

Projections wrong, but

Declining enrolment may close two Halton schools

Declining enrolment which has hit Halton as well as other school jurisdictions with a vengeance has not hurt Halton as much as was anticipated, Director of Education Em. Lavender told Halton Board of Education Thursday night.

In spite of forecasts there were 357 more students in the system than expected and Halton has no redundant teachers. Thirty elementary teachers were hired to replace those who have quit in the ordinary attrition rate.

Lavender said some classrooms in schools will still have to be closed because of the decline in enrolment and the administration is attempting to do this with delicacy by notifying the municipality involved and giving all the pertinent information.

Trustee Judy Alexander of Oakville noted that enrolment figures show two schools in Halton fall below criteria

established by the board. Figures show that Westbrook public school in Oakville has dropped to an enrolment of 47 pupils this year from 50 in 1977 despite a projection of 51. Campbellville public school enrolment dropped to 54 this year from 61 last, actually one more than the 53 projected.

Board policy stipulates that schools with enrolment below 100 students are on the elimination list. Schools with enrolment below 200 will be studied to determine if the number can be improved.

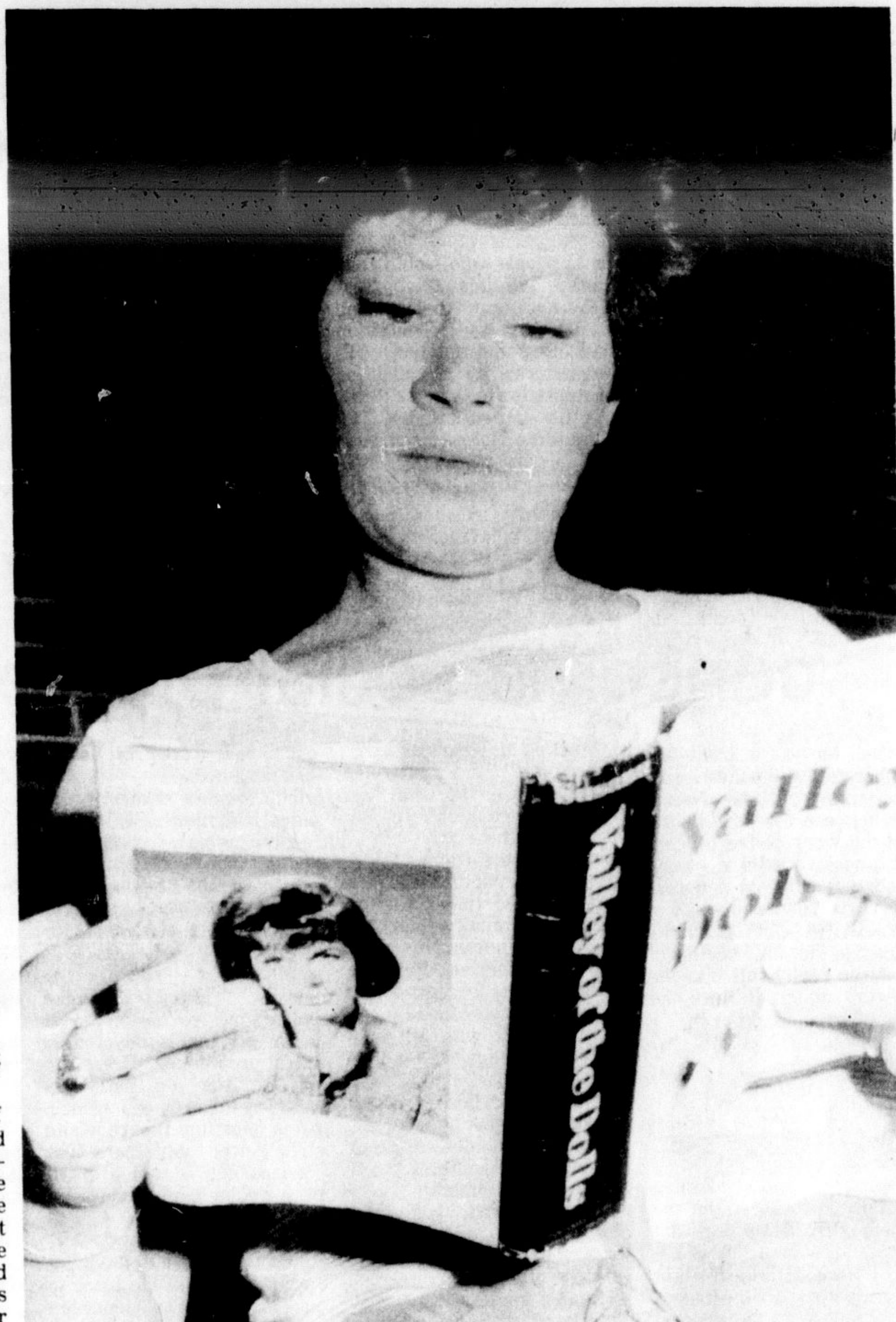
Campbellville school has so far avoided being closed because of intense lobbying by parents in that area of Milton and by its large kindergarten enrolment, which makes up almost half the students.

