

Board to probe rising teacher absenteeism

Halton Board of Education decided Thursday to set up a special committee to look into increasing teacher absenteeism.

After rejecting a suggestion placed before the board by Superintendent of Instruction John Boich, which would have seen supply teachers who teach less than two consecutive days receive a 10 per cent pay cut, trustees discussed teacher absenteeism in depth.

Boich said he didn't think the absenteeism rate was the result of teachers "slacking". "Teachers do tend to get ill," he said.

He said his department has set a goal reversing the trend of teacher absenteeism in the next year.

"We might save only \$100,000 but that isn't chickenfeed. That money could be used to resume programs which have been cut because of restraints," he explained.

Boich said he is talking to area superintendents and principals and setting goals of a 25 per cent reduction in teacher absenteeism in schools where the rate is high and a 10 per cent drop in absenteeism in schools which have good rates.

He produced figures for the board which showed that at the elementary school level teachers missed 10,994.5 days last year and 5,896.5 days at the high school level. Boich determined there is a teacher absence rate of 4.22 at elementary school and 2.72 at the secondary school level.

The figures Boich offered indicated teacher absentee-

ism is on the rise over previous years at both levels. Trustee Bill Priestner described the rise as "alarming". He noted the figures showed each elementary school teacher missed an average of six days work out of about 190 and high school teachers averaged eight days off the job.

He said this would be considered poor in industry where there are about 50 more working days a year. Priestner thought three-and-a-half days would be acceptable in industry where the number of working days were more.

Priestner suggested the two day a month sick leave allowed teachers and other public employees was a negative incentive and objected to teachers being able to save up their sick leave days so they could retire a little earlier than they normally would.

Since a teacher is allowed 20 days sick leave a year a teacher could accumulate 200 days gratuity at the end of a 30 year career and still end up taking 13 days off a year.

"Everyone is grappling with this problem. I think Trustee Priestner has identified part of the problem but there are other factors. Semestering and extra periods help out at the high school level but the heavy toll shows at the elementary schools," Trustee Ernie Bodnar declared.

He suggested legislation be changed so sick leave days can't be accumulated. He felt it would be hard to get a change made.

"There is no real incentive to teachers to make sure they get to school," he said.

Bodnar suggested one alternative might be to have a pool of supply teachers in each area of the region but admitted this might lead to overstaffing.

"Perhaps a committee should look into this whole problem of absenteeism and the use of supply teachers. It appears the administration will probably never be able to come up with something that will please us, all of us," Bodnar said.

Boich noted over 80 per cent of the cases of absenteeism among teachers is due to sickness.

Trustee Bill Lawson said ways must be found to get principals to encourage teachers to get back on the job quickly when they are sick.

"We reward our teachers well at contract time and maybe we don't really need to get their respect and best efforts," Lawson said.

Trustee Tony Goodyear agreed there was a need for a committee. He noted any sav-

ings that could be made were substantial because each tax dollar is crucial.

Trustee Edna Robinson said the figures indicated teacher absenteeism began to rise when pressure was put on elementary teachers to implement core curriculum.

Trustee Len Auger noted as pay has gone up so has absenteeism. Amid chuckles several trustees suggested this may be because the teachers need the extra time to spend all their money.

"Are they really sick or just taking days off?" Trustee

Rick Goodin wondered.

"This committee should study which days they are off, what days of each week are missed. Figures don't appear to be too healthy either. They should be setting a good example for students by being a picture of health," he declared.

Bodnar said the committee shouldn't be restricted to just examining absenteeism but everything related so some innovative plans to keep teachers on the job might be hatched.

Omagh

Newlyweds will live in Morocco

by Mrs. Cecil Patterson
Congratulations and good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Latif Lamaandar who were married in Toronto recently. The bride is the former Nancy Smallfield, daughter of Dick Smallfield of Omagh village. The young couple will be returning in early September to Marrakesh, Morocco where they will reside.

Friends in the area are sorry to say goodbye to Mr. and Mrs. David Lockie and family of Derry Rd. They moved last week to the Listowel district. We wish them well in their new home.

