

Local MPP involved in war of words

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

A legal battle appears to be brewing between three Georgetown residents - Millie Adams, Fred Harrison and Monte Jackson - and North-Halton MPP Noel Duignan, the Herald has learned.



Noel Duignan

The three residents are directors of the Sands Condominium on McFarlane Drive in Georgetown, and as part of their duties they manage the building.

The three have hired Burlington lawyer, Noel Bates, in response to a letter Mr. Duignan sent in September to some of those who live in the building.

Ms. Adams, Mr. Harrison and Mr. Jackson, none of whom received a copy of the letter, believe its contents defame their characters.

In his letter, a copy of which the Herald obtained, Mr. Duignan writes, "as it appears there are several anomalies in the administration and operation of 'The Sands' and Halton Condominium Corporation 207, and its management; the Condominium Officer and Policy Liaison Coordinator of the Business Regulation Branch, and the Legal Policy Advisor of the ministry, have recom-

mended an investigator inquire into these matters."

Mr. Duignan also indicated in the letter a meeting would be held Sept. 25, during which guest speakers would talk about consumer education and protection issues.

A Halton Regional Police spokesperson was to speak on many issues, including building safety; a Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations official was to speak on the Condominium Act; and a Canadian Law Society representative was to speak on legal issues related to condominium ownership.

The letter implies "we've done something wrong when we haven't done anything wrong," said Ms. Adams, Friday.

Through their lawyer, the three informed Mr. Duignan that they would take legal action against him for defamation if he didn't issue an apology and cover their legal costs.

The request for the apology was done through a letter dated Oct. 3. The three wanted the apology by Oct. 18.

According to Ms. Adams, no apology has been issued to date.

Although no legal action has yet been taken, Ms. Adams said there is a good chance it may happen very soon.

Mr. Duignan couldn't be reached for comment at press time.

However, according to a letter Mr. Duignan's lawyer Paul LaFleur sent Mr. Bates dated Nov. 12, a copy of which was obtained by the Herald, Mr. Duignan has no intention of apologizing.

In the letter Mr. LaFleur writes, "I am at a loss to explain... what is defamatory about the correspondence referred to..."

Further on in the letter Mr. LaFleur writes, "... that should you be retained and receive instructions to commence an action against Mr. Duignan or his staff for defamation against any of those individuals a lawsuit will be vigorously defended and my client will be seeking reimbursement of his legal fees and court costs."

Special conference

A one-day conference to stimulate the Halton community to examine nurturing as a solution to violence against women and children will be held Jan. 23 in Le Dome Banquet Hall in Oakville.

According to a press release, the conference calls on citizens to explore the idea of nurturing as a method of breaking the link between masculinity and violence.

Keynote speaker at the event will be Myriam Miedzian, the author of 'Boys will be Boys'.

Sponsoring the conference is the Halton Rape Crisis Centre with assistance from the Halton Board of

Education, Halton Roman Catholic School Board, Halton Regional Police Service, Halton Crown Attorney's Office, Oakville Chamber of Commerce, Halton Children's Aid Society, Halton Sexual Abuse Program, COHR Family Services, Ministry of the Solicitor General, Halton Women's Place, Halton Family Services and the Halton Regional Health Department.

There are 500 spaces available for this conference. Registration is determined on a first come, first served basis. Registration forms must be mailed by Jan. 10, 1992 to: Halton Rape Crisis Centre, Suite 3-158, 3350 Fairview Street, Burlington, Ontario, L7N 3L5.

For more information call the Halton Rape Crisis Centre at (416) 634-8182.

Special edition

Attention Halton Hills residents! Look for the Herald's 1991 Year End Review - a wrap-up of what's gone on in Town during the past year - in the special Dec. 29th edition.

A list of the 1991 baby arrivals will also be included in this special edition of the Herald.

The Herald's Town Buyer will return Sunday Jan. 8.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all from everyone at the Herald.

Canadian Quote

The parliamentary system is very fragile... I feel society could fall apart if the system is abused.

Graham Leslie,
author & former B.C.
bureaucrat (1991)

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Santa for PM

Despite these signs held by Grade 3 students at Glen Williams Public School, these children, in the Christmas play 'Santa for Prime Minister', are trying to convince Santa not to run for Canadian Prime Minister and instead remain as he has always been for children world-wide: the jolly old man in the red suit. The play was one of several performances put on Wednesday during the school's Christmas concert. (Herald Photo)

Special schools have "serious flaws"

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
The Herald

A government review of schools for the deaf and blind including Ernest C. Drury School in Milton and other special schools has "uncovered some serious flaws" in student care says North-Halton MPP, Noel Duignan.

The review was initiated in May following reports of sexual and physical abuse at E. C. Drury, and Roberts School in London. A report on the review was released last Monday by Education Minister Tony Silipo.

Mr. Duignan said the "serious flaws" include practices in procedures surrounding sexual abuse reporting and fire safety regulations.

"Fire safety procedures are right now being toughened up in these schools," said Mr. Duignan. "New policies on residential care, repor-

ting abuse and hiring practices are also being drafted."

Mr. Silipo said specifically, the government has ordered the schools' staff to report allegations of abuse directly to the Children's Aid Society instead of superiors within the school system.

The review report also noted that supervision of students, particularly overnight, was inadequate. Furthermore, building security in some schools is poor with security guards not knowing who enters or leaves the building, what doors are unlocked and who has master keys.

The report also revealed that residential records were incomplete both in respect to personal matters affecting students and education progress reports.

In response to the findings, 38 recommendations for improving the health, safety and welfare of

children in the provincially-run schools were outlined in the report.

Mr. Duignan said as the government enacts upon these recommendations, the community will be consulted for its input.

"The Ministry will work closely with existing advisory committees and set up a special advisory committee to assist in the changes," he said. "The new committee will draw membership from various groups and organizations."

The government report will be distributed to parents, students and the schools' staff.

Currently, 736 students are enrolled at the seven schools which include Ernest C. Drury in Milton, Trillium School in Milton, W. Ross Macdonald School in Brantford, Roberts School in London, Sir James Whitney School in Belleville, Centre Jules-Leger in Ottawa and Sagonska School in Belleville.

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