However, Lavender told the board Thursday he would soon start applying board criteria to close schools. Georgetown trustee Barry

Shepherd asked if board policy re use of redundant classrooms was being implemented. Lavender replied that the board supports the use of surplus school facilities by the public and it was laid out in board policy.

Shepherd also questioned why long range projection of 10 years could not be used to determine school use instead of the usual five years. Lavender said it would be difficult because there were many factors to consider such as the economy, municipal subdivision policies, sewage treatment plants, housing starts, fertility rates, mortgage rates, immigration policy and others.

Actual enrolment figures to the end of September 30 show 20,885 in the secondary system, 39 less than the projection, and 59 higher than last year. The elementary figure of 29,241 is 980 less than 1977 but 357 more than projected.



AN INTERESTED READER is Donna Hadley, president of the Milton and District University Women's Club. The club held a book sale at Milton Mall Friday and Saturday to raise money for the two scholarships the organization presents each year, one at the high school and the other at E.C. Drury.

Junk foods out in schools

Junk food in Halton's schools may be out and "nutritional" foods in but no precise definition of "nutritional" exists, Halton board of education was told Thursday.

The board passed a package of recommendations dealing with the executive committee position on a report of the joint school-health services committee.

Passed were recommendations that each secondary school principal appoint a staff person early in September to have responsi-

bility for the promotion of good nutrition that non-sweetened juices be available in all pop machines and that the nutritional sub-committee be dissolved and the responsibility for nutrition be assigned directly to the joint school-health services committee.

However, a recommendation that the foods sold in school stores be limited to nutritional items only was returned to the committee for further study, because, according to Ron Chapman, superintendent of special services, "... of an inability

in the literature to get an exact, precise definition of nutritional ..."

A motion that the sales of chocolate bars for fund raising be banned failed to receive the support of the trustees. The executive committee position was that the complete banning of the sale of chocolate bars would further increase the problems of funds for extra-curricular activities. Rather than banning, the sale of chocolate bars should be discouraged and alternate forms of fund raising encouraged.

Police worried region will sell their house

Halton Police Commission hopes the region doesn't jump the gun and move the force's Milton detachment out of the house it presently occupies and move them to the Health Unit Building, Thursday, the commission decided to refer information about the two buildings to staff for comment.

It has been suggested by region staff that the house police now occupy be sold for \$65,000 and police move to the health unit building.

Administrator Ray Munro noted he is currently studying the force's housing needs for the next 10 years and it should be complete in about a month. Commissioner David Coons

said the force will have a problem if the region sells the house out from under police. They might have no alternative but to move to the health unit building. Coons also suggested it might be a good deal for the police since the house they now use really isn't a proper police building. Coons suggested close consultation between the region and police.

Chairman Harry Barrett observed considerable renovations are needed before police could go into the health unit building. He was also concerned about the age of fixtures like the furnace, plumbing and air conditioning. Barrett suggested police might be further ahead if both the money from the sale of both buildings, along with the money saved on renovations to the health unit building, could pay for a brand new building which could serve as police headquarters for the north.

Local teacher hiring to be careful

The trend of school boards hiring local residents as teachers will likely continue, but such hirings must be handled with care, according to the Halton school board's staff.

Superintendent of instruction J. Boich cautioned the Halton board meeting Thursday at Burlington concerning the trend, which can be seen in neighboring boards as well as in Halton.

"It can be dangerous if you're not careful", said Boich.

Neighboring boards hire the best teachers they can, and they look at local residents, and all things being equal hire them.

"All things being equal I think we will hire local residents," Boich told the meeting.

Last year 43 of the 75 people hired were locals.

