

Public school board's drug policy serves as a province-wide model

By JANET BAINE

The Halton Board of Education is a step ahead of the Ministry of Education in developing a drug education policy.

Education Minister Sean Conway announced last week all school boards in Ontario will be required to develop drug education policies by September, 1991, but Halton already has one.

"The Ministry got many of its ideas from work done in Halton," Education Director Bob Williams said.

A study done by the Addiction Research Foundation (ARF) 10 years ago found that 25 per cent of students in Halton attended class under the influence of drugs, alcohol or tobacco.

The study also found that children in Grades 6, 7, and 8 were already beginning to experiment with these substances.

Because of these findings, the board developed a policy on drugs which came into effect eight years ago, Williams said.

He hasn't yet seen the Drug

Education Policy Framework, a document put out by the ministry which contains suggestions for school boards, but Williams doesn't think it will have a dramatic effect on Halton's policy.

"It gives us a shot in the arm and a chance to re-evaluate our drug program," he said. School board staff will review the document and see if there are any gaps in the present policy before they report to the school board.

"(Drug education) is started in primary school, in Grade 1 with general awareness. Then more is added to it as they get towards high school," he said. "It's not just say no to drugs."

Instead, he said, the program teaches children about making effective choices, something which will be useful to them throughout their lives.

A more recent study on drug abuse hasn't been done in Halton, Williams said. But the ARF has continued to work in this area.

The Halton board has decided to ban smoking by staff, students and

visitors anywhere on school property. This new policy will come into effect in September.

Mandatory development of school board drug education policies was recommended in the October 1988 report of the Task Force on the Use of Illegal Drugs in Ontario. Education about drugs is a key part of Ontario's anti-drug strategy, which emphasizes prevention through education, counselling and the active involvement of all sectors of the local community, according to a Ministry press release.

While the Halton Board is often critical of mandatory provincial initiatives because it often overlooks funding for them, that isn't the case here.

"In this case, (the Province) has provided funding related to the initiative. They are putting sums of money where their mouth is," Williams said.

The Ministry of Education has supported drug initiatives in the areas of curriculum, teacher training and learning materials.

"The Ontario government is committed to helping the province's schools provide students at all levels with the knowledge, values and skills they need to understand and use the principles of healthy living," Conway said. "We will continue to work with our partners in education to ensure that Ontario students have the support and self-confidence they need to make wise choices about drugs."

Federal grant nurtures Prime Timers activities

The Federal government has granted Georgetown's Prime Timers senior's group \$3,586 to help finance its recreational activities.

Club president Ruth Roberts said in an interview the money will be used to buy an oven, television, chairs and slide projector for the meeting hall at Mountainview Baptist Church, which sponsors the group.

A year and a half old, the Prime Timers group organizes luncheons every Thursday with speakers, movies, slide shows and games for

seniors. Activities have ceased for the summer, but new members will be welcome again in the fall.

Along with Mrs. Roberts, the executive includes vice-president Dorothy Robson, secretary Bessie Peck and treasurer Norma Thompson.

Federal Health Minister Perrin Beatty announced last week that the group would receive a grant through the government's New Horizons program, by which retired people are encouraged to launch individual or community projects.

Red Cross closed

The Georgetown and District Red Cross office will be closed from July 20 to August 6. In an emergency, please call the District Centre at 877-1211.

Coles' Slaw . . .

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milk. It was too early for slogans like "Drink Milk for Health" or "Get Wearin' a Moustache" so it was probably just sheer intuition that told those pioneers that milk and chocolate would make the perfect marriage. It was rumored but never substantiated that some settlers even closed down their stills.

Probably no-one knew then that chocolate contains oxalic acid. When this acid binds with calcium in milk it forms calcium oxalate, an insoluble salt that can't be absorbed. But there's so much calcium, protein and vitamins in milk that even the

chocolate companies admit it's the most nutritious way to enjoy their product.

But it wasn't until 1847 that someone got the bright idea of using chocolate in a candy bar. It was all beverage until then. J.S. Fry unveiled the bar. The rest is history.

So if this helps you understand in any way why I've got a sweet tooth for chocolate then bless you because it still escapes me.

Oh yes, about the caffeine. Fry's says an ounce of chocolate has only 5 milligrams and a cup of tea 35. You'll have to take their word for it, I have no other evidence.

\$2,000 worth of equipment stolen

A skidoo, skidoo trailer, two barbecues, and a portable generator worth an estimated \$2,000 were stolen from a storage barn on the Tenth Line

north of 27 Sdrd. sometime between June 26 and July 10. The barn was locked but the culprit broke the lock to gain entry. The investigation continues.



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