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Education costs on the rise

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
The Herald

Despite a lack of new initiatives and the deferral of previously passed policies, the Halton Board of Education will spend approximately \$20 million more in 1991 than they did last year in order to maintain the level of classroom service provided in 1990.

Board trustees approved a 1991 budget of \$274,388,635 at a special meeting of the board held last Wednesday.

But the sum is lower than the board's finance committee had initially calculated in their budget proposal presented to the board March 21. They recommended an expenditure budget amounting to \$275,218,635.

Wednesday night deliberations succeeded in reducing the proposed budget by \$830,000 in the areas of reorganization of instructional and support staff, library services review and additional support staff.

Patty Wilcox, chair of the finance committee, explained that although the above areas are approved policies of the board, they were deferred for this year. This means nine instructional and support staff including a co-

op instructor, music consultant and English as a second language coordinator will not be hired this year, resulting in a financial decrease of \$302,000. An additional \$82,000 was deleted from the budget through the deferral of additional support staff, consisting mainly of library assistants.

The last items removed from the proposed budget was library services and Ms. Wilcox is disappointed that libraries will be put on the backburner for another year.

"Quite a few school libraries are behind in their collections and need to be upgraded just to get up to par with other schools," said Ms. Wilcox. New library equipment and maintenance funds worth \$446,000 that the committee had proposed, were cut from the budget.

Items the board will be paying for this year include:

- \$1,736,000 for legislated benefits including health cost tax, UIC, CPP and WCB
- \$1,166,000 for debt charges (new schools, etc.)
- \$13,714,000 for all other operating costs including contracted salaries and benefits and price increases for supplies and services

- \$20,047,000 for multi-year programs such as computers in schools, and technical studies

Just over a quarter, 25.7 per cent, of the budget, is paid for through provincial grants which increased 1.1 per cent or up \$1.1 million from 1990 levels. The total grant amounts to \$70,540,565.

Much of the remaining expenditure budget will be paid by taxpayers. The board estimated that local taxes for education are expected to increase to 8.55 mills or \$56 on a residence with an assessed value of \$6,500, bringing the total education tax to \$1,164.

Bill Harrison, chair of the board, said one of the board's goals for 1991 was to minimize the impact of the education budget on the local mill rate. "Throughout the year, we have been looking at ways to prepare a budget that would not be a strain on local taxpayers in these tough economic times."

He continued to say that new initiatives were not even considered at either the board or the school level.

"The mill rate increase of 5.02 per cent is the lowest for our board in over a decade and we would expect it to be one of the lowest of comparable boards this year," he said.

Indecent exposure

Halton Regional Police are looking for a young, adult male who exposed himself to a child in a field near the Hall Road apartment building Sunday afternoon.

Police say the victim was walking her dog through the field when she saw a man standing amidst a narrow grouping of trees with his pants around his knees.

Police describe the suspect as a white man about 20-years-old with dark, wavy, shoulder length hair and broad shoulders.

Extra patrols were instigated in the area by the Criminal Investigations Bureau of the Halton Regional Police who are continuing to investigate the incident.

Hanman to coach Raiders

Georgetown Chrysler Raiders Jr. B hockey team named longtime Georgetown Minor Hockey Association coach Charlie Hanman as their new coach for the 1991-92 season on Monday, replacing Gary McFadyen.

The move comes after Raiders finished sixth in the seven team Central Ontario Jr. B West division and were swept 3-0 in their best of five opening playoff series with Brampton. For more on this story, see the sports section (page 23).

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Child care spaces refused by Region

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

A lack of funds is the reason behind Halton Region's decision to turn down 87 partially provincially-funded child care spaces for the Region, said Halton Social Services Commissioner Bonnie Ewart during an interview Thursday.

The province recently announced money would be provided to subsidize 5,000 child care spaces, 87 of which were offered at a total Regional cost of \$400,000, said Mrs. Ewart. That figure represents 20 per cent of the cost to finance 87 child care spaces over a one year period. The remaining 80 per cent was to be

Continued on Page 2



Bonnie Ewart

Lifestyles show Saturday

Georgetown District High School - the place to be on Saturday, April 6th, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Lifestyles of Halton Hills is a fun-filled day of health promotions and demonstrations by over 85 community organizations and businesses. The following is an outline of demonstrations and entertainment that you can expect to see.

ON-STAGE DEMONSTRATIONS - G.D.H.S. CAFETERIUM

- 10:00 a.m. - Video - Healthy Lifestyles
- 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi and Aikido Demonstrations
- 11:00 a.m. - Halton Hills School of Dancing
- 11:15 a.m. - Work That Body Step Aerobics
- 11:30 a.m. - St. John Ambulance Heimlick Manoeuvre Demonstration - audience participation
- 12:00 noon - Cheri Lindsay's Dance Studio
- 1:00 p.m. - Ronald McDonald
- 1:30 p.m. - Pine Valley Square Dance Club
- 2:00 p.m. - Kings Batons East Twirling Club
- 2:30 p.m. - Tai Chi and Aikido Demonstrations
- 3:30 p.m. - Video - Health Lifestyles
- 3:30 p.m. - Pine Valley Square Dance Club

In addition, Good Sports "R" Us will demonstrate games to participate in with your dog on the playing field every hour throughout the day. The St. John Ambulance volunteers will demonstrate CPR and first aid at various times through the day, and will demonstrate the Heimlich Manoeuvre on stage at 11:30 a.m. The Halton Hills Child Care Centre will help your children plant seeds for them to take home and watch grow. The Georgetown District Memorial Hospital will test individuals' grip strength and blood pressure, continuously during the day. The Georgetown Rug Hooking Guild and the Halton Hills Community Chess Club will present ongoing demonstrations of their skills. The Halton Hills Ambulance Service will bring along an ambulance for viewing and Ambulance Andy will be entertaining all day long.



Norval Easter service

Reverend Mary Campbell and Jamie Cunningham, clerk of session at Norval Presbyterian Church, stand with the cross they decorated as part of their Easter Sunday service in Norval. (Herald photo)

Crazy Boat Race

Get ready for a wild and crazy time this Saturday as the 25th Annual Crazy Boat Race, sponsored by the Georgetown Lions Club, is set to go.

People attending the race can expect to see a variety of strangely-designed boats which will fall into one of four categories. These include canoes, comic boats, crazy boats and commercial and service club boats, said the race's Committee Chairperson, Mark Rush.

The canoe portion of the race starts on the Credit River at noon in Cheltenham while all other entrants will start at the William Hunter Farm in Terra Cotta at 1 p.m., Mr. Rush said, however, the best place to view the start of the race is at the parkette located beside the Terra Cotta Inn on

King Street.

The finish line will be at the Glen Williams ball park on Main Street. The faster boats are expected to finish the race in an hour while the slower boats probably won't cross the finish line until 3 p.m., said Mr. Rush.

Last year's race, which attracted 55 entrants, raised close to \$15,000, said Mr. Rush. The Lions Club can't expect to raise this amount from Saturday's race because one of last year's major sponsors won't be participating this year, he said.

Awards will be given out to the winner in each category, and as well, special awards will be presented to the best judged crazy boat and comic boat, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Acton Legion.