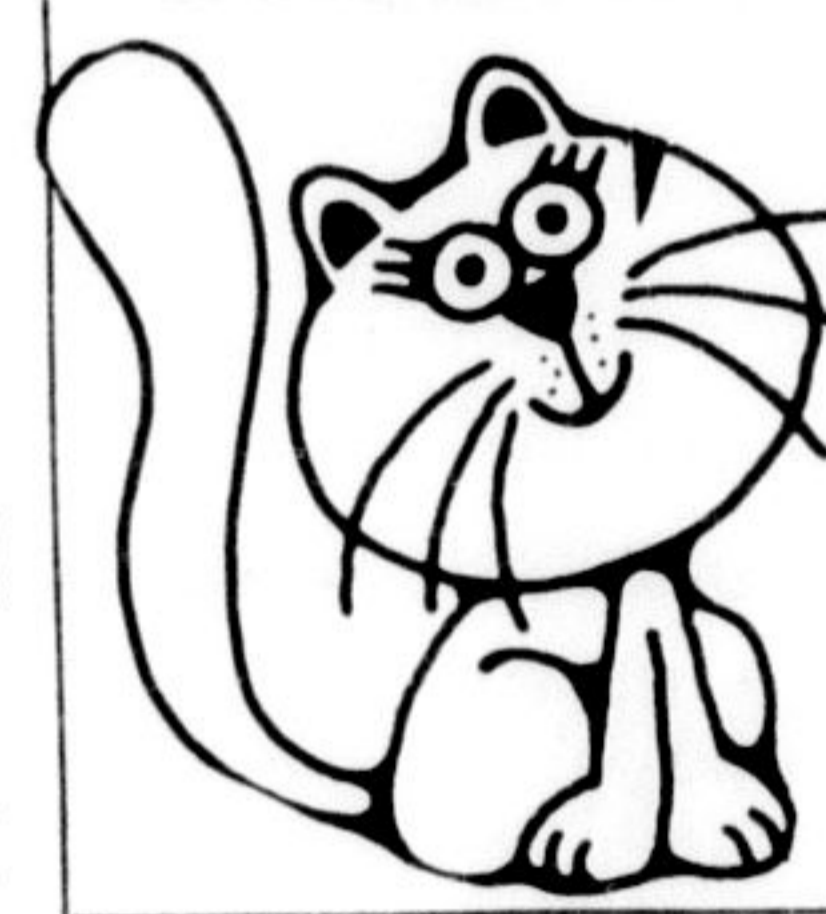
The trend is heading towards a more and more inward looking attitude.

—Remembrance Day ceremonies will be held on Saturday, Nov. 11 in Milton.

indicated the staff. Milton trustee W. A. Lawson said he asked princi-

pals, where possible, to interview local applicants.

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Indecent assault charge laid here

A charge of indecent assault was laid against a 17-year-old Milton youth Thursday after a 14-year-old Milton girl claimed she was assaulted in a wooded area behind Milton Sports Centre on Laurier Ave. Tuesday, Oct. 17.

after school hours. Both parties involved are students at Ernest C. Drury School in Milton. The girl did not notify authorities of the incident until 24 hours later, said police.

The charge against Michael William Brown, of Milton, follows a 10-day investigation by Halton Regional Police into the incident.

Craig Barnes, dean of residence at the school, said the students were acquaintances. He said both had left the school by bus that afternoon for their respective homes.

According to police the occurrence happened late Tuesday afternoon Oct. 17

Brown will appear in court on Monday, Nov. 20 to face the charge.

Minor injuries for Milton youth

A 19-year-old Milton youth escaped with minor injuries Sunday morning, when he lost control of his car in a high speed chase along McNiven Rd.

police. Shortly afterwards Mr. Glinney lost control of his car and it struck some rocks and rolled over, coming to rest against a tree.

Theodore Glinney, of 389 Williams Ave. was north-bound on McNiven Rd. north of Derry Rd. when the accident occurred, said Halton Regional Police.

Prior to the vehicle rolling, Mr. Glinney was thrown from the car, but was pinned under a rear wheel.

A cruiser followed Mr. Glinney after being notified of a speeder in the area, said

Halton Regional Police worked with the Milton Fire Department to free the youth from under the tire. He is now recovering from minor injuries.

No supervised study for grades nine, ten

Grade nine and ten students who have a spare period will not have to attend a mandatory supervised study period, Halton board of education decided Thursday.

In Milton a supervised study hall would not be possible because the high school is crowded, Lavender said.

Trustee Len Crosier, who proposed the motion, said supervised study periods for grade nine and ten students would be an opportunity for them to obtain extra help, would teach students the value of studying and proper use of time and keep the younger students on the school premises.

But a study hall would be inappropriate in vocational schools, said trustee Elaine Rhiem, adding that it may also be unmanageable and "perhaps harmful for personal growth." The parents should just be notified that study hall is available, she said.

Emerson Lavender, director of education, told the board that there are two kinds of secondary school timetables—those with five periods including lunch and those with five periods with lunch extra. The reason for the differences is that some schools are crowded with special areas and have to have more flexible time blocks.

Trustee Ivan Armstrong said he supported supervised study periods. Most discipline complaints come from grade nine and ten students, he said. "This would solve the problem."

Trustee H. H. (Bert) Hinton said he would be concerned if study periods were not supervised.

Trustee Judy Alexander said there is better use that could be put for the time. She suggested that the time could

be used to have a directed program such as orientation. Her amendment that grade ten be deleted from the motion failed to pass.

Trustee Bill Lawson said the board should stay out of the administration of schools. One of the things expected from children in secondary schools is to show responsibility, Lawson said.

"You can't ask them to show responsibility when they're in four walls and supervised," Lawson said. If grade nine and ten students can't meet the challenge, they can be put in mandatory supervision as punishment and not as a right, Lawson said.

Trustee Barry Shepherd said he supported the motion for supervised study but an amendment of his that the program be made effective, September, 1979 failed to get a second.

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