

Limehouse and Glen Williams Parents plead for schools to remain open

BY HERB GARBUTT
Staff Writer

The emotions may have settled, but the concerns have not diminished.

Parent councils at both Glen Williams and Limehouse schools made presentations to Halton Board of Education superintendent Paul Anthony Monday regarding the board's accommodation study.

Although the atmosphere was much calmer than at the Sept. 30 public meeting when the board revealed its options to the public, the parents' concerns remain about the potential closing of Limehouse and Glen Williams schools.

Both presentations focused on the importance of the schools to the community, the high parental involvement and the fact that the elimination of the board's two unused schools—Speyside and Wirgglsworth—will bring Halton Hills into the capacity range the board is aiming for. Both Speyside and Wirgglsworth schools are still owned by the board, therefore counted in its capacity rating.

At the Sept. 30 meeting, the response from the Glen Williams school council was emotional. Monday it presented facts to support those emotions.

"We have to keep the focus along the lines of the presentation today," said Dona Wenzel, chair of the Glen Williams school council. "We have some good, quality information to show that there are a lot of things the

community needs that the school can offer."

Wenzel said she feels her group is finally starting to get through to the board. "Our concerns are starting to be addressed," she said.

Limehouse school council chair James Racinsky said the short timeframe has kept his group busy.

"We've taken input from (last) Monday's meeting and we've been really busy gathering information," he said. "The presentation went very well and now (Anthony) will take the information we've given him to the board."

Anthony said just because the

board's initial report centred on capacity rating, doesn't mean it will close schools without taking the communities into consideration.

"The FRC (functional rated capacity) is part of the reality considered by the board," said Anthony.

"It's what the government uses to determine whether a board gets a grant or doesn't get a grant or whether it receives consideration for a new school."

"While that will be a large part of the consideration, at no point have the need for community schools been excluded."



Pets blessed

Jen Cann had her hands full as parishioners were invited to bring their pets to St. John's Anglican Church to have them blessed by Rev. Tim Morgan. Seven-week-old Jack Russell terriers Buddy, Peanut, Babs and Sprocket were among the many pets to make the trip last Sunday. Rev. Morgan said blessing pets is a tradition in many parishes. It is in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, who was known for his love of animals.

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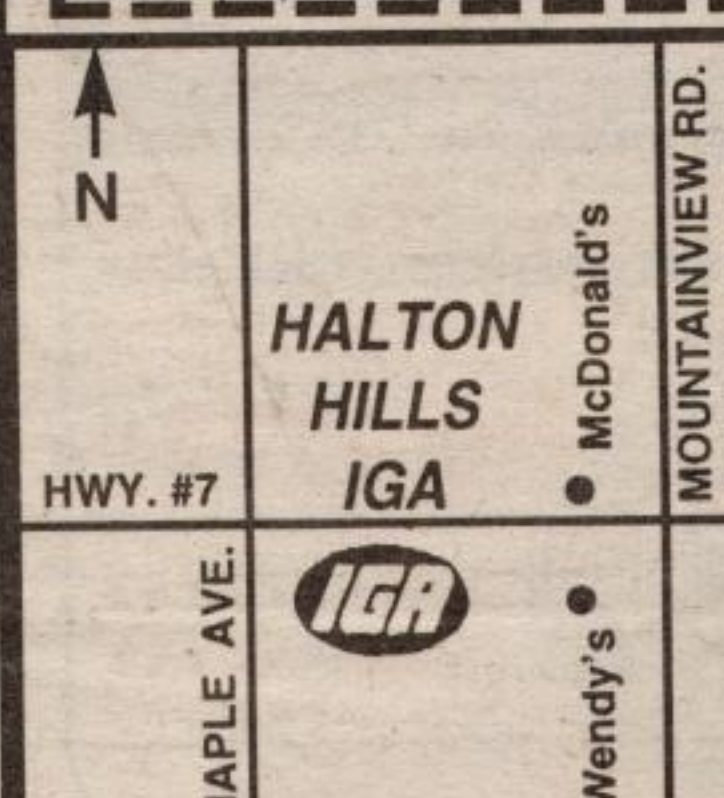
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