

High school's portables 'an eyesore', say neighbours

Rapid growth in school enrolment created need, counters superintendent

Eleven portable classrooms erected in the parking lot at Christ the King Secondary School are not considered welcome additions by some area residents.

Union St. resident Brenda Henderson, whose child attends the high school, calls the portables "an eyesore." "It's a portal to our town," said Henderson.

She said the portables have impacted the amount of parking available in the school's lot and they have resulted in safety issues as security guards have been hired to watch traffic. She added the portables are high consumers of electricity.

She was also upset that many trees were uprooted to make way for the portables.

Maggie Buck, a Dominion Gardens Dr. resident whose home backs onto the school's property, is also upset about the portables.

"The thing that got me really angry was these portables just appeared," said Buck.

She said she and her neighbours, who back onto the green space behind the school, paid a premium for their lots, and when they bought their homes there was no mention or any plan that showed portables would be there.

"What the heck are they going to do when the Four Corners is occupied? They should be building more schools, not putting up portable cities," said Buck.

The portables are required because of the rapidly growing student population the school has experienced since it opened, said Giacomo Corbacio, Halton Catholic District School Board superintendent of facility and management services.

Corbacio said in June the schools' population was 1,130, and as of September 30 it was 1,415.

Corbacio said a number of non-Catholic students are attending the school, throwing off the attendance numbers predicted by the board when the school was built.

"Approximately one third of the students are non-Catholics," said Corbacio. "We welcome everyone to be there."

"We're anticipating 26 portables and an addition within the next three to five years if the current trend continues," said Corbacio.

The site plan for the portables approved by the Town of Halton Hills could see six going in the green space behind some homes on Dominion Gardens Dr, and another eight adjacent to the track at the rear of the school.

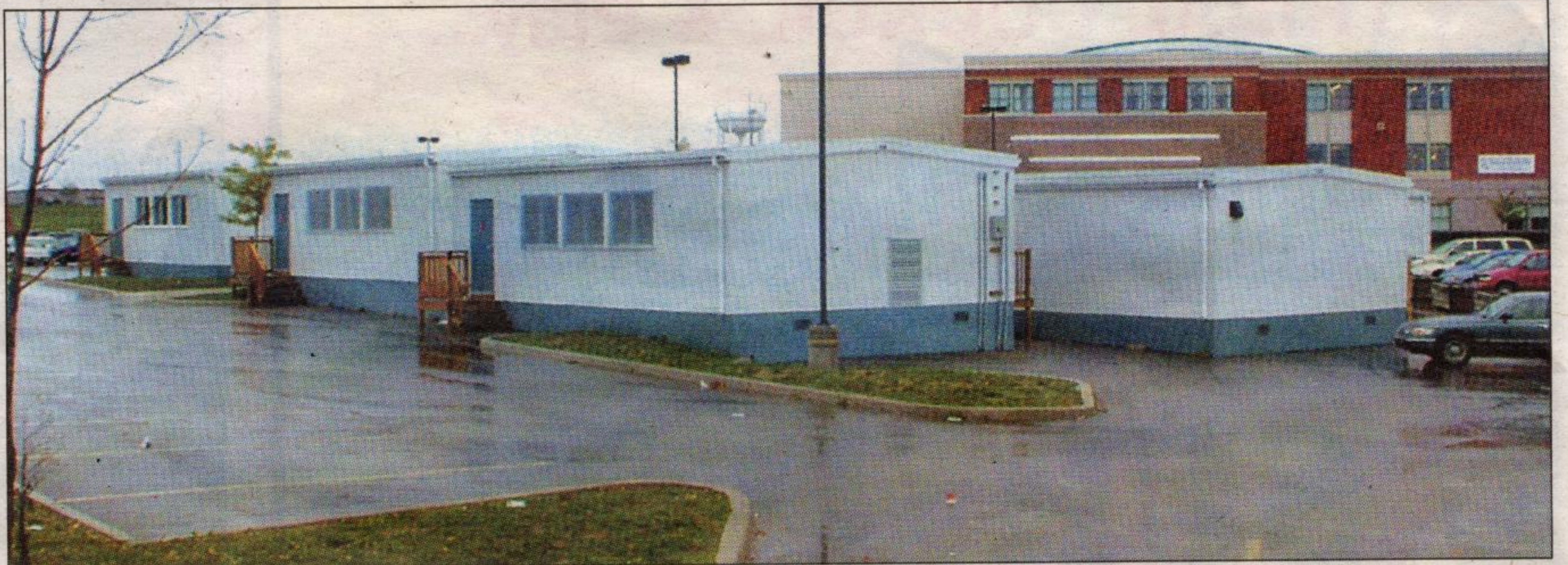
Corbacio said the board is hoping to have the two-storey, six-room addition on the school built sooner than originally planned.

