**GEORGETOWN MEDICAL ASSOCIATES**
**1A Princess Anne Drive - Georgetown Ontario**
**905-873-3000**

**Dr. A. FURNESS –**
**NOTICE OF OFFICE CLOSURE**

After 32 years in Georgetown, I am closing my family practice at the end of October 2003. I will continue doing anesthesia and seeing patients in the Nursing Home, The Bennett Center and Georgetown Family Health Group "after hours" clinic when it starts.

Three Family Doctors have recently started at the Georgetown Medical Centre. Three more doctors will be starting November 1, 2003, January 2004 and March 2004. I am hopeful that every one of my patients can sign on with one of these new doctors. In the meantime our "On Call" doctors will cover any needs.

# School board, EAs reach settlement

Special needs students and their personal instructors returned to Halton's public schools on Monday.

Nearly 600 permanent, contracted, casual and supply educational assistants, all members of the Halton District Educational Assistants Association, voted to end a 13-day strike against the Halton District School Board at a contract ratification meeting on Sunday.

The board and the union met with a pair of provincially-appointed mediators all day last Friday with an agreement finally struck at 7 a.m. Saturday. It was the fourth such attempt to find a mediated solution to the stalemate that saw EAs hit the picket lines on Oct. 7.

Halton school trustees ratified the deal at a special board meeting Monday night.

The two-year pact is retroactive to Sept. 1, 2002 and runs until Aug. 31, 2004. In straight salary increases it is worth about 6.5 per cent, said Dawn Beckett-Morton, lead negotiator for the Halton board.

There is a three per cent raise for EAs back to Sept. 1, 2002 and another three per cent bump for Sept. 1, 2003. There are additional 0.25 per cent increases on Feb. 1, 2004 and Aug. 31, 2004.

The board also agreed to increase the EAs' paid workday to six hours from 5 1/2, a key component sought by the EAs.

The employees also will get four professional development days annually, up from one.

Beckett-Morton said there is no change to the allotment of sick days, another key concession being sought by EAs.

Last week the board had offered to tack on a third year to its latest contract offer. It would have paid three per cent in each year.

Lynne Gurzi, president of the Halton District Educational Assistants Association, was not available for comment.

More than 100 elementary and high school students with extensive emotional, physical and/or academic needs, which are normally handled by an EA, had to be kept out of school on a daily basis during the strike. Hundreds more special needs kids in Halton's public schools went without EA support in schools during the labour stoppage.

The Halton board serves about 1,500 special education students around the region. That number does not include pupils in primary grades or large classes in elementary and high schools who also get the help of EAs.

Beckett-Morton said the EAs' and held-back-students' first day back to schools on Monday went well.

The last employee group at the Halton board now working without a new contract is the elementary panel of occasional teachers.

Beckett-Morton said the two sides will have their next negotiation session in December. The Halton elementary occasional teachers union has 532 members.

*—By Tim Whitnell, special*

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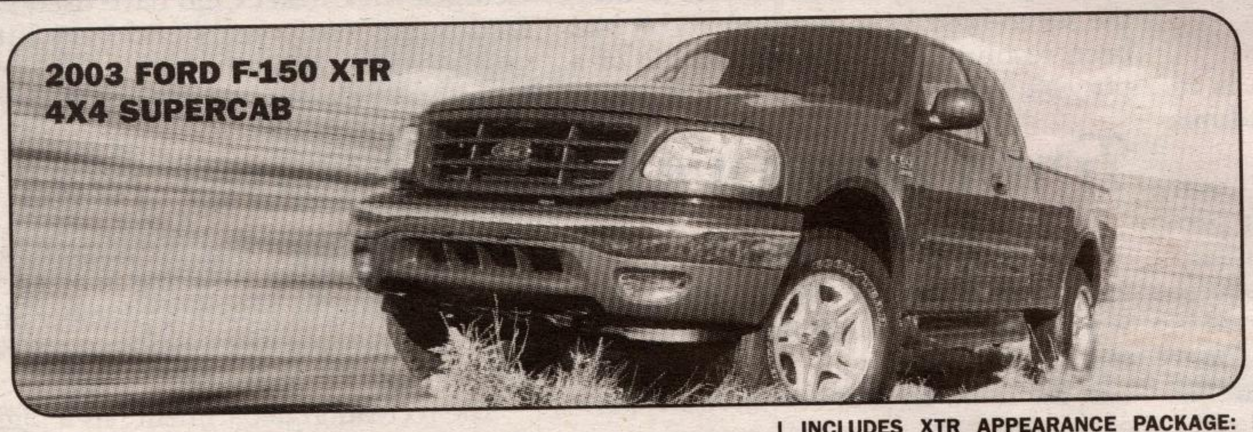


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**FUTURE SHOP**
**CORRECTION NOTICE**
The warranty information for the Cicero Maxtor 80GB Hard Drive advertised on page 2 of our October 10th - 16th flyer is incorrect. The correct coverage is a 1-year limited warranty. SKU:10020689

*We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers. Thank you*

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