Mr. and Mrs. John Perry of Highway 25 have purchased the home of the Lockie family and moved in a few days ago. We welcome them to their new home.

Western visitor
Mrs. William Sauntry of

Obituary

Mrs. Mayme Riddell

Mrs. Mary Ellen (Mayme) Riddell (nee Crowe) passed away suddenly on Thursday, August 19 in her 74th year. She was the wife of the late Clarence G. Riddell and is survived by her family, including daughter Marion, son-in-law Jim Featherstone, grandchildren Eric and Gail of Willowdale; son Douglas, daughter-in-law Myrna (King), grandchildren Jan, Carolyn and Lisa of Jacksonville, Florida; son Kenneth, daughter-in-law Helen (Bridgman); grandchildren Kim, Wayne and Patricia; of Milton.

Mrs. Riddell was the sister of Jean Blacklock of Milton, Ann Johnstone of Toronto, and the late Isabel McDowell, Joseph and John Crowe.

Mrs. Riddell lived in Milton all her life and for the past year had resided in the Bruce Apartments. She was a member of Knox Presbyterian Church.

Funeral service from the McKersie Funeral Home on August 21 was conducted by Rev. Trevor Lewis, with interment in Evergreen Cemetery, Milton. Pallbearers were her nephews Ronald Johnstone, Irwin Johnstone, Elmer Blacklock, Earl McDowell and Glen Riddell, also Vern Bridgman.



FIRST TO CHECK OUT of the new Zellers store Wednesday morning was Candy Barton (left) of Milton. She said the new store was "just great". At right, Zellers manager Lou Drage (seated) chats with official guests in his office. Standing



from left are Zellers Western Region vice-president Douglas Zeller of Montreal, Mayor Anne MacArthur, Mall owner John Tamai and Zellers District Manager Donald Harris.



THE LOFT, a women's wear boutique in the new Jack Fraser store in Milton Mall, was officially opened with the men's wear division of the company on Wednesday. Manager Teresa

James (front) and regional supervisor Joanne Finch are ready to serve customers in the modern store.

Petition . . .

(Continued from Page One)

cost of twinning Memorial Arena at \$350,000. The figures put before council at that time forecast revenues of \$150,000 from the sale of the Brown St. Arena and \$175,000 from Wintario and community recreation centres grants. Council has since learned that it was too optimistic with the \$175,000 figure and some people close to the campaign feel the \$150,000 estimate on the Brown St. site is optimistic as well.

According to Mrs. Hinton, the Milton Downtown Group discussed the closing of the arena last week and most members of that group expressed opposition and concern about the proposed closure. They asked for an explanation from council

could go to the supreme court and then that would depend on what mood the judge was in."

At that point Mayor MacArthur interjected to say "and Bob Zsadyani and I would be sued."

A motion was carried that directed the building inspector to issue a permit on the basis of the planner's report, with all councillors voting in support with the exception of Councillor Don Gordon.

He said after the meeting that he could not support the application because the town had no site plan control over the development.

"This could be another eyesore. There is nothing to show me where the cars will park, how they will get on or off Steeles Ave. or what the building will look like," he said.

No alternative
In a report by Planning Director Bob Zsadyani he said, "Provided that the owner conforms to these uses (which appears to be the case), I can see no alternative but for your department to issue a permit for the construction of this service centre-wholesale operation."

The uses he refers to include a builder's supply, a tradesmen's shop, a wholesale outlet, a service shop, a workshop and a warehouse.

He received support on that score from Councillor Hazel Porter.

A motion by Councillor Russ Powadiuk authorizing a grant of \$250 was approved.

Councillor Gordon Krantz suggested that the town was going at the grant backwards and he suggested that a financial statement be requested before any grant is considered. A financial report is being requested but the grant is not conditional upon the contents of the report.

"I don't think this group needs a grant, knowing who is in it," Councillor Rick Day suggested.

Do you have something that you no longer need? Sell it through the classified ads.

Blame spark
The fire was caused by a

west of the Campbellville interchange Friday morning.

C. Howard Gooselin of 375 Scottsdale Dr. was pronounced dead at Milton District Hospital at 10 a.m. Friday, 45 minutes after the collision with Wilhelmina Spark of 40 Glenburie Dr. Guelph.