Corbacio said the HCDSB plans to get approval from the Ministry of Education this year for the addition.

"I don't believe we would have it ready for this September," said Corbacio.

Corbacio said the school boards build the schools to accommodate the sustainable level of students. The portables will only be needed for 10-15 years because by then the school's enrolment will actually be on the decline, he said.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



Eleven portables in the parking lot at Christ the King Secondary School are not a welcome addition according to some neighbours who have deemed the structures "eyesores". Photo by Ted Brown

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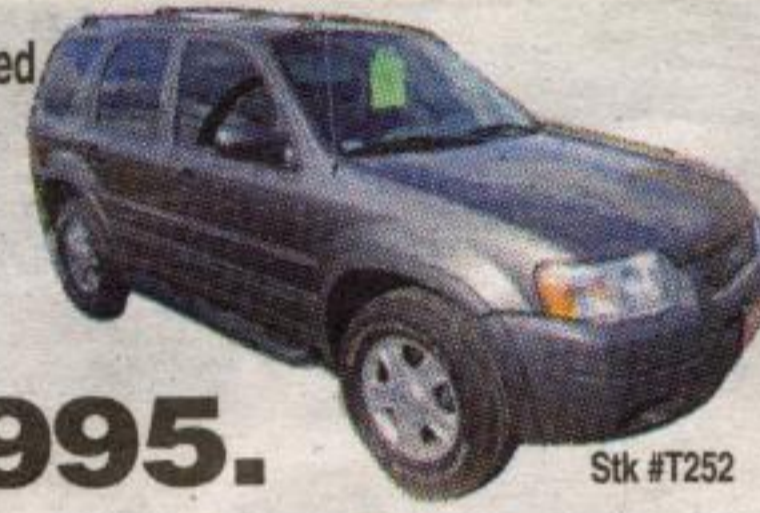


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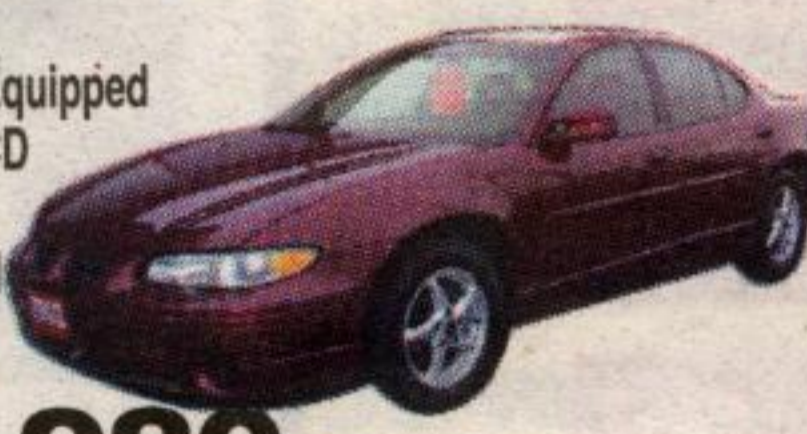


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