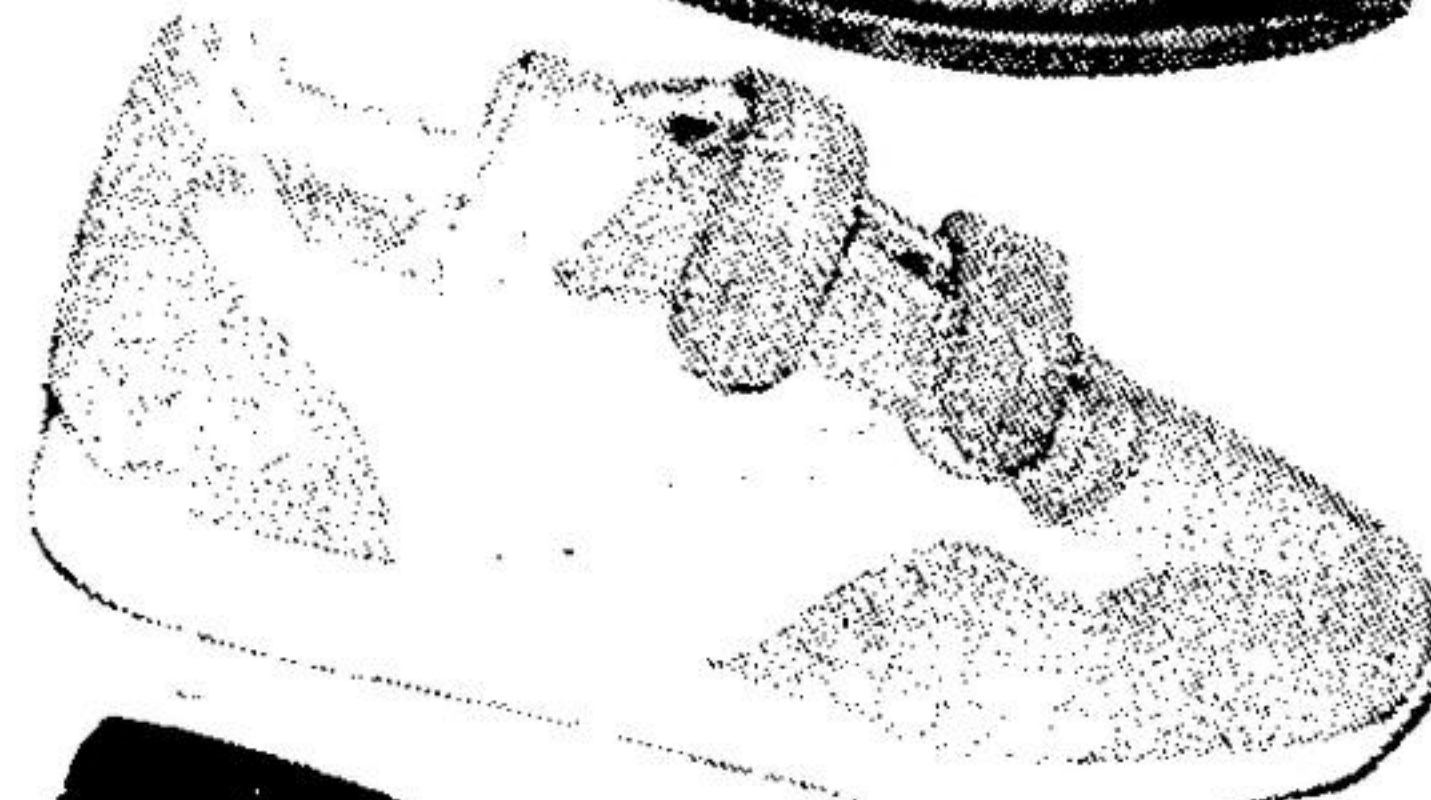
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