



No ribbons at the schools says board at last meeting

The Halton Board of Education has again flashed the red light on green ribbons.

The protest ribbons will not be allowed on public school grounds, following a vote by trustees at Thursday's final board meeting.

Senior board administration, around the time of the province-wide teachers' strike, had previously sent letters to school principals telling them to have the ribbons removed.

Burlington Trustee Sandy Van Harten tried to get trustees to rule in favour of their display on board property, at the discretion of individual schools, but lost by a 9-8 margin.

Prior to that vote Oakville Trustee Neil Reid some-

what facetiously amended Ms Van Harten's request by asking the board to approve the placement of red, white and blue ribbons as well.

"It's an example of a political position," Mr. Reid said of the green ribbons. "I want to diffuse it." On a lighter note, Mr. Reid added the rainbow of ribbons would add appropriate colour to the Christmas season.

Oakville's Penny Siebert said she did not agree with any ribbons "festooning" schools, and just enough trustees agreed with her.

The ribbons emerged as a sign of protest on the part of teachers during the bitter strike of November, as a response to the provincial government's controversial Bill 160

Mayor Krantz sizes up the future

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ancing wants and needs.

His biggest fear is that the provincial government will insist municipalities use up their reserves before any provincial money is forthcoming to cover increased costs of welfare and social programs.

"We don't want to be penalized for managing our own affairs well," said Mr. Krantz.

"The province is making us pay for previous government attempts to spend Ontario into prosperity."

Mayor Krantz said problems encountered by the

provincial government should be dealt with through increased income taxes, not increased property taxes.

He said he feared constant small increases to property taxes due to downloading and pooling costs. After several years, he thinks it will amount to hundreds of dollars.

"Nineteen-ninety-eight is going to be a transitional year. It's not going to be business as usual," he said. "I will attempt not to be reactive to changes but proactive in heading off any negatives."

He said these transition years will set the stage for only the next two to three decades.

Hungry helper

Santa's helper, and Charlie Fitzwhiskey staffer, Dana Whalen gets a taste of a Christmas cookie from three-year-old Kelsie Koho at the restaurant's second annual Breakfast with Santa. More than \$10,000 was raised for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

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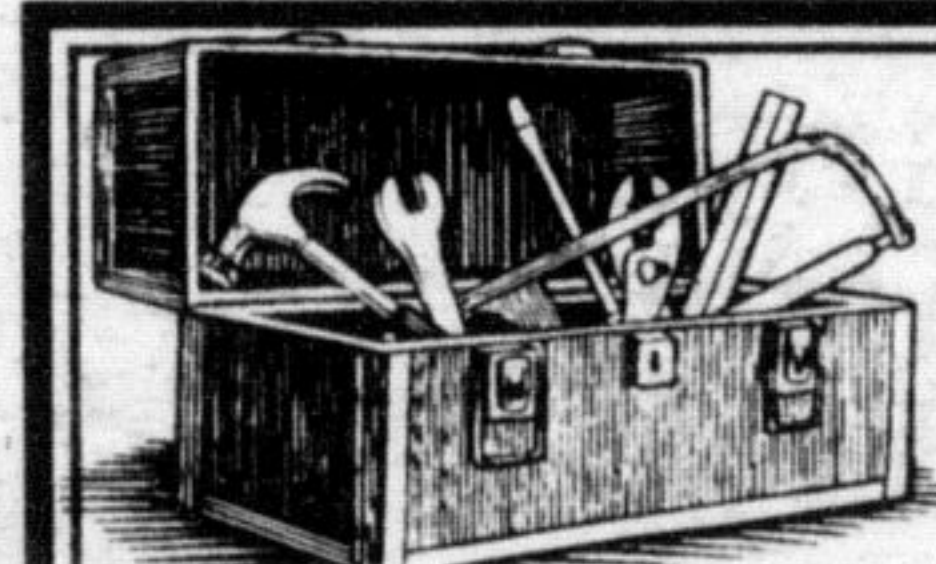
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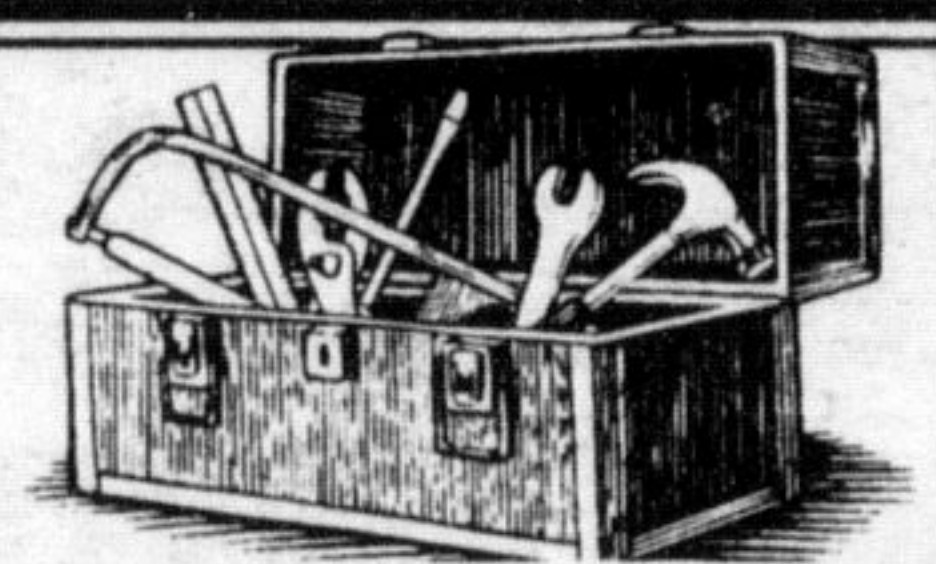
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