

Missing toys missed

Milton Community Resource Centre is issuing a toy amnesty.

That may be a little strongly worded in actuality, but the centre is hoping to get back missing items from its toy library. They are past due, and if people return

them to the 917 Nipissing Road facility, there will be no associated late charge nor any questions asked. When the items are returned, others may enjoy them as well. Staff are asking for cooperation with this request as soon as possible.

Reprieve on the school closing deadline comes

By DENNIS SMITH
Special to The Champion

The clock may no longer be nearing midnight for school closure decisions, but a board official warns the issue isn't going away.

Halton District School Board Chair Ethel Gardiner said there is some good in the provincial government easing its deadline for closure plans.

"But it doesn't solve our problem," she noted. "We do need to build new schools and we do have excess capacity."

Education Minister Dave Johnson announced last week that school boards can now review accommodation needs each year and still be eligible for new school funding.

Previously, boards were given until December 31 to decide whether to eliminate excess capacity or keep it indefinitely. Boards with excess capacity will be ineligible for new school funding.

Halton's public board has excess capacity of 5,800 spaces — 4,000 at secondary schools and 1,800 at elementary schools.

"This may mean now that we can tackle our problems at a slower rate. It's not as urgent," said Ms Gardiner about the announcement. "I'm sure the communities will appreciate having more time to give input to the board."

However, accommodation reviews and discussions about school closures are upsetting for residents, she added.

"I worry about doing this year after year," said Ms



"But it doesn't solve our problem. We do need to build new schools and we do have excess capacity."

— ETHEL GARDINER

Gardiner. "We have to ask ourselves what is the responsible thing to do. The board really has to come to grips with this."

The board chair said more information and direction will be sought from staff. But, ultimately, the board will decide whether the matter goes now and if schools close, she said.

"I understand the reluctance to close old schools, but I'd hate to see us slow down to a state where we do nothing," said Ms Gardiner. "We have to make a decision. We can wait to grow another 6,000 students or close some schools immediately."

An area MPP was pleased about easing the closure deadline. Both the relaxed deadline and improved operating funding will help, said Halton Centre MPP Terence Young.

"Our board will have the flexibility to decide whether it is in the best interests of the students and the community to continue to keep a school open where it is only 70-80 per cent full," said Mr. Young.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON
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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING

Proposed User Fees and Charges Rates and Policies

The Council of the Town of Milton is holding a Public Meeting to provide interested parties an opportunity to comment on proposed User Fees and Charges Policies and Rates for 1999 and beyond.

Date: Wednesday, November 25, 1998
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Council Chambers
Milton Town Hall
43 Brown Street
Milton ON L9T 5H2

To obtain more information: The Draft Discussion paper may be obtained from the Clerk's Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays, or a copy may be obtained by calling Cathy Deschamps, 878-7211 ext. 140. The draft policy and fees are also available on the Town's web site at

<http://www.town.milton.on.ca>.

You are invited to attend this meeting to express your comments, or submit written comments to the above noted address (Attn. C. Deschamps) by November 27, 1998.

Church hosts fun time with kids

Kilbride United Church holds a parent and child get-together every Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The program — called MoMs — requires no pre-

registration and allows mothers, fathers and young children to socialize in an enjoyable setting.

For further information call Sue at 336-8432.

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