

Brookville School named a pilot school for computer networking project

Brookville School has been named as one of just four Halton Schools for pilot Networking Project.

This major initiative will have a major impact on learning opportunities within the school, as well as connecting the school to resources around the world.

The project will cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000, depending upon the requirements within the building and the number of computers initially upgraded and hooked on-line. The board will fund \$27,000 through a grant, another \$4,000 has

been received from a corporate donor, and the Nassagaweya Community School Council has donated \$4,000 from its fundraising. The remaining \$5,000-\$15,000 will need to be raised through school budgets, donations, and fundraising. Tax receipts are available for donations.

For those of us mystified by the process, it's akin to bringing hydro to your home for the first time and deciding how many outlets you can afford in every room. The intercoms, phones, toasters, TVs, etc., are added as budgets permit.

Brookville currently has over 50 computers in the school. The fundraising will influence how many of these are initially upgraded and connected.

The largest portion of the cost is in the installation of wiring, centralized equipment, and license fees. New high speed Centrix phone lines will be used to connect the school to external resources including the board office, libraries, and universities on the Internet.

The entire school will be wired to connect computers, peripherals, and other equipment, reaching every

classroom. Computers will be upgraded and connected as funding permits.

It will mean students can access information such as CD-ROM encyclopedias in the school library without ever leaving the classroom.

Every classroom will potentially have Internet access to explore the world, whether to tap into university files or correspond with students across Canada or in other countries.

Although the Halton Board of Education would like to implement

networking projects in all schools, shrinking school budgets prevent it at this time. It is hoped that the Brookville experience will help other schools initiate similar projects.

Brookville was one of numerous schools to apply for this funding. Principal Steve Fraser speculates that the application was successful because staff showed its readiness to embrace this technology and the school's initiatives in using computers.

The three other schools selected for the project are Sheridan in Oakville, and Rolling Meadows and Ryerson in Burlington.

School boards share awards

The Cooperative Education Science Technology Project, a joint project of the Halton public and Catholic school boards, received two awards from the Conference Board of Canada.

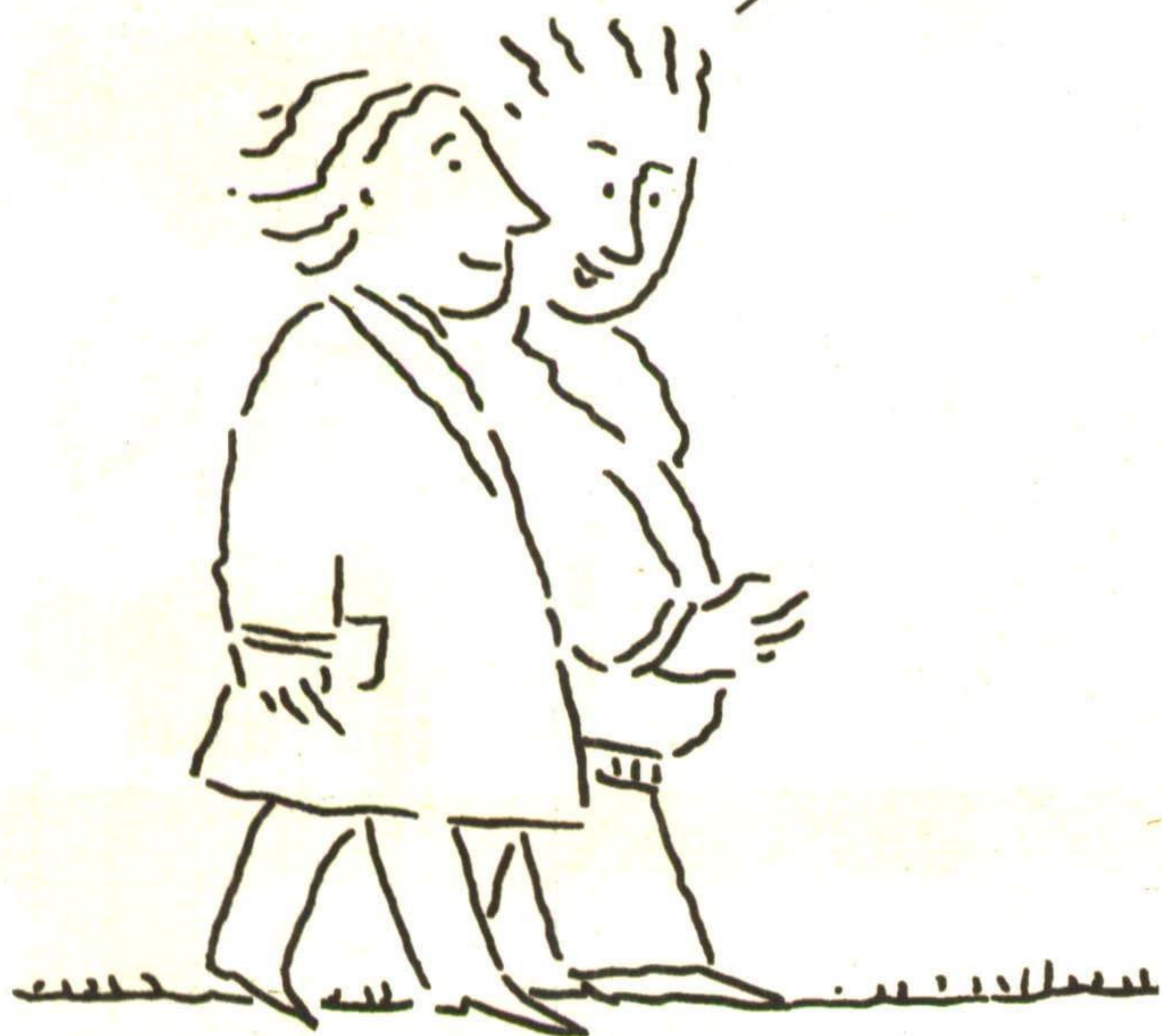
The project was selected to receive a community

