

Religion



Winners in the North Halton Schools Preliminary Final Public Speaking competition assembled after the prizes were handed out. Holding their medals from Georgetown Optimists, were, from left, Nicole Lee, of St. Joseph's, Acton, who spoke

on "Excuses", Nicky Ptolemy of Robert Little, whose topic was "My cat", Meridith Sones of Limehouse, told of her trip to New York and Chris Hall of Park, spoke on "The Phantom of the Opera." *TED BROWN Halton Hills Weekend*

Education minister hints at tying Catholic, public school boards together

By PAUL MITCHISON

Despite intense pressure to cut costs Catholic education is in no danger, Ontario's new education minister has promised.

In a wide-ranging speech during which she promised many new changes and approaches in education, Marion Boyd said she's still a strong believer in Catholic education and separate school boards. But she thinks that in tough economic times especially, many will demand an end to separate school education in favor of a public system containing just a Catholic element.

"There are those in our province," she said, "who believe that if we were to create umbrella school boards, if we were to stop the duplication of school boards ... that this would be a great economy."

Speaking to a large audience of teachers from the Catholic teachers association, Halton elementary unit, the newly installed NDP education minister said many people tend to see things in overly simplistic "and sometimes bigoted" ways.

"The element of choice is extremely important," she said, adding that Catholic teachers and others will be forced to defend the added cost of having separate school boards across Ontario.

Maintaining cultural difference is important, she said, "whether that's Catholic or Francophone or a combination of both, or all the other identities that we enjoy in our diverse society."

She admitted the strategy of better education funding assured by her party during the last election campaign, will be difficult to implement.

"The commitment is still there ... it's going to take time." The NDP had blamed the previous Liberal government for underfunding

That means changing educational materials, and re-educating teachers away from holding up

"white, middle class values" which she said have dominated in the past.

education and for diverting the costs away from the province and down to the local government level, in the form of escalating property tax.

The party promised to fund 60 per cent of education costs, up significantly from the current level of less than half.

Boyd said she wasn't proud of the fact that operating grants to school boards were boosted only 7.9 per cent for 1991. "It falls far short of what you need, and we know that."

But she said the government is working on keeping property tax increases down.

"No time is worse than a recession to raise property taxes, and we're well aware that education trustees are facing election this year and it's going to be a difficult time for them."

Boyd said that property tax isn't a good measure of a taxpayer's ability to pay, but said no drastic changes in funding education and other essential services until there is wide consensus on where the money should come from.

The minister touched on the increasing role of the classroom teachers in the lives of students, and how teachers are neither trained nor paid to do some of the job now being expected of them, almost as a surrogate parent.

"Your concern as teachers is you don't have the resources or referrals to do it well and properly," she said.

"It puts a lot of pressure on classroom teachers and we need to provide a lot of support mechanisms and services that make it possible for you to be confident and feel you can take on the role."

The minister spoke about helping students from non-white racial and cultural backgrounds to have more confidence and a better self image.

DIRECTORY OF HALTON HILLS Churches & Temples

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH
Georgetown & Glen Williams
11 Guelph St. Main St., G.W.
PHONE 877-2531
Minister: Rev. Nancy Knox
Minister of Christian Education: Karen Wigston
Sunday Service At
9:30 Glen Williams
11:00 Georgetown
Nursery & Sunday School Available
Communion Service 9:00 a.m. First Sunday of each month in Georgetown.
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES!
You Are Welcome!

"They have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind."
Hosea 8:7

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner of Maple & Guelph, 877-6665
Pastor: Bruce Scott
Youth Pastor: Rob Grainger
SUNDAY:
9:30 Family Teaching Ministry (for all ages)
11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Worship Service
WEEKDAY EVENTS
Tues. 7:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting
Wed. 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
7:00 p.m. Youth Group
Fri. 7:00 p.m. Youth Rec Night (Acton H.S.)
8:00 p.m. Youth Choir

