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# "Fluff" not acceptable: Gue

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 in a telephone interview. "We want well paid teachers, but fewer of them. Until they tackle their salary bill they are just engaging in tokenism."

Gue said the board's salary bill accounts for about 80 per cent of their total expenditures.

"There can be improved quality in cost reduction," said Gue, defending against his critics that less money does not equal less quality.

"Education is nine per cent of Canada's gross national product. Most other developed countries spend four to six per cent. Germany spends 60 per cent of what we do and turns out by far a better product."

Gue elaborated that there is posi-

tive movement in the public school board, and stated that there are four or five progressive-minded trustees. "But they are dragging too many anchors," Gue said. "Administration is a reactionary bunch."

Gue said that even in good economic times, "fluff" in the school system is not acceptable.

"The school system has zero obligation to special interests, especially small special interests. They detract from what we're supposed to be doing."

Earlier in the meeting, Halton Hills trustee Dick Howitt had asked how the board respond to parents who may have a child who wants to

be a professional musician and is adept at playing an instrument.

"It's not the job of the school boards to turn students into professional musicians," countered a representative from the Glen Abbey Residents Association.

The discussion was a nagging reminder of the age-old argument of what constitutes good education.

"Can any business tell what kind of person they'll need in '98?" questioned Milton trustee Bob Clarke.

"That's a dumb question," snapped one older member of the public quietly. "Good reading, writing, and arithmetic skills, same as always."

# "Healthier environment" from Blue Box overhaul

**Continued from page 1**

healthier environment" for Halton. It's estimated that the contract with Laidlaw will save regional taxpayers \$350,000 in 1993 and \$1.5 million over the term of the five-year contract. Savings will be realized by collecting recyclables once every two weeks in all four Halton municipalities—Burlington, Milton, Oakville and Halton Hills.

Leitch said a healthier environment will result from the addition of new materials to the recyclables list.

A pamphlet outlining the new collection schedule and containing a complete list of recyclable materials will be delivered by mail to Halton residents by January 29.

Wondering out loud, Halton Hills Councillor and chairman of Halton's planning and public works committee, Marilyn Serjeantson, asked Leitch if the mail-out will provide residents with "enough lead time" to adjust to the changed collection schedule.

"This is a major change in the Blue Box program," Leitch allowed. "We're hoping the transition will go smoothly, but there could possibly be problems," he said. Experience has shown that if information is distributed several weeks before a change in practice, people will forget, he added.

To help make the transition as smooth as possible, Laidlaw has set up a 1-800-line for Halton householders. Enquires about the collection service can be made by calling 1-800-561-1655.

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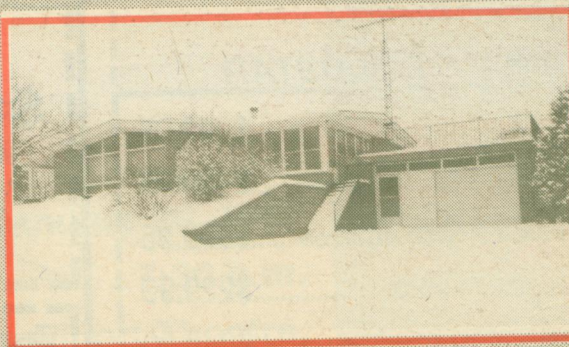
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