Park School's 10th annual egg drop competition was held March 27 as teacher Rob Burnett put the containers through their paces, dropping them from the top of the school gymnasium, to see which one would survive the fall. The students were encouraged to decorate their entries in recognition of the contest's 10th anniversary.

Photos by Ted Brown and Herb Garbutt

Around town... in pictures

With April being Cancer Month, members of the Acton and Georgetown branches of the Canadian Cancer Society gathered to show off their new daffodil T-shirts, as they prepare for the annual sales of daffodils to raise funds for the Cancer Society. On hand to help were (from left) June Tribe, Cathy Gerrow, Laurie Kelly, Sheila Smith, Pat Kentner, Carol McMurray and **Eleanor McLeod. Volunteers** will be packaging the daffodils tonight (Wednesday) and selling them around town, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, for \$4 a bunch. Support your local Cancer Society, and buy some daffodils.





Nothing was getting by young egg hunters (from left) Cameron Norris, Matthew Cunningham and Lindsay Norris. They searched high and low at Kids Can Do on Saturday for eggs left behind by the Easter Bunny. About 70 kids took part in the Easter egg hunt.

Director says board is legally obligated to comply

French survey goes ahead despite trustees' objections

By TIM WHITNELL Special

The Halton Board of Education will continue to carry out a survey pertaining to French as first language instruction, despite trustees voting against the need for the statistical study.

Trustees voted 7-6 not to proceed with a survey of French-first language ratepayers at a recent board meeting.

But the survey, to identify the number of Halton households interested in receiving French-first instruction in September 1997, has already begun and will continue because the board is legally obligated to do so, director Bob Williams told trustees.

"Under the Education Act we have 30 days to comply with the Languages of Instruction Commission," said Williams.

The LIC, in mediating a dispute between the board and its French Language Advisory Committee, recommended a survey of ratepayers be undertaken and completed no later than April 30.

Halton's more than 6,000 households utilizing French Immersion education, as well as the region's 1,750 households eligible to elect French language trustees, have received the survey.

After the survey was voted down, an agitated Linda Glover, chair of the board, told her fellow trustees a letter will be sent to the commission informing them of the result and she expects the LIC to then talk to the

Ministry of Education.

"But the survey will go on," she stressed.

After the board meeting Glover expressed disappointment in the board's stand on the matter.

"Obviously, Canadian unity and the French language are not important to this board."

Burlington trustee Sandy Van Harten asked Williams during the meeting if there were penalties associated with non-compliance of LIC recommendations, to which the director said that would be at the discretion of the Ministry of Education.

Van Harten said the undertaking of a survey by administration prior to approval by trustees was "bringing rubber stamping at this board to a whole new level."

Williams reiterated that he was doing only what is required under the board's legal obligations. He added the survey was being done in-house and would only cost several hundred dollars to conduct.

Trustees had passed a motion on Feb. 13 affirming its intent to provide French as first language instruction, where student numbers warrant, beginning in September of this year.

The whole issue has come before the board because the French Language Advisory Committee (FLAC) stated it no longer wanted to use the services of the French-first language services provided by the Halton Roman Catholic School Board. The FLAC is balking at the separate board's requirement that all of its students receive religious instruction.