The collision occurred when Mrs. Spark changed into the eastbound lane which was occupied by Mr. Gooselin's vehicle, according to Milton OPP.

Mr. Gooselin's 1975 International stake truck received \$50 in damage while Mrs. Spark's 1974 Dodge received

\$1,500 damage.

Constable T.J. Brant said he was talking to Mr. Gooselin at the scene of the accident when Mr. Gooselin had complained of feeling ill, collapsed and began turning blue.

Constable Brant immediately began mouth to mouth resuscitation and continued until a passing motorist relieved him.

Constable Brant then called for an ambulance to take the man to Milton District Hospital.

The condition of 10-year-old Leigh King of Burlington and his two-year-old sister Terra has improved since they were burned in a tent fire at Coral Park last week.

Leigh is listed in satisfactory condition in Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington, while his sister Terra is reported in good condition with a "good night" in the burn ward at Hamilton General Hospital.

Leigh and Terra were both trapped in a tent fire shortly after midnight on August 16 in Coral Park at Kilbride, along with their seven-year-old brother Glen and friend Henry LeBlanc, 14, also from Burlington.

Members of the fire department stayed long enough to extinguish several burning logs located under a tree which had caught fire from a stray spark.

Champion Real Estate MARKET PLACE

A.E. LePAGE

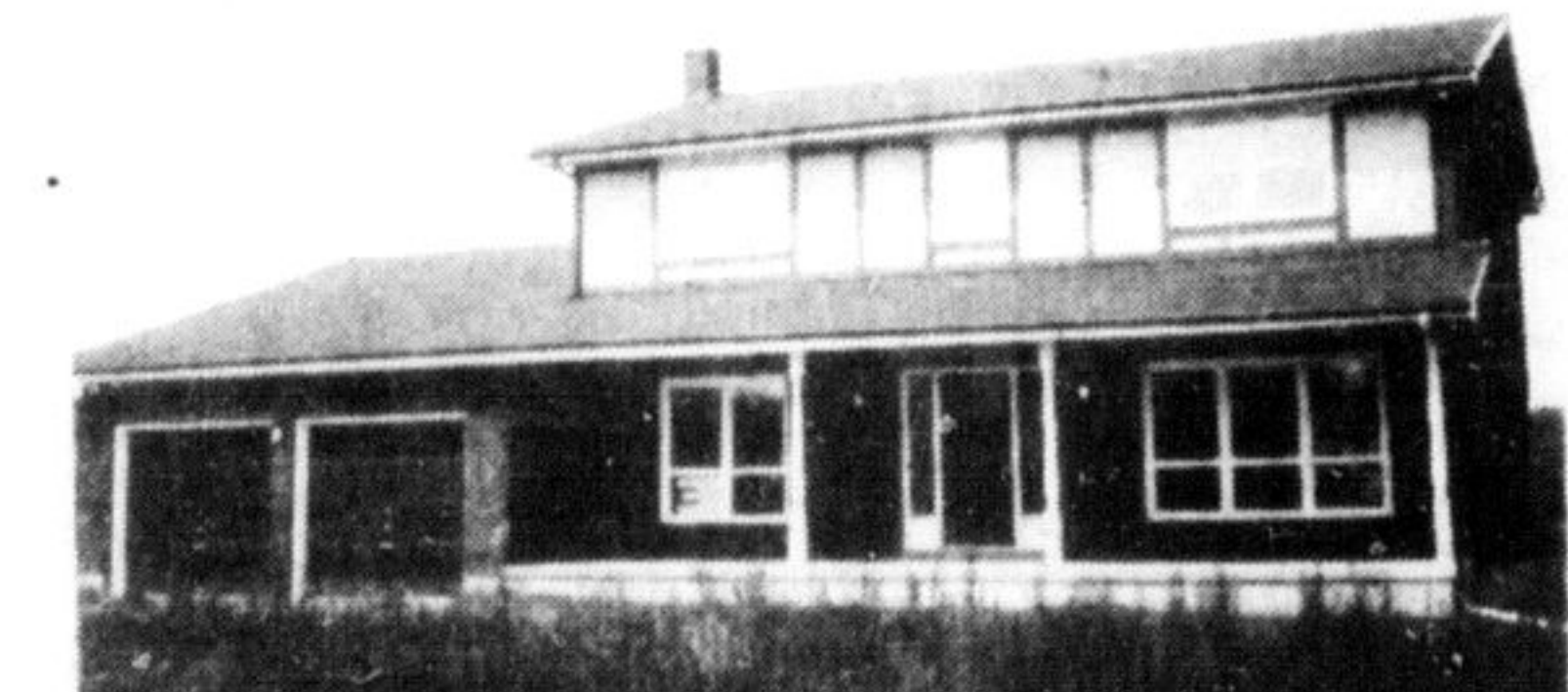
JOINED TOGETHER TO SERVE YOU BETTER



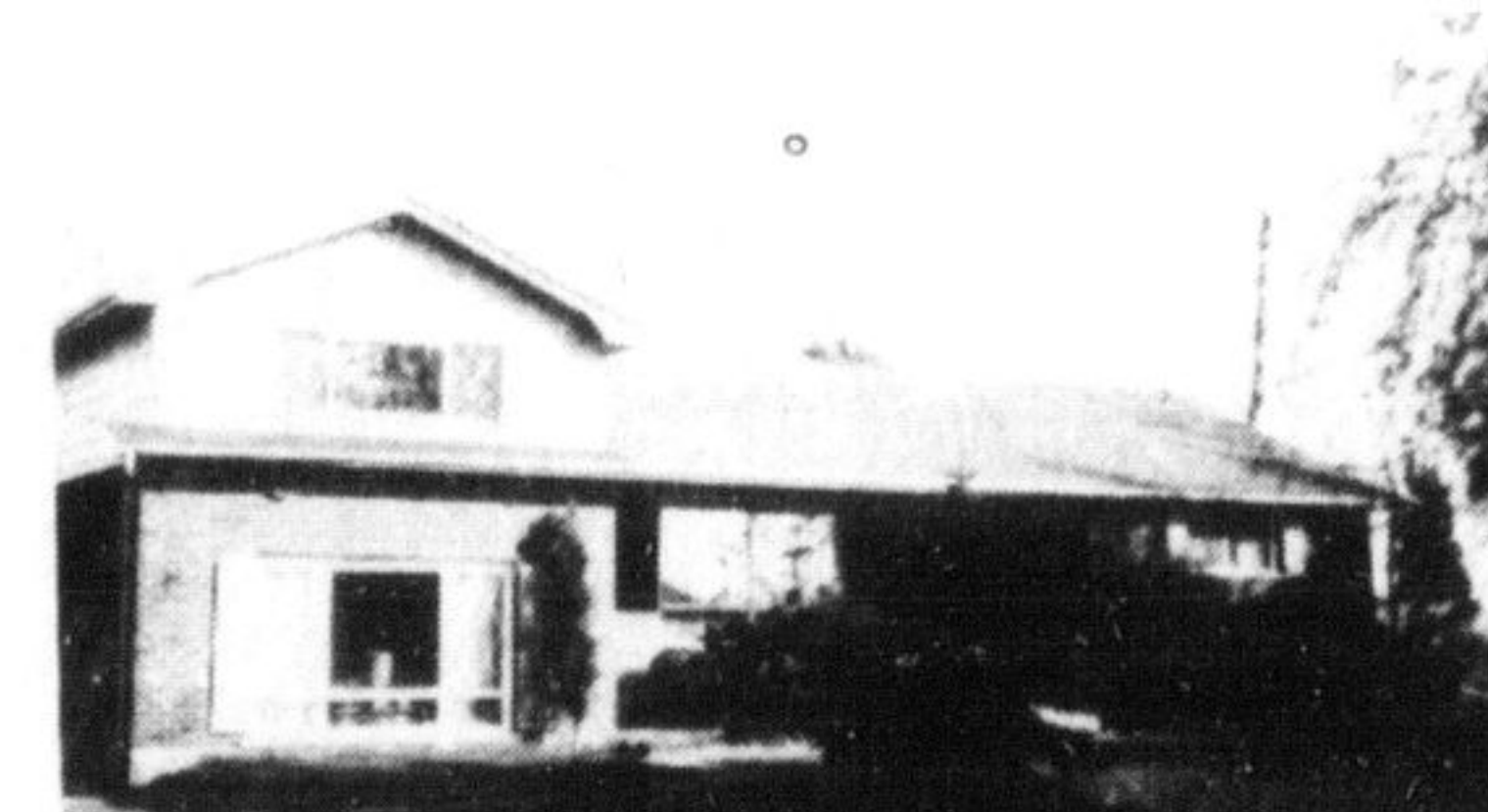
COUNTRY PROPERTIES



20 Acres, with view of escarpment and Kelso Lake. 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths, large main floor family room with fireplace. Make an offer.



