



DAMAGES to a Hand Chemical drying trailer are estimated at \$3,000 as a result of fire early Thursday morning. The blaze caused by

phosphorous was discovered by a neighboring resident and a Halton Regional Police officer.

# Board won't pay for French schooling

Public school supporters won't be able to send their French-speaking children to Sacre-Coeur in Georgetown and St. Philippe in Burlington without paying a tuition fee.

Thursday Trustee Len Auger reported to Halton Board of Education that there are 18 pupils who are French speaking but not Catholic, who are going to the two schools.

He said these children's parents are public school supporters and must pay tuition fees to the Halton Separate School Board to have them educated in French.

Auger said the small number of children involved prevents the board from starting its own classes for French pupils in elementary schools.

He suggested the board pay the pupil's tuition fees to the separate board.

Director of Education Em Lavender said the board would have to pay \$1,200 for each pupil but the province would give a grant of \$558 for each student.

If the board did pay the tuition it wasn't right if the board wasn't also represented on the separate board's selection committee which screens every applicant, Trustee Bert Hinton declared.

Lavender said the board supports education in French and pointed out the Education Act requires the board to have classes for French students once there are at

least 25. He said there is a clear obligation for the board to provide the classes once there are 25 pupils and while there aren't 25 now there likely will be in the not too distant future.

Unless the board took action, parents of French speaking non-Catholic students would either have to continue paying tuition or else declare they are Catholic for local tax purposes.

He assured trustees the board wouldn't be required to set up special classes for the pupils if there were a

separate school teachers' strike and the schools closed. A separate teachers' strike in Halton appears possible this spring.

Trustee Fred Armitage noted the tuition money isn't in this year's recently passed budget and he didn't think the board should start paying for French non-Catholic pupils' education until it has to, when there are 25 students.

Lavender noted high school French pupils are bused to North York and Hamilton schools and the board pays their tuition fees.

Auger informed the board the parents of these 18 students now pay a "couple" of hundred dollars a year in tuition fees in addition to their taxes.

According to Trustee Bill Priestner, the separate school board receives a

higher grant now for these pupils than the public board would if it paid the tuition fee so the proposed change in policy would let Queen's Park "off the hook" for some money.

Trustees voted against paying the tuition fees.

## \$3,000 damage

Approximately \$3,000 damage was done as a result of a phosphorous fire at Hand Chemical Thursday morning.

Firefighters were called to Hand Chemical after a neighboring resident and Halton Regional Police officer noticed the blaze shortly after 6 a.m.

There was nobody at the site at the time of the fire, stated fire officials. The fire was limited to a renovated drying trailer, containing the phosphorous.



Congratulations are extended to Mr. John Scott, winner of the Barbecue, by Manager Percy Barr of Superior Propane, while Fire Chief A. E. Clements, who drew the winning ticket, looks on. We wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who took time out to say Hello and examine our booth at the Milton Mall Outdoor Show.

The Staff  
**SUPERIOR PROPANE Ltd.**  
130 Thompson Road  
Milton

## 189 school days planned for 78-79

Halton students will have 189 days of school next year if Halton Board of Education accepts the administrations planned 1978-79 calendar. School would begin September 5 and end June 29, according to the plan.

Christmas holidays would be from December 23 to January 2 and mid-winter break from March 19-23.

Other vacations include Thanksgiving on October 9, Good Friday April 13 and Easter Monday April 16, and Victoria Day May 21. Pupils would not miss a day of school for Remembrance Day, November 11, since it is on a

Saturday this year.

Students would also be off nine days when teachers have professional activity days. Pupils school year wouldn't start until September 6 since September 5 is for staff orientation.

November 27, January 26, March 5 and June 28 and 29 are also professional activity days for elementary teachers, according to the administration proposal. For elementary teachers in the north October 27, February 12 and May 14 are also professional activity days.

Besides September 5 and January 26, high school

teachers also have a number of other professional activity days. January 29 and 30 are professional development days in semestered schools as are June 25 to 29. June 21 to 29 are professional activity days in non-semestered schools.

Trustees were told the administration hopes the separate schools will have the same days of no school next year and the school calendar has been kept as similar to this year's as possible.

Superintendent of Special Services Ron Chapman said professional activity days are important for staff development and directly effects students.

Trustee Bill Herd said since Halton has a very experienced and highly qualified staff the number of professional activity days should be reduced. Because of years of experience and qualifications the board pays its teachers high salaries.

Chapman said reduction in the number of days wasn't in

the best interest of the Halton system.

Trustee Judy Alexander said professional activity days should be grouped around school vacations. She suggested having some of these days soon after vacations annoys parents.

Trustee Edna Robinson said with summer jobs scarce parents are upset because Halton pupils get out later than any others in Ontario.

Chairman Garry Morton said the answer to that was simple. Other boards are cheating on the number of days pupils must be in school each year under the Education Act.

## High school open house

Open house at Milton District High School this Wednesday evening promises to be a busy affair with several interesting programs scheduled for the two-hour visit, between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m.

The evening, open to parents, friends and families of students, is expected to draw a crowd of approximately 1,000 people, said Marjorie Powys, a member of the planning committee for the evening.

On the agenda are plans for a half-hour auditorium program including band selections from the school's concert and jazz band under the direction of music teacher Laurie Walker.

There will be drama presentations, art displays, slides and numerous exhibits in each department, she continued.

All of the school's clubs will organize demonstrations and displays including a Bible quiz by the school's Christian Fellowship Club, demonstrations on camping and equip-

ment by the school's outdoor club, The Outers, pottery displays and a boys' gymnastic display.

One of the many highlights of the program will include a "Typathon for Muscular Dystrophy". Typing students, families and visiting friends are all invited to participate. The "typathon" will be held throughout the evening for 20 minute periods, with all proceeds going towards helping muscular dystrophy patients, said Mrs. Powys.

Visitors will also be eligible for door prizes in the school's various departments, including a hand calculator in the business department. Programs describing the evening's activities and events are available at the door.

"We are hoping everyone will come and see what is being done with their tax money," she said.

"We feel there is a lot for people to be proud of." The theme of this year's open house program is "Encounters of the Learning Kind."

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Further enquiries may be directed to:  
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