collaboration award sponsored by Human Resources Development of Canada. The award comes with a cash prize of \$1,000.

The project was a recipient of the partnership focus award, for linking education and the work world.

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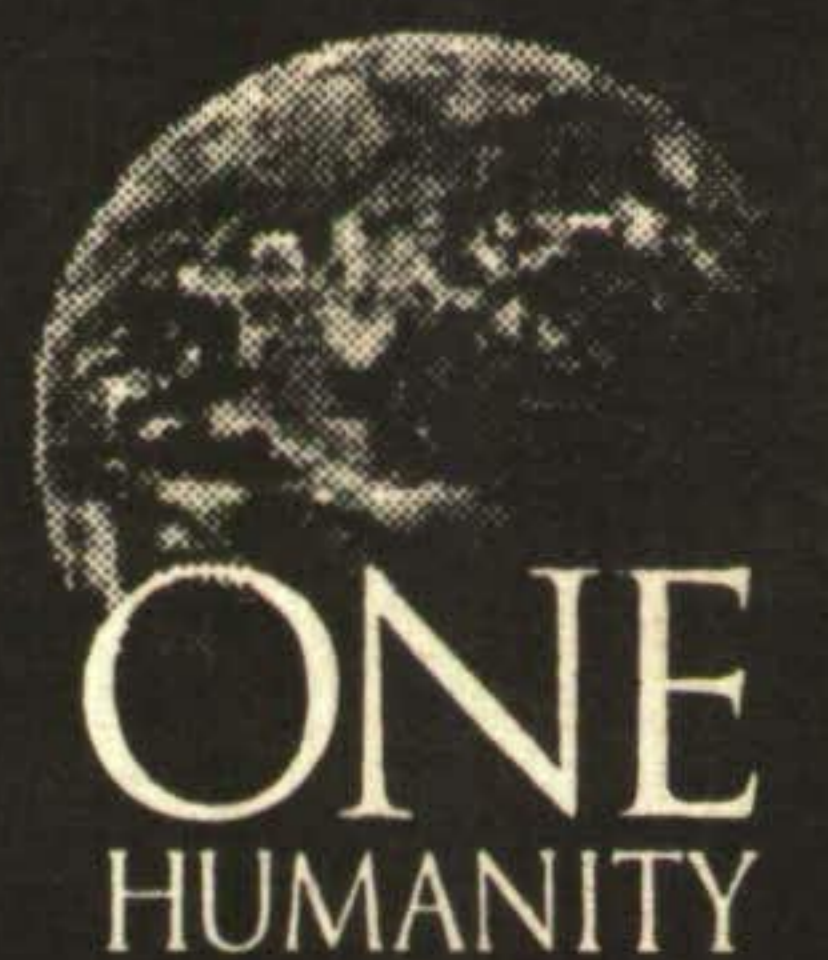
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