

Board to sell surplus...

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Education) has told us that they are quite prepared to give us millions more to carry on with our business, but they feel that it's time that we sort of stop sitting on our holdings, which include the eight pieces (of property) that came up at the meeting," Ockenden said on Friday.



Halton District School Board Trustee Gerry Ockenden

The eight properties included on the surplus list include the vacant Speyside School, an elementary school in Milton, an elementary school and a portion of a high school in Burlington, a public school site, a parkway belt property and a portion of a high school campus in Oakville.

Ockenden said he understands the concerns of those who don't want any part of the MSB land sold.

"I'm not saying it's not an emotional issue. I understand that it's absolutely wonderful to talk through that field and have all that open space, but we have no hope of having a new school built in the north, so we have to live with the facilities that we

have and they have to be upgraded and that takes money," Ockenden said.

"I believe that it is important to have that (MSB) land out there, but I think it's more important, or just as important, to have a facility that the students and staff go into everyday that is a decent place to go to school and work everyday," he said, adding that any money made from the sale of MSB would go into the pot and not be earmarked for school improvements in the north.

Ockenden also said that the school board must offer municipalities, other school boards and government agencies first right of

refusal for surplus properties before it is offered for public sale, and that there is provincial money available for municipalities to purchase parkland. Recently, adding that rules have recently changed so the school board can keep all, and not just half of the money from surplus land sales.

Steven Parfeniuk, the Halton school board's superintendent of business services, said once the facilities services department has determined what portion of the MSB site to sell, they will apply for a severance with the Town.

He said in the end, the MBS site, currently 15.4 acres, will be "no larger or smaller or will have the same average acreage" as other school sites, which are between six and seven acres.

Parfeniuk said the next step is to look at the MSB property and see what fits best for the board's purposes and work with the municipality to sever a portion of the land for sale.

Along with the eight



SHINNY TIME: The outdoor ice rink the Town creates every winter gets well used by hockey players and pleasure skaters alike. Unlike last winter when the varying temperatures kept the rink out of service, this year the constant cold has made for a good season for those who like outdoor activities. - *Traci Gardner photo*

sites declared surplus, Parfeniuk said there are other sites in Oakville and Burlington that are under review to determine if they are needed by the Board.

"So, we have a considerable amount of work to do in order to get all of our sites ready for the next step which is governed by government regulation," he said, adding that the

Board hopes to raise approximately \$43-million with the sale of all of the surplus land and buildings.

Parfeniuk said the Ministry of Education recently approved \$117-million for capital projects in Halton and expects the Board to raise \$7.4-million for those projects from the disposition of surplus land.

"The Ministry currently has before it another \$100-million in projects for the Board and it would expect us to raise the balance to assist them fund the rest of the projects before them now. For the Georgetown High School addition, the Ministry expects us to raise \$4.6-million from the proceeds of disposition of surplus lands," he said.

Town Digest

Zoning meetings

The "pretty sparse" turnout at three recent public meetings to gather public comments and questions about the Town's proposed new comprehensive zoning bylaw did not come as a surprise to Town staff who said that zoning can be "perceived as pretty dry" by the public.

Used to implement policies in the Town's Official Plan – the blueprint for land use and development – the comprehensive zoning bylaw regulates every aspect of what can be built on private land.

Currently there are three zoning bylaws – one each for Georgetown, Acton and Esquering Township – and the review is designed to provide consistent town-wide standards and terminology.

Secondary deal

A three per cent wage increase in each of the next four years is one of the main parts of a new contract ratified by Halton public school secondary school teachers, last Monday.

The deal with the teachers, members of the Ontario

Secondary School Teachers' Federation Unit (OSSTF) Halton and the Halton District School Board also includes improvement of future benefits, reduced workloads, resolving large class sizes and the hiring of at least six full-time secondary school teachers for the 2009-10 school year.

The salary increase means a new teacher with a four-year degree will earn \$45,208 annually and

the pay scale tops out at \$84,086 for teachers with 12 years of experience or more. By the end of the new contract, a new full-time teacher would earn \$50,882, and an experienced full-time teacher would earn \$94,639.

The deal runs from September 2008 to 2012. The teachers' union ratified the deal last Monday and the school board approved it last Wednesday.

INDIAN RIVER DIRECT

CITRUS TRUCKLOAD SALE

ACTON

WED. FEB. 11TH, 12:30PM - 2:30PM

THE HIDE HOUSE PARKING LOT
(Eastern & Mill)

20 LB BOX OF FLORIDA
Seedless Navel Oranges
or Ruby Red Grapefruit

\$22.00

PER BOX



The Regional Municipality of Halton
www.halton.ca

Halton Hills Family Day Waste Collection Notice

Please Note Collection Day Changes

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Family Day					
Feb 16	17	18	Collection Moves →	20	Collection Moves →

Due to the Family Day holiday, waste collection services the week of February 16 will take place the day after your regular collection day.

Please place your waste at the curb by 7 a.m. on your scheduled collection day.

Please check your 2009 Waste Management Guide and Collection Calendar for your collection area details, or visit www.halton.ca/waste to use our "Search by Address" tool.

Halton Waste Management Site

will be closed Monday, February 16, 2009

Regular Operating Hours
Open Monday to Saturday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

5400 Regional Road 25, Milton

Please check your 2009 Waste Management Guide and Collection Calendar or visit us online at www.halton.ca/waste for more information.