

No elementary teachers laid off; board rescinds notices

By **TIM WHITNELL**
Special to The Independent/Free Press

Halton Board of Education officials have confirmed that all 192 public elementary teachers and 268 of the 380 secondary teachers originally targeted for layoff have had their notices rescinded.

Though nearly two thirds of the 1,503 layoffs of various teaching and non-teaching personnel announced three

months ago by board administration are still in effect, the figures are deceiving.

The majority of those to be laid off by the start of the 1996-97 school year includes 564 of the lower-paid, part-time lunchroom supervisors, as well as term-specific contract workers like 201 classroom Instructional Assistants.

Superintendent of Business Wayne McNally said the reason many of the layoffs could not be enforced pertained

to the lack of legal resources which the board expected would be included in the 'tool kit' provided by the Ontario government in March.

Therefore contract language, and unexpected job openings due to retirements and resignations, enabled the majority of teachers to be called back.

Paul Anthony, Halton board's superintendent of staff services, said that even though the approximately \$25

million in savings anticipated by the original 1,503 layoffs won't happen, it does not mean the board is in a deficit situation.

Anthony said layoff savings were not incorporated into the budget.

What the reduced savings ultimately means, he said, is the board does not have the kind of financial cushion it would like to have when future government grant reductions are announced.

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News

Digest

Counterfeit \$10-bills

A rash of counterfeit \$10 bills are being passed in Halton Hills, police report. Some turned up in Acton and Georgetown on Tuesday and Wednesday. Even a counterfeit \$5 bill was taken in at one business, police said. The bills are printed on fairly poor quality paper and have a washed out appearance.

Tire slashed

Someone slashed a tire on a 1993 Ford parked on Faludon Dr. early Sunday morning, police said. Damage was \$125.

Hood scratched

A 1996 Chrysler's hood was scratched while parked on Mill St. in Georgetown between May 25-27, police said. Damage was \$600.

Attempted break-in

Someone attempted to break into a gas bar on Guelph St. at 11:45 p.m. Tuesday, police said. An alarm sounded and police arrived to find a portion of the kiosk had been torn off, resulting in \$500 damage. Nothing was taken.

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Chin up! Shoulders back!



756 Georgetown Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets were a study in spit and polish as Lt. Col. E. W. Brown acted as reviewing officer at the 28th annual inspection. Following the inspection, awards were presented to the cadets. See page 5.
TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Workfare is coming

By **BRAD REAUME**
Special to The Independent/Free Press

Halton Region will be one of the first municipalities in Ontario to institute work for welfare, one part of the provincial government's new Ontario Works program.

Regional council, after lengthy and at times testy debate May 29, approved the measure.

Councillors who voted in favour of it said that as one of the initial sites for the program, Halton would have an opportunity to shape the specifics, in much the same way they did aspects of the NDP's jobs Ontario program.

The government program is mandatory and will be instituted 15 or 20 municipalities at a time, council heard.

Several delegations spoke to council about workfare and two remained unconvinced of its value.

Margaret Bennett of the Halton Anti-poverty Coalition, and Betts Engell, a former social worker now living in Burlington, unsuccessfully asked that the debate be returned to committee so they could present community consultation studies and academic papers.

Oakville councillor Stephen Sparling indicated the program might "reintroduce the concept of responsibility back into society."

However, Oakville councillor Kevin Flynn said, "This motion is buying into the program before we've heard from our citizens. That's not right on any issue, be it planning, property or anything."

Regional social services commissioner Bonnie Ewart said any community consultation after the issue passes council will be about how the program will be instituted, rather than if it should be.

She said approximately 1,300 people per year would be eligible. Initially placements, pegged at 17 hours per week, would only be with community service groups.

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