

Holy Rosary School work could begin next week

By CAROL BALDWIN

Special to The Champion

Construction of a replacement for Milton's Holy Rosary ele-

mentary school could start as early as next week, said Giacomo Corbacio, superintendent of plant, told the Halton District Catholic School Board Tuesday.

The budget for the new school, which is scheduled to open in September, 1999, is \$5.5 million. Since the old school is being replaced, purchasing a site was not a budget factor.

Joseph Birett, superintendent of business services and treasurer of the board, told trustees that ministry approval is no longer needed to build new schools.

"What we need is a pupil accommodation grant for pupil numbers over and above the available accommodations," he explained. "Even under the old ministry rated capacity, we have a desperate number of pupils over capacity. And if we lower the class sizes, as suggested, it is estimated that we have an even greater number of pupils over capacity."

A Catholic elementary school in Oakville's West Oak Trails will open in September, 1999, at a cost of \$8 million.

Halton Hills' St. Francis of Assisi and Burlington's St. Patrick and Ascension are slated for additions and alteration projects, with work expected to begin in mid-October.

The greatest need for secondary school space is in northeast Oakville, said Mr. Birett, although there is a need in Burlington as well. "We do have the option, under pressure from Burlington, of building an addition to Notre Dame school," he said. "And in addition to that, we believe we will have to find an available site in Oakville for a secondary school."

The preliminary budget report for 1998/99 for the Halton Catholic District School Board separates funding into classroom and non-classroom expenditures, with classroom funds unable to be moved into the non-classroom category.

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