

Tooth Chatter



by
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TRENTON**
DENTURIST

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Board approves additional \$245,000 cost

New Georgetown school to be energy efficient

LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

The new elementary school in Georgetown South will be built with the environment in mind.

Halton District School Board gave the green light recently for the Danby Rd. school to be the first one in Halton to be built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program standards.

After some debate, mainly about the amount of money potentially to be saved in energy efficiency by adopting LEED standards, trustees voted 7-4 in favour.

There are four levels of achievement within the LEED system— certified, gold, silver and platinum, with a points range assigned to each depending on the number and extent of efficiencies incorporated into the new or renovated school's design.

The Board is proposing to build the school to the LEED silver level at an estimated additional cost of \$245,000.

"I'm very excited about it," said Halton Hills Trustee and Board Chair Gillian Tuck Kutarna, who back in May brought the motion to the board requesting staff look at how much it would cost and the feasibility of building the school to LEED standards.

"I hope that building our school in this way will show our kids that we are walking the walk," said Tuck Kutarna.

The school construction contract is to be tendered this fall, with the school scheduled to open next September. When complete,

Kutarna said, they expect the Georgetown school will be only the third LEED certified school in the province.

She said the school will be the "embodiment of good building practice," and the building itself can serve as a "living lab" for the kids who can study how their own school works.

Key areas of efficiency in design of a LEED standards school are site, use of water, energy and materials, indoor environmental quality and innovation.

HDSB Facilities Superintendent Gerry Cullen said some of the LEED features to be incorporated into the school include the provision of a shower and change room for staff and students who ride their bicycles to school, reduction of exterior light pollution, water use reduction (low flow), elimination of CFCs and Halons in the air conditioner system, a heat recovery device, using recycled building materials, installing argon gas-injected thermal pane windows and using low emitting sealants, adhesives, paints and carpets. Construction waste will also be sorted right on site for recycling and landfill.

Cullen said all of the cost to achieve LEED status wouldn't be borrowed as there are components that are one-time costs like



**GILLIAN
TUCK KUTARNA**

certification fees.

He also noted the board will have the ability to apply what is learned the first time around to future board construction or renovation projects.

Some trustees had concerns with the extra cost of building the school.

"It looks to me it will cost about \$250,000 per school and we will see a savings of about \$14,000 per year (in utilities cost) so it will take about 15 years to make that money back," said Oakville Trustee Philippa Ellis, who ended up voting against LEED for Georgetown. "I've heard that we're already pretty efficient in our (school) building design."

She said it was "ludicrous" to spend \$250,000 for a LEED plaque, and stressed the board could incorporate LEED ideas into its design.

"We have other fiscal priorities and this is not high on my list," said Ellis.

"I admire the concept," said Burlington Trustee Peggy Russell. "But we have open concept classrooms that need walls."

Russell said if the board goes ahead with LEED spending she will get phone calls from constituents complaining other schools are in need of repair.

"We only get one chance to get the guts of the building right," said Tuck Kutarna at the meeting. She added the board isn't being a trailblazer, but simply catching up with the trend toward more efficient building design.

—With files from Tim Whitnell, special to the IFP



Honouring Terry

McKenzie-Smith Bennett students assembled on the soccer field recently following their completing the final kilometre of their Terry Fox Run, in which all students in the school have been working on since September, accumulating 7,314 kms, the distance that Fox intended to run. Following completion of the final kilometre, the students assembled as the number 7-3-1-4. (Right) Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong (far left) and Halton Hills Ward 1 Councillor Jon Hurst joined in the final kilometre carrying the Terry Fox flag.

Photo by Ted Brown



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SECOND HAND SMOKE INCREASES EAR INFECTIONS IN CHILDREN

Ear infections are the Number One reason young children visit their doctors and take antibiotics. A new study finds many of those infections could be avoided if parents who smoke would make one important change.

A recent study in the archives of pediatric and adolescent medicine is giving parents another reason to quit. It finds exposure to cigarette smoke in the home increases children's risk of middle ear infections. The smoke inflames the tissues of the middle ear so that viruses and bacteria can invade more easily and cause infection.

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