

Board adopts parts of Reville Report

The Halton County Board of Education has adopted in principle most of the recommendations put forth by a three man inquiry set up by the province to establish guidelines for efficient school board-teacher negotiations.

The recommendations are known as the Reville Report—named after Judge R. Reville who heads the group.

Recently the Board put forth a position paper on the report; supporting many of the recommendations. However, one of the recommendations may cause a rift between the Board and county's secondary school teachers and their provincial organization, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation.

Agrees with report

The report urges, and the board agrees, that teachers should only be able to negotiate salary and fringe benefits and not working conditions. However, the teachers want such issues as pupil-teacher ratios and class sizes to be negotiated.

While the board and the teachers are at loggerheads on the negotiations issue, they are the same sides of the fence in supporting and rejecting several other portions of the Reville Report.

Both the teachers and the board are opposed to a recommendation which would allow the board to bring in anyone they wish to conduct salary conditions, while the teachers would be restricted to selecting a committee from among themselves.

The Reville Report suggests a permanent school board advisory committee be established.

Good rapport

Making advisory boards mandatory would destroy the good rapport the board now enjoys with the teachers according to the School Board trustees.

Parts of the board's position paper states, "This board approves in principle, the establishment of guidelines to facilitate the efficient negotiation of salary agreements between a board and its teaching staff. In the Reville Report we strongly support the recommendations

which tend to retain for a board the right to manage its system and are opposed to those recommendations which tend to lessen the good rapport existing between board and staff or which tend to complicate negotiation procedures unnecessarily."

The board's viewpoint will be sent to the Minister of Education Thomas Wells. A brief outlining the teachers' feeling of the Report have already been sent to the Minister by the provincial executive of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation.

Racing fan suffers fatal heart attack

A 58-year-old Preston man suffered a fatal heart attack as he was about to enter the racing stadium at Mohawk Raceway Thursday night.

Milton OPP said Borden Proctor had driven his car into the racetrack grounds, paid for his parking, and was walking into the building when the seizure took place. The attack occurred at about 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Proctor, who had previously been suffering from heart trouble, died at the racetrack. His body was taken to Milton District Hospital. His son, who was contacted by police,

made a positive identification. He is believed to have gone to the racetrack by himself. Police say most of the racetrack patrons were inside the building at the time.

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ONE OF MILTON'S top truck drivers is Richard Chester of 332 Mountainview Dr. Earlier in the fall Chester came second in his class—tandem axle tractor and tandem axle trailer, at the National Truck Rodeo in London. He's pictured showing his prize trophy to his daughter Sherry, a student of W. I. Dick School. Chester drives an oil tanker for Gulf Oil. (Photo by D. O'Reilly)

Low income families may benefit in tax change

Low income families in Ontario will be able to recover up to 42 per cent of their 1972 property taxes through income tax refunds financed by the Ontario Government.

The impact of the Ontario program is shown in a staff paper made public today by Treasurer Charles S. MacNaughton who said it justifies government concern over and action to offset the regressive effect of property taxation.

Using Guelph, which is representative of the province as a whole, the study found property tax credits for 1972 will range from \$123 for low income families to \$50 for those earning between \$10,000 and \$12,000. Maximum credit is \$250.

More Equitable

Mr. MacNaughton said the property tax credit plan was introduced in the 1972 budget as part of the government's continuing effort to make taxation more equitable. The study, he said, shows the credits made the combined burden of income and property taxes correspond more closely to the ability to pay.

The property tax credits replace the basic shelter grants which have been in effect in Ontario since 1968.

Property owners in Ontario will be able to claim \$90 plus 10 per cent of their property taxes less one per cent of their taxable income when they file income tax

returns early in the New Year. Tenants will be able to claim \$90 plus two per cent of their rent less one per cent of taxable income in determining their property tax credit.

Along with tax credits, two additional programs are being continued this year: the 25 per cent farm tax rebates and the \$50 to \$100 supplementary tax relief grants to needy pensioners. Eventually efforts will be made

to incorporate special relief for farmers and pensioners into the tax credit system.

Conclusive Evidence

Until the Guelph study was completed, Ontario lacked conclusive evidence to support many of the assumptions held by most government leaders and taxpayers. There has been no comparable study elsewhere although other programs in the United States and Britain are discussed in the report.

Guelph proved ideal for the purpose because it is the first major municipality where reassessment has been completed by provincial assessors. Also, the average property tax in Guelph in 1969 was \$374 compared with the provincial average of \$371 and the average gross income there was \$5,348 compared with the Ontario average of \$5,622.

As well as demonstrating the regressive effects of property taxes, particularly on low income families and pensioners, the study showed that the tax credit plan can be expanded to other areas of tax reform.

Advertise position

Halton County Council is hoping to attract a qualified person to represent the County on the Board of Governors of Sheridan College. The term of office of the County's present representative, Dr. C. A. Martin, of Milton, will terminate at the end of this year. During a County administration committee meeting last week, it was decided to advertise the position in local newspapers.

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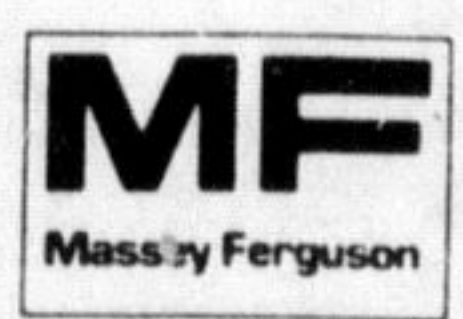
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