Acre lot with 2 storey 4 bedroom brick and aluminum house. Den, family room with brick fireplace, full basement, oak spiral staircase, large foyer. Listed below cost, open to all offers.



Beautiful smaller country home. 4 bedrooms, family room, living room with fireplace. 1 1/2 acres. \$79,900.



3 bedrooms, 2 baths, country kitchen, walk-out from dining room. Finished basement with fireplace. 1 1/3 acres. \$119,000.

95 Acres. Mostly workable, large barn, great building site - one of the highest points in the area. Large frontage. Listed at \$159,900.

100 Acres. Good farm buildings, all workable on Airport Road. Asking \$119,000.

FOR A CONFIDENTIAL EVALUATION WITHOUT OBLIGATION, PLEASE CALL ME.

DENZIL LAWRENCE 878-9543
OAKVILLE 845-4267 OR TORONTO, 368-4121

Review 151

Negative view gets Watson a new post

It's not often that people are appointed to special committees or special jobs because of their negative attitudes, but that appeared to be the case Tuesday night at Milton Council.

Council appointed Councillor Jim Watson to sit on a special committee set up by the region to review regional government and suggest improvements to Bill 151, the act establishing the region.

Mayor Anne MacArthur suggested Councillor Watson for the job. Mr. Watson warned council that any contribution he would make would be negative.

"I don't think we need the committee. I think of Bill 151 as a guideline only and if there is anything there we don't like, we can change as we go. Any contribution I can make will be from a negative viewpoint," he explained.

"That's what they need. Get in there," came words of

encouragement from Councillor Rick Day.

Mayor MacArthur suggested the committee was a very important one and she surmised that the real purpose behind the study committee was to provide documentation for a one tier government in Halton.

