

School employees asked to donate one day's pay

By ANGELA BLACKBURN

Special to the Independent/Free Press

Halton Board of Education employees will be asked on an individual basis to voluntarily donate a day's pay in order to reduce the board's 1993 budget by \$1 million.

If not enough money is raised through voluntary donations then staff could face layoffs - as many as 75 employees.

The request for individual donations represented a change from the board's original plan to seek a day's pay donation through general votes among the board's 11 union/federation/association groups.

The new plan was presented by Halton Board of Education director Bob Williams to 600 employees at the last of three meetings held in the past week with board employees.

Williams said after receiving legal advice, the board's presidents' council decided to change the approach of consent to the proposal from a general vote to the written contribution format.

"It will be entirely confidential, there will be no lists kept, no recriminations for people who feel they can't contribute. How much is donated will determine how many layoffs we'll get," said Williams.

Outlining that this is a "one shot deal"

for the 1993 school year, Williams told staff it was an opportunity for board staff to demonstrate their commitment to the community.

"I'm pleased to hear the decision is not to reopen the contract if it goes ahead on a voluntary basis," said Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation - Halton Elementary Teachers Association (HETA) president Bill Barrett.

Barrett said his members have been asking whether the board can legally take back a day's pay and if people can be forced to do it.

The board has 11 employee groups which it deals with including everyone

from teachers to custodians and secretarial support staff.

Barrett said there is "a lot" of pressure from union groups outside the region and confirmed that both the secondary and elementary teachers unions had been contacted by their provincial bodies.

"This has been a brutally difficult process for everybody. There is some very strong opposition and other people don't share that sentiment," said Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF) President Sally Rewbotham.

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HALTON HILLS

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News Digest

Positive support

Halton Peel MP Garth Turner still hasn't made a decision yet on whether to challenge for the Progressive Conservative leadership. Turner said Friday he is in the process of lining up volunteers and donations. But he reports a busy time of it - approximately 400 to 500 people have already volunteered money, time or services, including cider and cookies. It's very encouraging said Turner, adding the possibility of seeking the nomination could be well within his grasp.

Donations requested

A house fire on Mowbray Place in Acton last Friday evening caused \$75,000 worth of damage to the house. The cause of the fire is still undetermined and the investigation continues. Cash donations for the Allen family can be made to the Acton branch of CIBC.

Spring Brochure

Watch for the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Community Brochure. Residents should receive their copy this weekend. If you haven't received yours by Monday, March 8, please call the Recreation and Parks Department and they will get one to you.

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Family accepts award

The Georgetown Citizen of the Year award for 1992 was presented to Phyllis Booth by Georgetown Lion Mark Rush, at an honorary dinner Tuesday night at the Lions Hall. Phyllis accepted the award on behalf of her late husband, Sandy Booth, accompanied by her sons Craig, (left) Neil, (right) and her daughter-in-law Trudy. For full details, see page 5.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Region won't seek NEC control—yet!

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

In a 12 to 9 vote regional council members decided Wednesday afternoon not to ask the province to turn over the development control functions from the Niagara Escarpment Commission to the region.

But the issue is far from dead. Halton Hills councillor Pam Johnston gave notice after the vote that she intended to bring the resolution back to the regional council table

at the next meeting (March 31) for another vote because three council members, including Mayor Russ Miller, were not there on Wednesday.

Prior to the vote Johnston indicated she would vote in favor of the transfer of powers from the NEC.

"I believe for us to be responsible we have to try and cut bureaucracy at any level," said Johnston. "The region will offer a more fair approach to dealing with applications than the NEC ever did."

But Johnston voted against the transfer of powers. According to council's bylaws Johnston had to vote with the majority so that she could introduce the motion for reconsideration at the next meeting, explained Joyce Eaglesham, Halton region clerk.

Eaglesham says the motion will be included in the March 31 regional council agenda, and at that meeting if the majority supports the motion for reconsideration, the resolution voted on at Wednesday's meeting will be back on the table.

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