

On board... in a big way

The Wittich family of Georgetown made a \$100,000 donation to the new recreation centre last week and dropped by Halton Hills Civic Centre to present the cheque. On hand were (from left) Localmotion Major Gift Committee co-chair Paul Zilkey, donors Brigitte and Erwin Wittich, Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson and Localmotion Chair Jonathan Fischer. There is still time to get on board and donations are still being accepted. For more information call Marg Fraser at the Town of Halton Hills, 873-2600. Photo by Ted Brown

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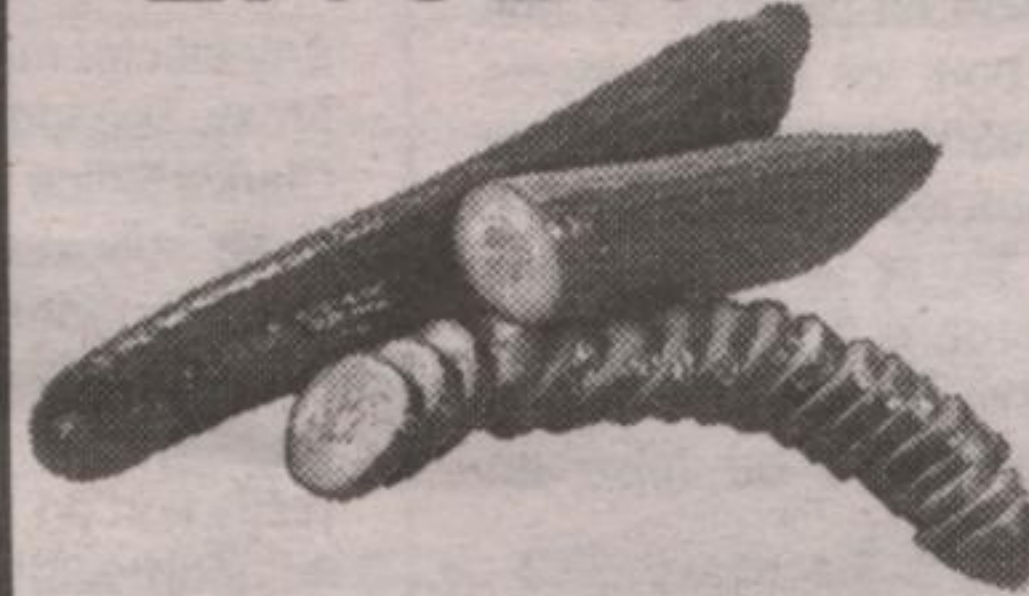
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Sides down to 'major issues'

Board, teachers set additional meeting dates

Negotiators are moving into key issues during contract talks for Halton District School Board secondary teachers.

The two sides have agreed to hold further talks on Oct. 11 and 20 and progress was reported from last Friday's negotiations.

"We've resolved a good portion of the contract and we're down to the major issues," said Dawn Beckett-Morton, the board's director of labour relations. "We're still talking."

Because of an illness, an Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation representative filled in during last week's bargaining session.

Rhonda Kimberley-Young of the provincial OSSTF office agreed some progress was made last Friday.

"Two more negotiating dates were set," she said. "But, obviously, some issues are still outstanding."

Workload and compensation have been cited as the major issues in the Halton talks, which affect approximately 1,100 public secondary teachers.

Union members have not had a

raise in 7-8 years, although newer teachers can earn annual salary increases by advancing through a 12-year experience grid.

Stricter provincial regulations are requiring teachers to handle an extra half-class per year. A provincial official has noted the current 6.5 classes teaching requirement is bringing Ontario up to the national standard.

The board's negotiating chair said as of last week there has only been one settlement and one tentative deal with secondary teachers at other Ontario public school boards.

"It's taking more time than in the past because of restrictions being put on us by the provincial government," noted Michael Ellis.

The Halton secondary teachers contract expired Aug. 31 and earlier this summer, union members voted 92 per cent in favour of striking. No formal job action has been taken so far. But the increased classload means fewer teachers have volunteered for extracurriculars like sports, clubs and after-school help.

—By Dennis Smith, special

Public meeting planned for Oct. 12 to discuss future of cancer office

The local community is urged to attend a public meeting Thursday, Oct. 12 to discuss the future plans of local volunteers of the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS), after efforts to save the local office from closure failed.

Dianne Penrice, president of the Georgetown branch of the CCS, said local volunteers will explain the efforts they've taken to prevent the closure of the office and the

amalgamation of the unit with Oakville.

The volunteers will outline future plans, but Penrice was reluctant to go on the record about what those plans may be until the meeting.

The finalization of any future action will depend on the response of the residents who attend the meeting, Penrice said.

The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. in Holy Cross Church hall.

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