

Almost quarter of population is enrolled in Halton schools

There are 50,240 students attending elementary and secondary schools in Halton this year, and the students represent 23 per cent of Halton's total population of 197,496, members of Halton County Board of Education learned at their meeting Wednesday.

Elementary school enrolment is 32,581, down 100 from the projected enrolment and down 104 from the enrolment a year ago, said Emmerson Lavender, assistant director of education. Secondary schools have 17,659 students as of Sept. 30 and that figure was down 41 from projections, up 997 from a year ago.

This year 16.2 per cent of the county's population is enrolled in an elementary school and 8.8 per cent of the total population attends a secondary school. Trustees noted the percentage of population enrolled in kindergarten is steadily declining — from 2.2 per cent in 1966 to 1.5 per cent this year.

North area
Elementary enrolment in the north education area's 25 schools totals 8,802, down 12 students from the projections. There are 852 in kindergartens at 19 of those schools. In the north area there

are also 254 enrolled in special education.

Secondary schools in north Halton area have 3,252 students enrolled — 535 in Acton, 1,724 in Georgetown and 1,021 in Milton.

This year the board has a staff of 1,304 principals and teachers in the elementary schools, for a pupil-teacher ratio of 24.99 to one. In the secondary schools, the ratio is 18.48 to one for the composite high schools and 13.53 to one in the special vocational schools. Secondary school full time staff totals 980, including 176 in the north area.

Regional government

Province halts rumors about extending term

Municipal elections will go ahead, as scheduled, despite rumors to the contrary that have been circulating in three southern Ontario counties, A. K. Meen, Parliamentary Assistant to the Ontario Treasurer Charles S. MacNaughton, said in a statement issued at Queen's Park Friday.

Mr. Meen said the erroneous rumors arose apparently because a proposal is now in preparation for reorganization of local government in the counties of Peel, Halton and Wentworth (including the City of Hamilton).

Some citizens apparently have the erroneous notion that the reorganization of local government will make the Dec. 4 elections unnecessary, and that existing councils' present terms of office will simply be extended, Mr. Meen said.

Statement

The following is the complete text of Mr. Meen's statement.
"It has come to my attention

that there is confusion in some people's minds about two important aspects of the local government reform program. First of all the Government of Ontario is preparing a detailed proposal for local government reorganization in the area west of metro for release late this fall. There is still a good deal of work ahead of us, and many important briefs from municipal and other interested parties to be analyzed and considered. No conclusions about the details of those arrangements have been reached yet by the Government.

"Changes in local government in the counties of Peel, Halton and Wentworth (including Hamilton) are going to be made in the future but with no fixed timetable at this stage. I must state most emphatically that there will be no change in election arrangements for those municipalities whose council terms conclude in 1972.

No extension

"Should provincial legislation be established next year to reorganize local government in the areas west of Metro, suitable provisions will be made at that time to have special elections held to establish local and regional municipal councils.

"In the absence of specific legislation bearing on reorganization of local government it is simply not possible or even appropriate to extend the life of municipal councils."

Foreign control issue debated at school

The concern of one Milton District High School student concerning foreign control of the economy was expressed clearly and concisely at a meet-the-candidate meeting for Halton's three federal candidates at the school Tuesday morning.

"I study from American textbooks, the toilets in the washrooms are American manufactured and the fire hydrants are measured in US gallons. I resent it and I want you to know it," the girl told the candidates during a question and answer period.

During her speech NDP candidate Carolyn Holstein emphasized the importance of returning the print and industry in Canadian-owned hands.

After Liberal Rud Whiting said his government had introduced a number of grants to help keep the publishing industry competitive, Mrs. Holstein charged the Liberal efforts were either on the wrong line or not strong enough because the results aren't evident. She pointed to recent sales of W. J. Gage and Ryerson Press to American concerns.

Whiting said grants had been made available to many industries to help keep them competitive, but noted he didn't know why schools used American texts. "Surely we have people here who can write, print and publish the texts."

Mrs. Holstein said it was only through Canadian media, the Canadian publishing industry and Canadian texts that the country could hope to retain the identity of a distinct culture of its own.

While both Whiting and Conservative Terry O'Connor shared concern for American-owned industry, O'Connor said he wasn't as concerned about toilets being imported as he was about what he called key sectors, such as publishing, natural resources, etc.

In answer to a question O'Connor said a Conservative government would put jobs as the prime goal whereas the Liberals saw inflation as the key ill in the country. O'Connor promised wage and price controls to combat inflation and cuts in personal income tax to stimulate the economy and create jobs.

Won't work

Whiting insisted personal income tax cuts didn't work

under Diefenbaker in 1962 and they wouldn't work now. He said they would just make inflation worse. He said the government had instituted training programs as a long range measure to prepare people for jobs and LIP and OFY grants as stop-gap measures.

O'Connor continued his attack on government waste and mismanagement and noted unemployment of 7.11 per cent exists while food rots in the

Niagara Peninsula and south western Ontario.

Mrs. Holstein continued her attack against the philosophy of granting corporation grants to provide jobs. She cited cases where millions of dollars were granted and jobs were cut back in spite of the grants.

Whiting claimed the promises of opposition parties would bankrupt the country.

The meeting was one of many and marks the final stretch of the campaign as the three candidates make the final laps about the riding. All appear to be in high gear.

J. R. Currie O.D.

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Communists? Nyet! says NDP candidate

The communist party proposal to merge the NDP with the communist party is an attempt to give the NDP a kiss of death and is geared to appeal to the Archie Bunkers of our society, Carolyn Holstein, NDP candidate for Halton riding told Milton District High School students at a meeting Tuesday.

"We have fought the communists and we will continue

to fight the communists. We are in no way similar and they have nothing to do with us. Their ideas are not compatible with ours."

The candidate said she was frustrated because of the amount of ignorance and prejudice that existed, and noted it was hard to believe it existed with the sophisticated media and education systems of the day.



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