

GDHS students protest loss of extracurriculars

Organizers of a protest outside Georgetown District High School on Friday say the ongoing dispute between the province and teachers is hurting students.

About 200 students waved signs for more than two hours to voice their displeasure over fewer extracurricular activities. The walkout came two days after two dozen Grade 10 students at the school staged a protest against the province's Grade 10 literacy test.

"I hope (Ontario Premier) Mike Harris, as well as the teachers' unions, take actions that will benefit students," said Shawn Meilleur, a Grade 11 GDHS student and one of the organizers of the protest.

"Unfortunately, the government has forced the extra half (course) on the teachers and the teachers have decided they don't want it, so let's take away some things (from students)."

Andrew Snell, another of the organizers, said they hope the protest will draw attention and prompt students at other schools to follow suit.

"Other schools have it worse off than us. Some don't have any extracurriculars. We're not just speaking for GDHS, we're

speaking for all schools," the Grade 11 student said.

Among the programs students mentioned being cut were junior band, the outers club, cross-country, senior football and field hockey.

Halton Board of Education superintendent of education Al Greyson spoke to students outside the school on Friday.

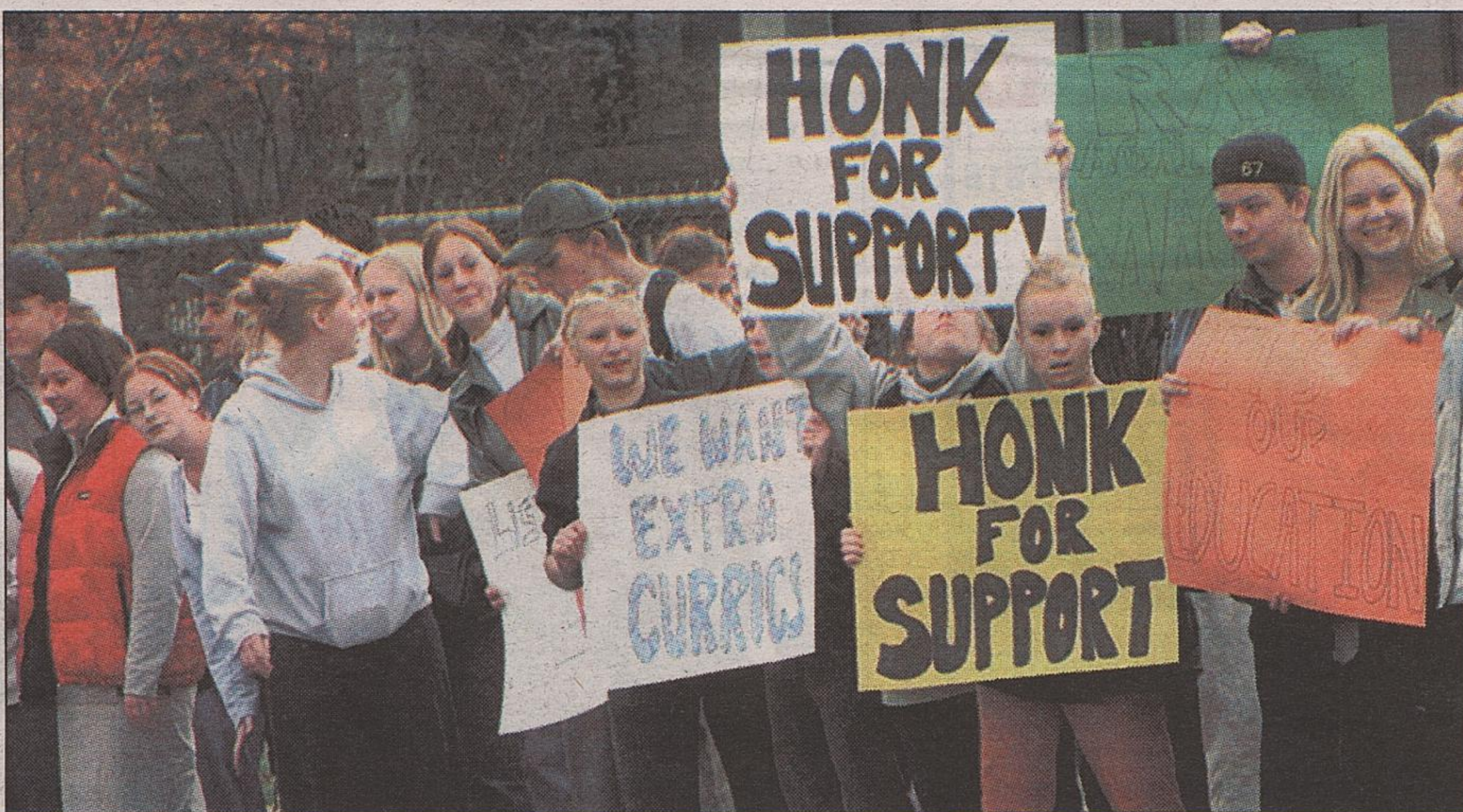
"I'm not going to condone (the protest) but I understand the students are frustrated and feel they need to express their concerns," Greyson said.

Greyson said from the teachers' perspective nothing has changed in terms of extracurriculars.

"What the federation has told them is to look at what they can commit to doing in light of their workload. It's an individual decision and that's always been the case."

Later, along with GDHS principal Keith Rupka, he met with the organizers. Both sides said the meeting was productive, with suggestions being made on how students could get their point across without protesting.