One tier government would abolish area councils and leave the entire policy setting function to the region.

Involved in accident dies of heart attack

A 67-year-old Guelph man suffered a heart attack and died shortly after he was involved in a two-car collision on Highway 401 less than a mile

At Co-Op

Fire in dryer

A fire in one of the grain dryers at the United Co-op on Bronte St. Thursday night ruined 25 tons of grain and meant the loss of the dryer for a couple of days, according to Assistant Deputy Chief Jim Coulson of Milton Fire Department.

Mr. Coulson said the fire occurred Thursday night around 8 o'clock when some gears in the dryer broke down, causing the dryer to overheat.

An official at the Co-op said the dryer has been repaired and is working now.

Burns field
Thursday afternoon the fire department was called out to a brush fire near Tremaine Rd. north of Derry Rd., but the brush fire turned out to be a farmer burning off wheat from his field.

The farmer, Lorne Walker neglected to inform the fire department that he would be burning the straw off, said Mr. Coulson.

Members of the fire department stayed long enough to extinguish several burning logs located under a tree which had caught fire from a stray spark.

west of the Campbellville interchange Friday morning.

C. Howard Gooselin of 375 Scottsdale Dr. was pronounced dead at Milton District Hospital at 10 a.m. Friday, 45 minutes after the collision with Wilhelmina Spark of 40 Glenburie Dr. Guelph.

The collision occurred when Mrs. Spark changed into the eastbound lane which was occupied by Mr. Gooselin's vehicle, according to Milton OPP.

Mr. Gooselin's 1975 International stake truck received \$50 in damage while Mrs. Spark's 1974 Dodge received

\$1,500 damage.

