

Board to stress community interaction

By Oksana Buhel

Community interaction has become a new objective for the Halton Board of Education.

The board's strategic plan, TOWARD 2000: Learning for the Future, has been modified earlier than expected because of "economic conditions and the situation with the

provincial government which we would not have been able to predict in 1989 (when the strategic plan was first implemented)," explained Brian Woodland, communications officer for the board.

TOWARD 2000, the board's first strategic plan, was implemented in 1989 and designed to encompass a five-year period. After this time, a review was to be conducted. When the review deadline was accelerated, "for unpredicted economic reasons," the board decided to include partnerships with the community as a fourth direction. According to director of education Bob Williams, the addition of this new objective "reflects the dramatic changes we must face as a school system."

The original three directions were instruction, school-based planning and staff resources. In all cate-

gories, the focus was on maximizing facilities and resources to best prepare students for the future.

In the category of instruction, an increased emphasis was placed on computers and instructional technologies, global education, and thinking and problem-solving skills.

School-based planning encourages individual schools to play a greater role in decisions which will directly influence the institution. "We still believe a strong school board is necessary to help schools manage

certain issues," Woodland added, "but in general, schools should take on a greater share of their own decision-making responsibility."

Teachers and staff will be required to develop their skills so that a greater use can be made of their resources, without affecting the quality of education the students are receiving. The expansion of these skills, which falls under the "staff resources" direction, will be reinforced through workshops and seminars.

TOWARD 2000 was brought up as information at Thursday evening's Halton Board of Education meeting and will be voted on Sept. 23.

TOWARD 2000: Learning for the future

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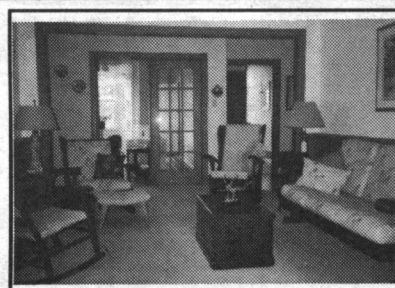
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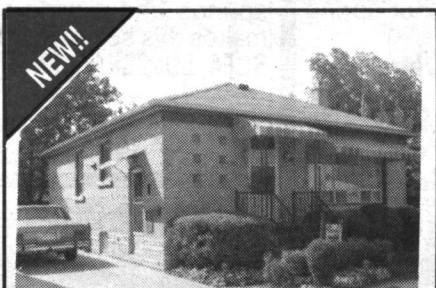
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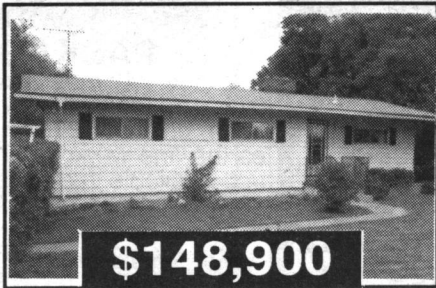
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