Meilleur said he will be contacting the Ontario Federation of Students and is attempting to start a group that will meet to



Georgetown District High School students protested the absence of some school extracurricular activities outside the school on Friday. The protest lasted more than two hours. Organizers of the demonstration later met with the school principal and a board superintendent to discuss alternatives.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

discuss educational issues.

"We'll get input from students and the community. We've got some good thinkers and we can come up with some good ideas," he said.

Meilleur said he was hoping

to have 1,000 students but he said some students were not allowed to leave class and others were threatened with suspensions.

Organizers were disappointed the school's fire alarm was pulled around 11 a.m.

"We're happy with the initial protest because it showed our cause was a good one but someone pulling the fire alarm just makes us look bad," Snell said.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

New Christian high school to serve local students

A new private Christian high school, serving Halton Hills students, will be opening next September in Oakville.

An information meeting about the school will be held at Georgetown District Christian School on Trafalgar Rd. on Wednesday, Oct. 25, at 7:30 p.m.

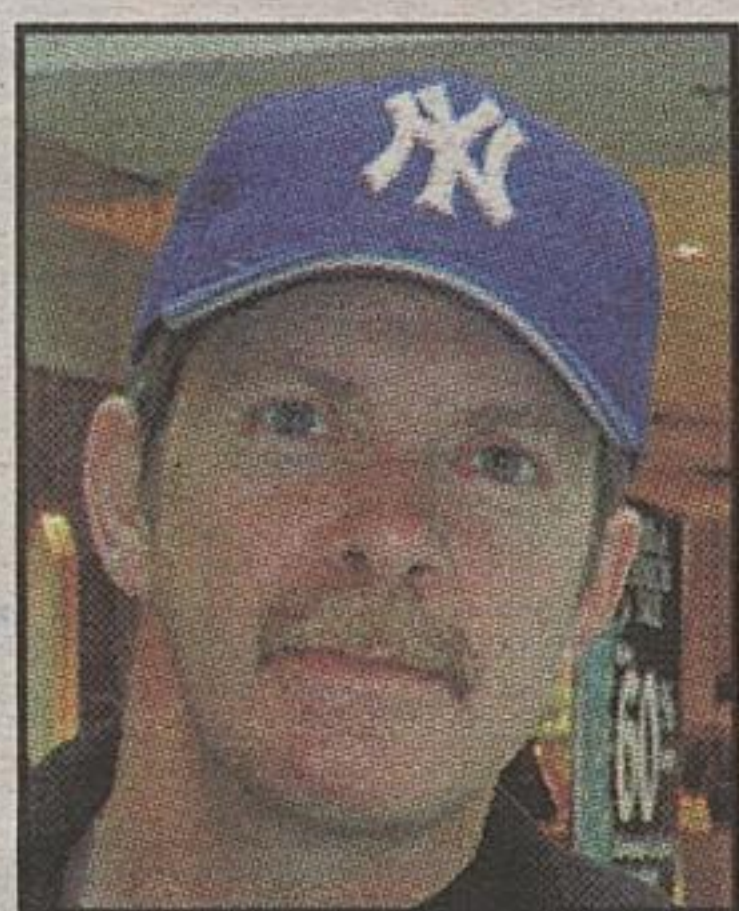
The 40,000 sq. ft. school, to be called King's

Christian Collegiate, will be located on a 10-acre property at 528 Burnhamthorpe Rd. W., Oakville at the corner of Neyagawa Blvd. and the Fourth Line (one block south of the future Hwy. 407/Neyagawa exit).

Groundbreaking is expected to be in December, said Teresa Aysan, Halton Hills resident and chair of the board.

What You Said

'Do you intend to vote in the municipal election?'



Dave Lunn
Georgetown caterer

"No. It's apathy. The candidates are pretty much the same."



Lisa Grbinicek
Kitchener environmental monitor

"I would like to but I have to definitely do some research because I'm not quite as up to date as I'd like to be to make an informed decision."



Daniel Rogers
Richmond Hill industrial refrigeration mechanic

"Yes, because I have my own views and values I'd like to see upheld in the community."



Andrea Gaynor
Erin police officer

"Definitely... it's very important. It's your chance to have a say on what's going to happen in your area. I don't think you have a right to complain if you don't voice your opinion."



Jennifer Mitchell
Ballinafad retail

"Yes I'm going to vote. It's important that the right person wins, but I haven't decided who the right person is yet."

Candidates ready to run

Continued from pg. 1

Bryan Lewis and Joan Robson, wife of the late Bill Robson, a longtime Ward 2 regional councillor.

Two incumbents, Moya Johnson and Jane Fogal, and former Halton Hills Hydro commissioner Mike Davis hope to garner the two available Ward 3 local council seats.

Up until the last minute, it looked like incumbents Ron Chatten and Bob Inglis would be acclaimed to their Ward 4 local council positions for another term, but that changed when Derrick Williams filed his nominations papers just before the deadline Friday.

Longtime Ward 1/2 regional councillor Rick Bonnette has competition for his regional council seat, which pays about \$32,000 per year, from Rita Landry who ran unsuccessfully for a Ward 2 local council seat in the last election.

Incumbent Halton Catholic District School Board English trustee Irene McCauley is being challenged by Paul McDougall for her position which pays \$5,000 annually.

This is the first year the public will cast their votes for the regional chair position. Current chair Joyce Savoline faces some competition for her \$74,700 a year job from fellow Burlington residents Lisa Cooper and Anne Marsden.

More election coverage page 9.

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