Christian Reformed Church

Trafalgar Rd.
SUNDAY 10:00 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.
Rev. P. Stadt
LISTEN TO THE BACK TO GOD HOUR
7:30 A.M. Hamilton CHAM 820
7:30 P.M. Burlington FM 108
9:00 P.M. Guelph CJOY 1460
and Mon.-Fri. Faith 20
5:30 A.M. Global TV Ch. 6 and 41
Ladies' Coffee Break Tues. 9:30 a.m. (Sept. through May)

St. George's Anglican Church

60 Guelph Street, Georgetown - 877-8044
Rector:
Rev. Thomas M.S. Kingston, B.A., B.Th.
Pastoral Archdeacon:
Ven. John H. McMulkin, B.A., S.T.B., D.D.
Sunday Services
8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday During Lent 6:45 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.

CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR

Anglican Church of Canada
537 Main St. Glen Williams (Mountain & Main Sts.)
416-877-8323
Rector: Rev. Carol A. Skidmore, L.Th.
Sunday Services: 8 am, 10:30 am
Church School/Nursery: 10:30 am
Come join us - a warm welcome awaits you!

ST. ANDREWS UNITED CHURCH

Minister:
Rev. Joe Smiley
B.A., M.Div.,
89 Mountainview
877-4482
9:45 a.m.
- Morning Worship
- Sunday School
- Nursery Facilities
"Building Tomorrow's Church Today"

Knox Presbyterian Church

Corner Main & Church, Georgetown
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Workshop
Junior Congregation
Nursery Facilities
Peter Barrow, B.D., Minister

NORVAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9:45 A.M.
Minister: Rev. Mary Campbell
B.A. M.DIV.
Nursery Available

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Winston Churchill, South of Hwy. 7 Norval
Rev. Richard Ruggle, MA, B.h.
877-3404
Service at 10:30 a.m.
All Are Welcome!

Halton Gospel Temple

Phone (416) 877-2759
Highway 7 West of Trafalgar Rd., Georgetown
Affiliated with P.A.O.C.
Pastor Rev. David Tapley,
Youth Pastor Rev. Dale Reddekopp
SUNDAY SERVICES
9:45 a.m. Christian Education
11:00 a.m. FAMILY WORSHIP
6:30 P.M. Evening Praise
Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Ladies coffee Hour
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Family Night
Friday 7:30 p.m. Youth Alive

St. John's anniversary

St. John's Anglican Church, Nassagaweya, is anxious to communicate with all former members of the congregation regarding its 150th anniversary celebrations in 1992. Those wishing to know more about the special events planned for the Sesquicentennial are invited to contact: Dr. John Dougan, R.R.1 Acton Ont. L7J 2L7.

Benefit Brunch.

The United Way of Halton Hills invites you, your friends and family to the 5th annual Benefit Brunch at Jack Tanners Table on Sun. March 3 from 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Proceeds go to the United Way of Halton Hills. Reservations are recommended so call 853-3440.

St. Patrick's Supper

Saturday, March 16 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Knox Presbyterian Church on Main St. in Acton is holding a St. Patrick's Day Supper. For tickets call 853-0360 or 853-2727 or are available at Village Variety Shoppe at 853-0411.

Getting up Steam

The Esquensing Historical Society will be hosting a slide presentation by Charles Cooper called "Getting up Steam" which is about the history of trains and

local train stations. The date is Wed. March 13 at 7:30 p.m. For more information call Karen Hunter at 838-2109.

Distress training

The spring training session for new volunteers for North Halton Distress and Information Center begins Wednesday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m. Please call 877-1211 for more information.

Seminars for the Separated

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) is pleased to announce the next series of "Seminars for the Separated" dealing with the changes and stresses faced by newly separated adults. This program is offered in Milton on March 19 and Burlington on March 27. For more information contact Lesley Henshaw at 681-6776 or Vicki Roy at 845-5044.

CMHA is in Acton!

Canadian Mental Health Association, Halton Region Branch has arrived in Acton! Come and see how a few volunteer hours of your time per month can help in our Oasis Program weekday evenings or Sunday afternoons. For more information come to our Open House, Wed. Mar. 6 at 100 Elgin St. S. Unit 8A in Acton from 2 to 4 p.m. or call 853-4777.