

Based on COL

Increase pensions, GIC

Increases in the Old Age Security pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement and Spouse's Allowance, effective in October, 1978, were announced by Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin. Increases in Old Age Security pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement payments represent the 20th quarterly escalation based on the cost of living, as provided for in the Old Age Security Act since October, 1973.

The new monthly total at the single rate for persons receiving both the basic Old Age Security pension and maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement will be \$280.29.

For a married couple, both pensioners, the combination of the basic pension and maximum supplement will provide a monthly payment of \$534.70 for the couple.

The basic Old Age Security pension will rise in October to \$164.74 from the present \$159.79.

The Guaranteed Income Supplement is paid to pensioners whose income, apart from the Old Age Security pension, is limited. The amount of the supplement varies in relation to the amount of income.

The maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement for a single person, or a married person whose spouse is not a pensioner and is not receiving a Spouse's Allowance, will go up in October to \$115.55 from its current \$112.08.

The maximum supplement for a married couple, both pensioners, will increase to \$102.61 each from \$99.52.

Added to the basic pension, this will give each married pensioner \$267.35 monthly, or a total of \$534.70 for the couple.

The Spouse's Allowance is paid to persons between 60 and 65 years of age who are married to Old Age Security pensioners and meet residence requirements. Entitlement to a Spouse's Allowance, and amount paid, is based on yearly income.

The maximum Spouse's Allowance will increase to \$267.35 from \$259.31. The maximum Spouse's Allowance is made up of an amount equivalent to the basic Old Age Security pension and the maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement at the married rate.

Professional activity days cut for elementary teacher

In a surprise move Thursday, Halton Board of Education decided elementary teachers will have just seven professional activity days next year but high school teachers will still have nine.

Oakville Trustee Jim Clelland urged trustees support his call for a reduction in the number of professional activity days immediately from nine to seven.

He observed there is little evidence to support administration claims teacher working days (when students aren't present) are of any benefit.

Clelland pointed out Halton's teaching staff is very well paid, because of their long years of service and experience, so they shouldn't need much professional development.

He suggested that if teachers worked eight hours instead of the five or six hours, they work on PA days they would only need seven a year, anyway.

Teacher moral is "perplexing" and "hostility" towards teachers is growing so the board could help improve the teachers' image by having them teaching two more days a year, he claimed.

Director of Education Em Lavender, observed teachers handle administrative chores, professional development and program development on professional activity jobs. Administrative chores are mostly consulting with pupils and parents and evaluating pupil progress.

Professional activity days would likely cause problems at semesters high schools, where days are used between semesters to get the school ready for the new year, Trustee Noel Cooper, warned.

Clelland observed there are lots of leaders in Halton's schools, one in four teachers receives a responsibility allowance so the leaders could handle getting a semesters high school ready for the new term.

It is pretty hard to convince the public they are getting

Teachers get paid regardless of whether they are in front of the classroom or on a professional activity day so there is no cost saving in cutting the number of professional activity days.

However, having them in the classroom would be better value for tax dollars, Trustee Len Crosier, observed.

Burlington Trustee, Dr. Helen Howard-Lock, asked to have the entire issue tabled until next spring, when the new school year is planned, but wasn't supported by her colleagues.

Professional activity days are needed, Milton Trustee, Ivan Armstrong observed. However, they would be much more useful and more acceptable to the public, if they were in August. He said the public is most unhappy about the professional activity day the first day of the school year.

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good value for their tax dollars, Trustee Fred Armistage, declared. He noted teachers work a lot less days each year than most people, so two extra days in class shouldn't be a problem.

Professional development is necessary, but seven days a year would be a more "reasonable" number, Georgetown Trustee, Barry Shepherd, said.

