

Provincial religion policy expected to have minimal impact on Halton board

The Ontario government's new educational policy on religion will have little impact on the Halton Board of Education.

IN BRIEF

Children are invited to learn print-making, drawing and color during a six week program on Saturdays.

Beginning Jan. 12 and running through to Feb. 16, children 8 to 12 can attend the program at Sacre Coeur School at 3:30 p.m.

For information and registration, call the Recreation and Parks Department at 873-2600, ext. 267.

The Acton Rotary Club and the Optimist Club of Georgetown have sponsored free skating sessions during the Christmas break.

At Acton Arena on the following dates: Dec. 22, 3 to 4:20 p.m.; Dec. 23, 2:30 to 3:50 p.m.; Dec. 29, 3 to 4:20 p.m.; Dec. 30, Jan. 2, 3 and 4, 2:30 to 3:50 p.m.

At Memorial Arena: Dec. 27, 28, Jan. 2, 3, and 4, 1 to 2:20 p.m. and Dec. 30, 2:30 to 3:50 p.m.

At Gordon Alcott Arena: Dec. 22, 23, 29 and Jan. 2 and 3, 1 to 2:20 p.m.

For more information, call the Recreation and Parks Department at 873-2600, ext. 267.

The Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department will be showing Walt Disney's All Dogs Go To Heaven on Jan. 31 at 1:30 p.m. at the John Elliott Theatre.

A second showing will take place Feb. 1 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's School in Acton. Call 837-2600 for information.

The policy requiring public school boards to offer religious programs which reflects the multi-faith nature of Ontario's society, will go into effect January 1, 1991.

The policy does not apply to Catholic school boards.

The new policy won't have any effect on public schools in Halton, said Education Director Bob Williams.

"We'll continue doing what we're doing. Halton has had no formal religious education classes in schools since the mid-70s," he said. World religions will continue to be taught in five high schools, including Georgetown, he said.

"Our province enjoys great diversity," Education Minister Marion Boyd said when she announced the policy last week. "Programs in education about religion must ensure that children from different religious backgrounds learn how to grow together through an appreciation of their differences."

Under the policy, boards may teach religion in Grades 1 to 8 for up to 60 minutes a week using a resource document which will be developed.

Boards can continue to make space available in school buildings for indoctrinational religious classes outside the instructional program, but have to do this on an equitable basis.

"I believe that the policy can be seen within the context of the long-established vision of elementary and secondary public schools as open and accessible to all on an equal basis," Boyd said. "It is our intent that programs of education about religion enable students of all faiths to learn more about one another and to enjoy the richness of our collective and individual heritages."



KNITTING WONDERS

Anna Miller, 97 (left) and Nellie Lawson, 91, received certificates from the Acton unit of the Canadian Cancer Society for their regular contribution of knitting to Princess Margaret Hospital and the Toronto Sick Kids Hospital, Tuesday. Both women have been knitting for the hospital for over

12 years. The certificates were presented by unit president Cathy Gerrow (left) and activity chair Rena Arbic. Kay Hotchen also received a certificate, but was unable to be in the photograph.

JANET BAINE/Weekend

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We've come a long way since the horse-drawn carriage, but our commitment to family traditions and old-fashioned values remains the same. Happy holidays and heartfelt thanks to our many good friends.

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