Constable T.J. Brant said he was talking to Mr. Gooselin at the scene of the accident when Mr. Gooselin had complained of feeling ill, collapsed and began turning blue.

Constable Brant immediately began mouth to mouth resuscitation and continued until a passing motorist relieved him.

Constable Brant then called for an ambulance to take the man to Milton District Hospital.

The condition of 10-year-old Leigh King of Burlington and his two-year-old sister Terra has improved since they were burned in a tent fire at Coral Park last week.

Leigh is listed in satisfactory condition in Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington, while his sister Terra is reported in good condition with a "good night" in the burn ward at Hamilton General Hospital.

Leigh and Terra were both trapped in a tent fire shortly after midnight on August 16 in Coral Park at Kilbride, along with their seven-year-old brother Glen and friend Henry LeBlanc, 14, also from Burlington.

Members of the fire department stayed long enough to extinguish several burning logs located under a tree which had caught fire from a stray spark.

Champion classified ads bring quick results. Place one today.

Project approved . . .

(Continued from Page One)

there was considerable doubt about the legality of that development in an industrial zone. His contention was supported by Clerk Jack McGeachie and Deputy Clerk Campbell Thompson.

Mr. McGeachie reminded council that it had passed a by-law last year to prohibit use of industrial land for retail ventures.

"This is completely contrary to what council has said. I'm not saying it is not a good place for it, I'm just saying it doesn't comply with your by-law," the clerk warned.

Councillor Marjorie Powys suggested councillors could argue that it did not fit the by-law, but she felt it was splitting hairs.

Councillor Gord Krantz quipped the only problem was that the proposal could save people some money and "you're not supposed to do that these days."

Mayor MacArthur said, "I made a decision along with Mr. Zsadyani and now I'm asking council to support it."

Mr. Weido said the question is, should retail uses be permitted?

Proper route
Councillor Rick Day suggested the proper route would be to ask the applicant to apply for a rezoning. "If he issues a writ of mandamus it

Town gives \$250 to steam show

In spite of protests from some councillors, Milton Council voted to give the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Association a grant of \$250.

Association Secretary Sherwood Hume had requested free or reduced rates for rental of the Lions Club Hall and similar consideration for the daily garbage pick-up the town provides at the Steam-Era reunions.

Councillor Jim Watson opposed the reduced rates on either request. "They have their own funds. All kinds of people have their hands in our pocket. I don't think we should do it," he objected.

"I don't think this group needs a grant, knowing who is in it," Councillor Rick Day suggested.

Campaign

(Continued from Page One)

"Town Council makes those decisions," said publicity chairman Jim Dills, "and they must defend them. Our concern is raising the money.

The committee agreed on wording of the brochure which will be distributed in Milton by members of the MMHA and the figure skating club. On the subject of the figure skating club, it was decided to contact this year's president Eileen McCutcheon and ask for their help.

The committee thought it had a figure skating representative in Bill Russell, but it was pointed out at Monday's meeting that he was last year's president, and is no longer connected with the club.

The main discussion of the brochure centred around wording of the explanation of costs.

Two figures

It was decided to use two figures to explain what the real cost of rebuilding Armstrong Arena would be. First the brochure lists the figure of \$150,000 which is an estimation from the engineer's report of costs to bring the structural steelwork up to the standards of the 1970 National Building Code. This includes \$130,000 for repair work and \$20,000 for painting and cleaning.

Then the brochure lists a figure of \$100,000 for "capital costs forecast". This figure represents the cost of replacing the floor (\$25,000) and installing seating (\$75,000) which council had previously indicated it planned to do sometime in the future.

The original wording simply listed the figure of \$250,000, but Committee secretary Marty Caputo pointed out there will be no seating in the Memorial Arena addition, so it was decided to alter the wording.

January finish
Fund-raising is expected to be completed by the end of January, although payroll deductions and pledges may extend beyond that date.

Only eight committee members were at Monday's meeting. They were Don Loughheed, Dave Brush, Joe McCann, Gord Krantz, Gord Cartwright, Marty Caputo, Bill Rowney and Jim Dills. The next meeting is Monday Aug. 30, at 7 p.m.