

# Halton school board asks parents to help promote understanding

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The letter asks parents and students to watch for any signs of inappropriate behaviour and reprisals against other based on faith or ethnicity. The letter says verbal or physical harassment, insults, name-calling, intimidation and hate-based graffiti can not be tolerated and warns anyone engaging in such activity will be suspended or expelled.

Parents are also asked to remind students to report any such incidents to the principal or to talk to a teacher or administrator if they have concerns about the behaviour of a fellow student.



**ETHEL GARDINER**

The letter goes on to encourage parents to emphasize the negative impact of hate-related activities.

"We wanted to encourage parents to help kids deal with it," said director of education Dusty Papke. "We are a multi-cultural community and we wanted to promote understanding and emphasize that this was done by terrorists, not by any religious or ethnic group."

Papke said there have been no overt racial incidents at the board's school. A fight that broke out at Oakville's White Oaks Secondary School Sept. 11 was later determined to be unrelated to the terrorist attacks.

Papke said the board's staff and parents have done a great job in helping students deal with the attack and the letter is a way of ensuring information and advice is available to all parents.

Papke said the board has also received excellent support from the Halton Multicultural Society and Halton Regional Police.

Wednesday the board canceled all school trips outside Canada until December 31. "We cannot risk putting our students in harm's way," said superintendent of education Al Greyson in a news release.

All trips requiring air travel within Canada were also being reviewed.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

## Family withdraws OMB appeal

An appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board of council's decision not to change the town's official plan and zoning to legalize the storage of business-related supplies at a Confederation St. home was withdrawn during an OMB hearing recently.

The OMB appeal was launched by William T. Van Ryn and William J. Van Ryn, a father and son, of Glen Williams. The son had taken over the longtime family lawn care business from his father and had moved the business across the street. He was seeking a change to the town's official plan and zoning to legalize the storage of supplies in an enclosed garage on his property.

The business has the legal right to exist across the street at the father's home, however, the storage of chemicals there is outside on the driveway.

John Lindhardt, manager of development review for the town, said at the hearing last month after the Van Ryns' case was presented and cross-examination by town lawyer Stephen D'Agostino was completed, OMB member J.R. Mills said he was of the view the Van Ryns wouldn't win the appeal and gave them the option to continue or withdraw.

At the end of the second day of the hearing the Van Ryns' lawyer Bert Arnold told the board he was withdrawing his clients' appeals and the board member dismissed the appeals.

Bill Van Ryn (Jr.) said he was surprised by the decision.

"It was basically a forced decision," he said. "I'll just keep running from my dad's place. It's (the business) going to stay there, it's not going to go away."

"As a relatively new councillor, that was absolutely the most difficult decision I had to make to date in voting against the Van Ryn application," said Ward 2 Councillor Joan Robson. She added however, she "was pleased to see the OMB has vindicated our council decision" to respect the needs of the majority of the people who live in Glen Williams.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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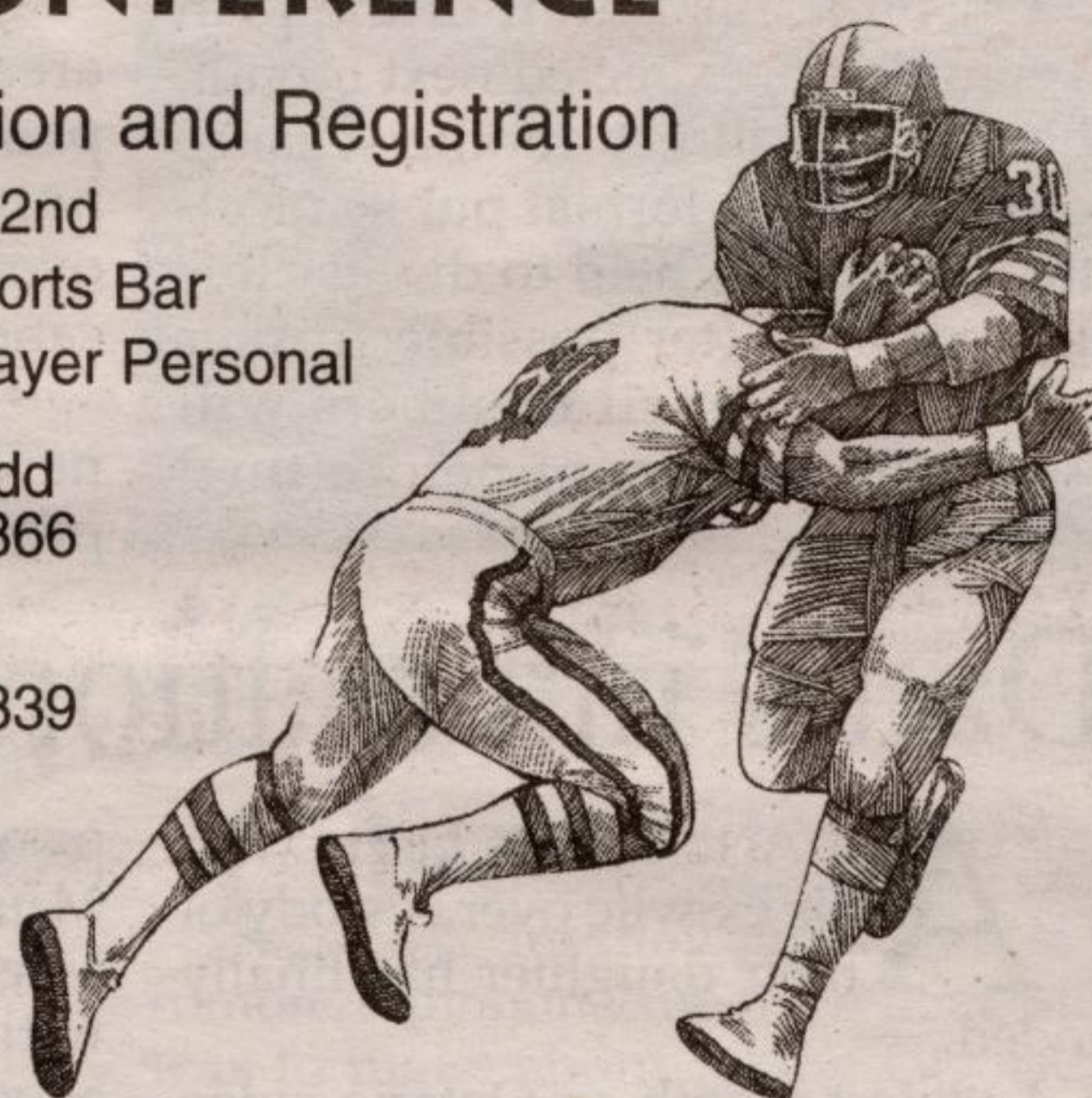
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