

Students push both parties to seek resolution

• from VENTS on page 1

Association and school councils to examine agreements reached in the province.

A report by the panel to the board and the teachers' union giving suggestions for an agreement should be delivered within 14 days and then presented to the full board and both negotiating committees, he said.

Students are suffering from cancelled classes, no extra-curricular activities and increasing tension within the schools, he stressed, and to bring

home his point, he introduced student council presidents from five area high schools.

"I represent a group of frustrated students," said St. Thomas Aquinas OAC student James Ng. "The school has been left in disarray ... with words like lockouts and work-to-rule whispered in the halls every day."

"Students can't approach teachers, barriers have been put in place and marks at all grades are suffering," added Chantel Blattler, of St. Ignatius of Loyola. "This is the third time in my

five years at this school that I've experienced this type of upheaval. I want to get off this roller-coaster ride. Time is critical."

"Get over it, talk about it and settle it," advised Assumption's David Dowe. "You are ruining the best years of our lives."

Notre Dame's Tia Duke argued sports keep students motivated and skills gained via extra-curricular activities have a huge impact.

Matthew Rowe, of Bishop Reding, pleaded with the board to put aside differences and make

students its first priority.

Paul McDougall believes the education system has undergone too much change, too quickly.

"Over 600 classes have been cancelled since Thanksgiving. There's been a loss of trust on both sides. We want to keep students in a positive learning environment and we want a negotiated settlement, not arbitration, and the re-introduction of extra-curricular activities in a safe, strife-free manner."

School HQ use to be under a microscope

Halton's public schools are currently under close scrutiny and now administrative offices will follow suit.

An updated report on the Halton District School Board offices, known as the J.W. Singleton Centre, was recently approved.

Oakville Trustee Debbie Marklew said last year's report on the centre should be updated to satisfy the public.

"I know, through talking with parents, they're saying 'Why don't you look at your administrative space as well?'" said Ms Marklew, who forwarded the motion. "In all fairness to parents and students, we need to look at the Singleton Centre at the same time we're closing schools."

She suggested the update be ready for

consideration prior to school closure decisions, which are slated for December 16.

Executive director Dusty Papke said an interim update will be made soon and further options will be explored in the spring.

"I'd like to do a more in-depth look at this issue," he said.

Superintendent Gerry Cullen said the previous report looked at the operational, custodial, maintenance and snow removal costs for the administration centre.

The use of spaces, such as meeting rooms and offices, was looked at when arrangements with third parties were considered.

The updated report will look at several

• see SCRUTINY on page 21



Meet the Artist DOUGLAS LAIRD

Sat. Nov. 28 & Sun. Nov. 29 - 12 noon to 4 p.m.

An excellent selection of his artwork will be available for purchase. Douglas will personally autograph his work by accenting it with gold leaf penmanship.



"After the Game" Reg. Price \$95.00 unframed

Show Special 20% off Limited Editions



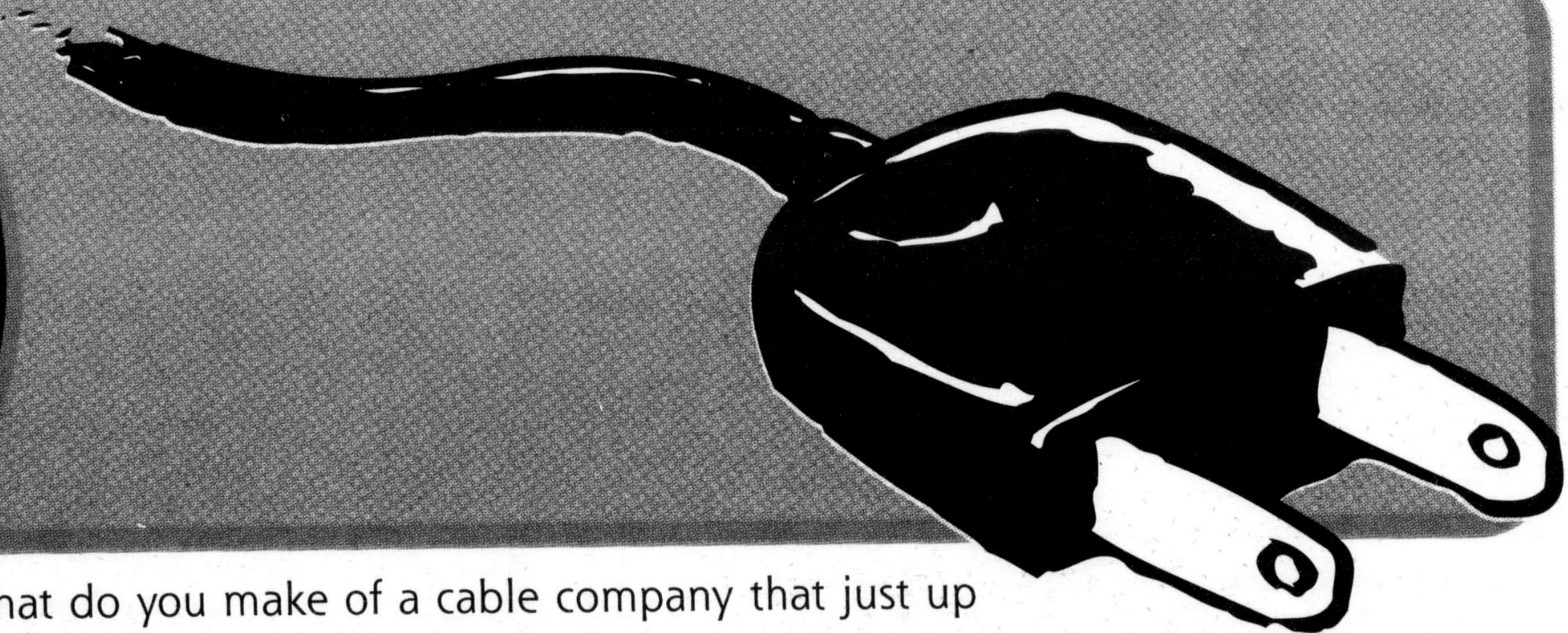
Circa 1870

Harrop Gallery & Framing Warehouse

345 Steeles Ave. Milton (905) 878-8161



Your local cable company just pulled the plug on its old name



What do you make of a cable company that just up and changes its name after 30 years? Here's our take: the cable world is changing, and fast. New links are being forged between cable and telephone, broadcast TV and the Internet. To make the most of it, you need a cable company that can make sense of it, then bring it all home to you. **Welcome to Cableworks.** Formerly Western Co-Axial, Fergus-Elora, Halton, Northgate and Grimsby Cable, Cableworks is now your link to "the works" in Entertainment, Information and Communication technology. Of course we'll never limit great service. Our friendly people will always be part of the neighbourhood! But, starting January, 1999, Cableworks will also be your window to the world. Take a look. Great things are in the works!

CABLEWORKS

Taking your cable further. COMMUNICATIONS