

# Community

## Busing issue heats up

By LISA RUTLEDGE  
The Herald

In fear of potential street dangers, some Halton Hills parents are paying extra to bus their children to school because their children are not eligible for school board busing.

"No one feels safe anymore," said North Halton school trustee, Arlene Bruce. Mrs. Bruce said she receives a number of calls from parents who worry that their children may encounter dangers while walking back and forth from school.

Fewer students are walking to school, making the streets even less safe because students are no longer travelling in groups, said Mrs. Bruce. With the addition of private busing "we've solved a problem in one instance and caused a problem in another," she said.

In her 10 years as a school trustee, Mrs. Bruce said parents have always been nervous about their children walking to and from school, however, she did indicate the streets are becoming less and less safe.

North Halton school trustee Dick Howitt said there are particular areas in Georgetown creating safety concerns among parents. He said a sidewalk on Mill Street, north of Guelph Street, continues underneath a bridge and youths have to walk through this tunnel to get to school.

On the other hand, it's not the board's responsibility to watch over students walking to and from school, Mrs. Bruce said. "We're responsible for educating the children. When dollars are right then we have to look very carefully when spending money," she said.

When parents call with concerns about their children having

to walk to school, Mrs. Bruce suggests the youths walk only in high traffic areas on main streets. When one mother called to say she worries about her daughter, Mrs. Bruce suggested her daughter take a self defence course.

Mrs. Bruce further explained that taking extra precautions is a necessary step as "we can't keep everybody safe 100 per cent of the time."

The Halton Board of Education Student Transportation Policy, 5000-45, has come up for review. However, the review was deferred because the Ministry of Education's transportation grants have not been reviewed and additional enrolment and service changes have not yet been considered.

In a report to the school board, Superintendent of Business Services, Jerry Jenkins, wrote "the 1991 possible financial situation has become clearer in that it does not appear to be a year to expand services."

For \$1, Laidlaw Transit Limited offers Georgetown students a ride to school and a \$1 ride back from school. The busing company offers routes throughout Georgetown. A company manager, who wished to remain unidentified, said she doesn't believe there are any con-

cerns about safety. Students who are not eligible for school board busing are paying extra for a ride to school only because they don't feel like walking, she said.

Ted Tyler, manager of Tyler Transport Limited, said Acton students who live in town can ride the private bus for 40 cents while students across town can ride for 60 cents.

Mr. Tyler is convinced all students are being treated fairly by the school board's eligibility guidelines. The school board is subsidizing some private buses to take young children to school who are within regulation walking distance, he said.

Insisting there are no dangers on the street for parents to be concerned about, Mr. Tyler said some parents may just be using safety as an excuse to get the school board to pay for busing.

"When everything else fails, safety is the one thing they'll throw at you," he said. "Students are being fairly treated and overall, there is adequate busing," Mr. Tyler insisted. "If people aren't happy with the busing then they have the option of private busing," he added.

Mr. Tyler is concerned however, that some parents are becoming over-protective and won't even let their child walk 2,000 ft. to school.



**This dog's for you**

This dog's for you. Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller was on hand to promote Energy Day by roasting 'weenies' at noon last Saturday outside Canadian Tire in Georgetown. Halton Hills Hydro representatives were also on hand to discuss energy saving methods. (Herald photo)

## Chamber hosts seminar

The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with Revenue Canada will be presenting a Business Information Seminar on the proposed G.S.T. The seminar will be held Oct. 31 at the North Halton Golf Club in Georgetown.

If you have questions or concerns about the G.S.T., plan to attend this seminar at the North Halton Golf Club. Registration will start at 8:00 a.m. and a continental breakfast will be served. Cost is \$10.00 for Chamber Members and \$15.00 for non-members and you may register by calling 877-7119.

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