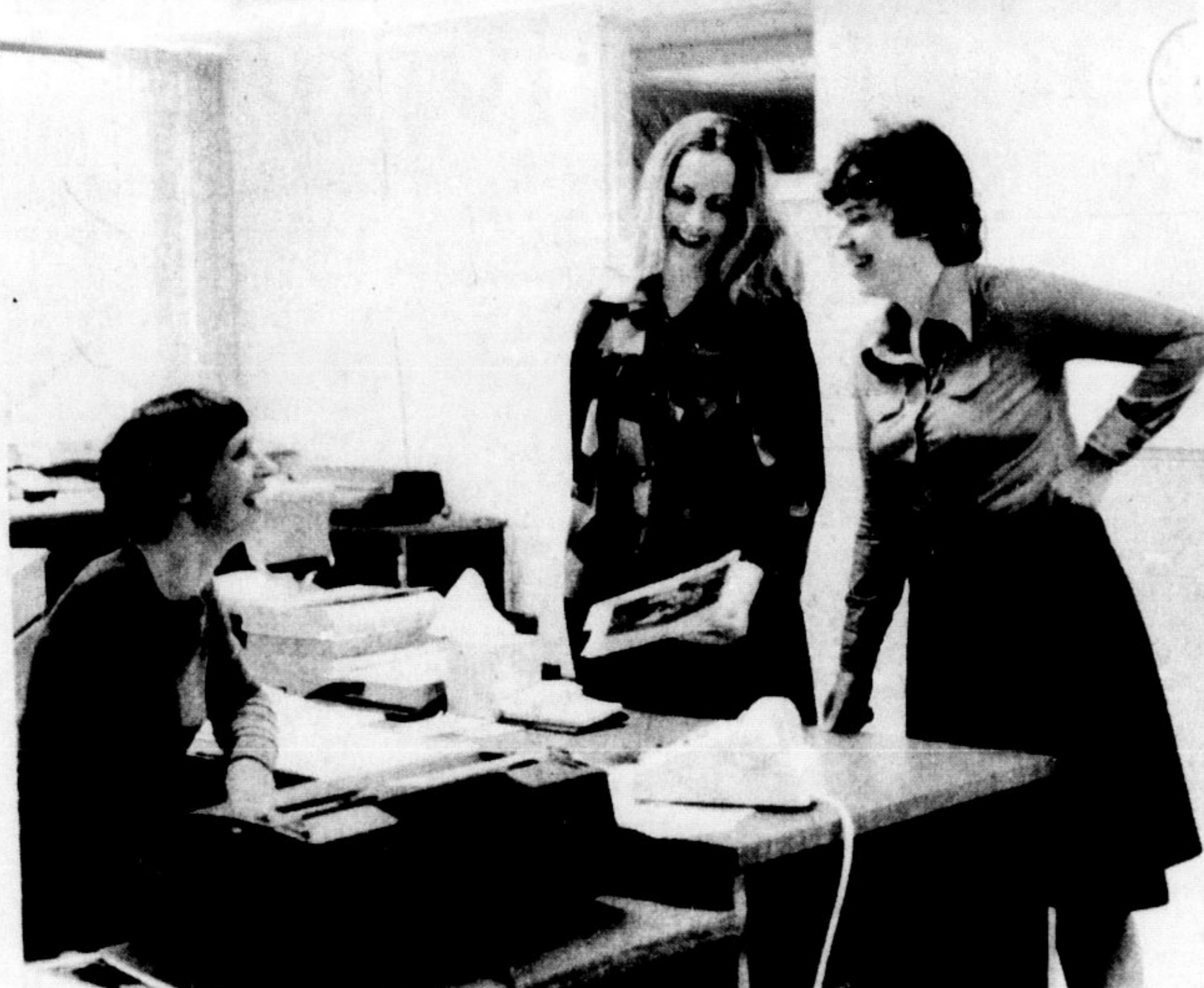
Trustee, Bill Herd, was successful in having Clelland's motion amended, so any reduction in professional activity days would be in 1979-80, and not this year. He said any change in the school year now would be disruptive and inconvenient.

The extra two days of classes are needed since schools are using up two and a half hours each week on squirt reading sessions and health hustles, Trustee Elsie Hilson, said.

The vote results were the real shocker.

The board voted first on the question of reducing professional activity days for high school teachers, and it lost because it ended in a 10-10 tie.

Trustee Bert Hinton, Shepherd, Crosier, Armistage, Clelland, Hilson, Armstrong, Herd, Cooper and Bill Lawson voted for the reduction while Edna Robinson, L. Auger, Judy Alexander, Bill Priestner, Cam Jackson, Florence Meares, Garry Morton, John Bradley, Elaine Rhiem and Howard-Lock were opposed.



SCHOOL OPENING at the Credit Valley Treatment Centre for Handicapped Children meant many hectic hours for employees at the school. Checking the day's schedule are Diana Thomson, centre, executive director with Pat Grant, right, social worker and Otis Weldon, left, secretary.



A TREE FORT, accessible by wheelchair, is one of the Centre's top favorites for all students. Ryan Leworthy takes particular delight in getting a different look at the world from inside of the fort.

Yogurt Loaf not popular

The second meeting of the Scotch Block Lassies 4-H Club was held Monday, Sept. 25 at Ligny Hall. The members discussed the importance of a good breakfast to start their day.

Some new and interesting ideas were presented for different foods to have at breakfast. These ideas included bacon and tomato sandwiches, cheese dog, and toasted cheese sandwiches.

In the kitchen the members were divided into two groups to make Energy Squares and Yogurt Loaf. The Energy Squares, using Metric Crispy Granola, were very good and disappeared fast. The Yogurt Loaf was not very popular. It had a strong taste to it. Healthy Peanut Butter was also brought and it was enjoyed too.

Standard school hours needed

School hours in Halton could be standardized so all students go in and out at the same time.

Trustee Len Crosier has proposed hours be standardized. He noted each school sets its own hours and there isn't much uniformity across the region. His suggestion will be dealt with by Halton Board of Education later this month.

OPC to set hearing date

The Ontario Police Commission has been asked to establish the employment status of Halton's police administrator.

Both the Halton Police Commission, which hired administrator Ray Munro in May, and the Police Association asked for a "full and formal hearing" to establish the status of Munro, a letter at Thursday's commission meeting revealed.

Munro appears to have a foot in both camps. The commission hired him on a verbal contract as a consultant, according to Halton commissioner Harry Barrett. The contract, at \$30,000 per year, is renewable for a four or five year term, he said.

In the other camp, the police association also claims to represent Munro. It says he is a member, said Barrett.

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DON'T MISS ERIN FALL FAIR THANKSGIVING WEEKEND
October 6th, 7th, 8th & 9th

Friday, October 6th
9:30 a.m. - West Central Ontario Championship Holstein Show
Placing and Judging Hall Exhibits

Saturday, October 7th
1:00 p.m. - STOCK TRACTOR PULL
2:30 p.m. - Icelandic Horse Demonstration
3:00 p.m. - Fair Queen Competition
1:30 p.m. - Goat Show
1:30 p.m. - Jersey Show, Dairy 4-H Clubs, Midway
9:00 p.m. - Fair Dance

Sunday, October 8th
Gates open at 1 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - Pony Show
Palomino Classes
1:30 p.m. - Western Horses
2:00 p.m. - HEAVY HORSE DRAW
2:00 p.m. - Sheep Show
2:00 p.m. - Exhibits Hall Entertainment Coliseum Exhibits, Midway

Monday, October 9th, Thanksgiving Day
Heavy Horses, Light Horses
Saddle and Hunter Classes
Exhibits Hall Entertainment
Beef Cattle Shows
Swine Show
Midway

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