

MADD starts campaign against drunk driving's toll

• from KICKS on page 10 — Mothers and Fathers Against Drunk Driving.

"My husband (Bill) and I don't drink" says Stephanie

Dooley, president of MADD Halton. "But still it affects us." (The Dooleys lost a daughter, Janet, who died after her car was struck by a drunk driver in

November, 1991.) "We've recently spoken to hard-line drinking and driving offenders in the Brampton Men's Correctional Centre,"

said Ms Dooley of MADD's ongoing awareness campaign. "Many of them have never heard the victims' side — the victims who have no voice —

and we received a personal thank you letter from these inmates and a return invitation for November 10."

She said new legislation requiring anti-ignition locks be installed in the cars of repeat impaired driving offenders, by court order, after the fourth conviction, does not send a strong enough message. "They should be put in the cars after two convictions — after the first would be even better."

Why delay?

She questioned why the legislation may be delayed until next fall. "The law exists now, why not implement it now?"

Drunk driving is a leading cause of death in Canada, said Dawn Regan, national resource development co-ordinator for MADD Canada. According to MADD statistics, an average of 4.5 people are killed across Canada each day due to drinking and driving, and another 125 are injured.

Approximately 3.5 million red ribbons will be distributed across Canada during the campaign, which runs to January 8. MADD Canada, which has 30 chapters, launched its Red Ribbon Campaign on the Internet on November 4. Details, plus an eight-page history of the Red Ribbon, can be viewed at its web site: www.madd.ca

The Red Ribbon Campaign originated in the United States

and was first started in Canada in 1988 by a Windsor woman whose son was killed by a drunk driver.

Many ribbons

MADD Halton hopes to distribute between 50,000 and 75,000 red ribbons across the region, explained Ms Dooley, a retired General Electric employee.

"We have 30,000 ribbons threaded into cards," she said adding three former colleagues, Shirley Duncan, Edith Williams and Lucy Pickering, are the backbone of her army of volunteers who threaded ribbons to MADD Halton cards.

"We are all retired GE employees," Ms Dooley explained. "We worked with our hands. These three women exceeded by far what anybody else is able to do, threading 5,000 to 6,000 ribbons each."

The remaining ribbons are used for donation boxes distributed across Halton, encouraging people to buy a ribbon and tie it to their car antenna.

"The red ribbon is our most visible symbol," said Dale Houghton, vice-president of awareness for MADD Halton. "We're here to stop drunk driving and help the victims of this violent crime. I ask you to tie on a red ribbon for safety."

For more information about the Red Ribbon Campaign, call MADD Halton at 844-0096.

School Funding:

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We believe every child in this province deserves an equal chance at life.

In the past, school funding was anything but fair because it was based in part on how much each school board could raise in local taxes. Now, thanks to student-based funding, every child in Ontario can have fair access to a high-quality education, no matter where they live.

More money for classroom education, less for bureaucratic waste.

For many years, parents complained about school boards spending too much on overhead and administration, and too little on classroom needs. We asked boards to find savings in overhead and administration, then apply these funds to classroom needs. Most boards responded in good faith. A few didn't. Instead, they threatened to close schools.

We could not stand by and let them threaten our kids' schools.

To protect children from unnecessary school closures, we came up with four different solutions.

A permanent 20% top-up grant for schools with fewer students.

Previously, a school built for 100 students that had only 80 students enrolled would have lost 20% of its operating budget. Now, schools operating at less than full capacity will receive a top-up grant of up to 20% to bring them closer to, or up to, full operational funding.

New permanent allowances for schools with non-standard design features.

Some schools have unusual design features that incur additional costs. For example, many older schools have extra-wide hallways that need to be heated and cleaned. These unique design features have now been taken into consideration when calculating school funding.

More time for school boards to move money into the classroom.

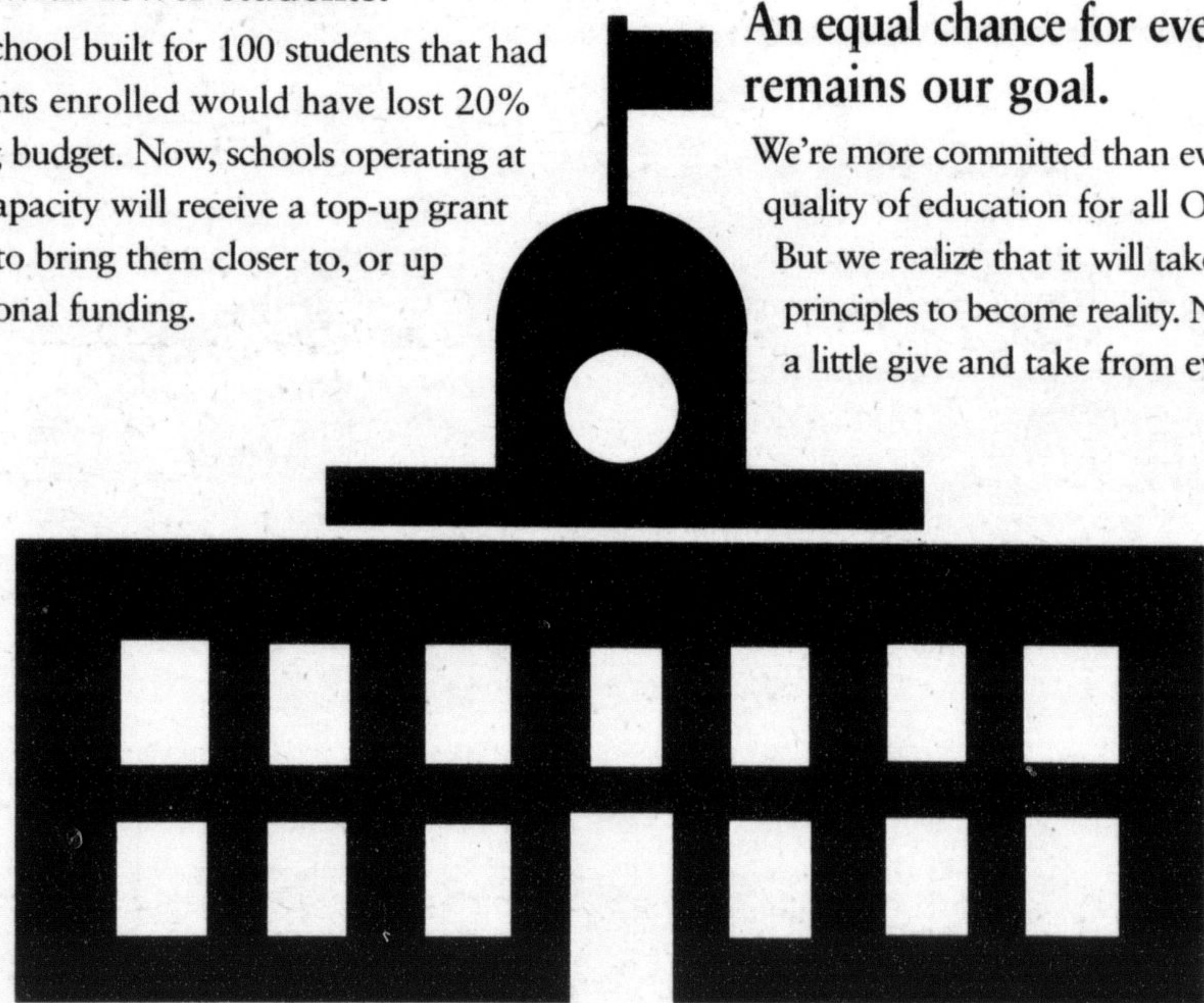
To prevent certain boards from unnecessarily closing schools, we're giving them more time at current funding levels to find the savings we know exist. Boards facing funding increases will receive their increases as originally scheduled.

Professional third-party help to find savings in administration and overhead.

In response to a request for help from the head of the Toronto District School Board, the Government will provide them, and any other board requesting it, with a team of management experts to help them find ways to save money in operations and administration.

An equal chance for every child remains our goal.

We're more committed than ever to raising the quality of education for all Ontario children. But we realize that it will take time for our principles to become reality. Not to mention a little give and take from everyone.



Call 1-888-848-5905 and get the facts.

 Ontario

Bronte party soon

Bronte Village hosts its first annual Christmas Charity Challenge Saturday, Nov. 28.

Highlighting the event will be a noon hour boat race with contestants donating entry fees to a charity of their choice.

Proceeds from the rest of the day — which includes horse and wagon rides, an elves workshop, a petting zoo, live entertainment and a tree-lighting ceremony — will go to Meals on Wheels.

Food, monetary donations as well as used toys will be accepted.

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