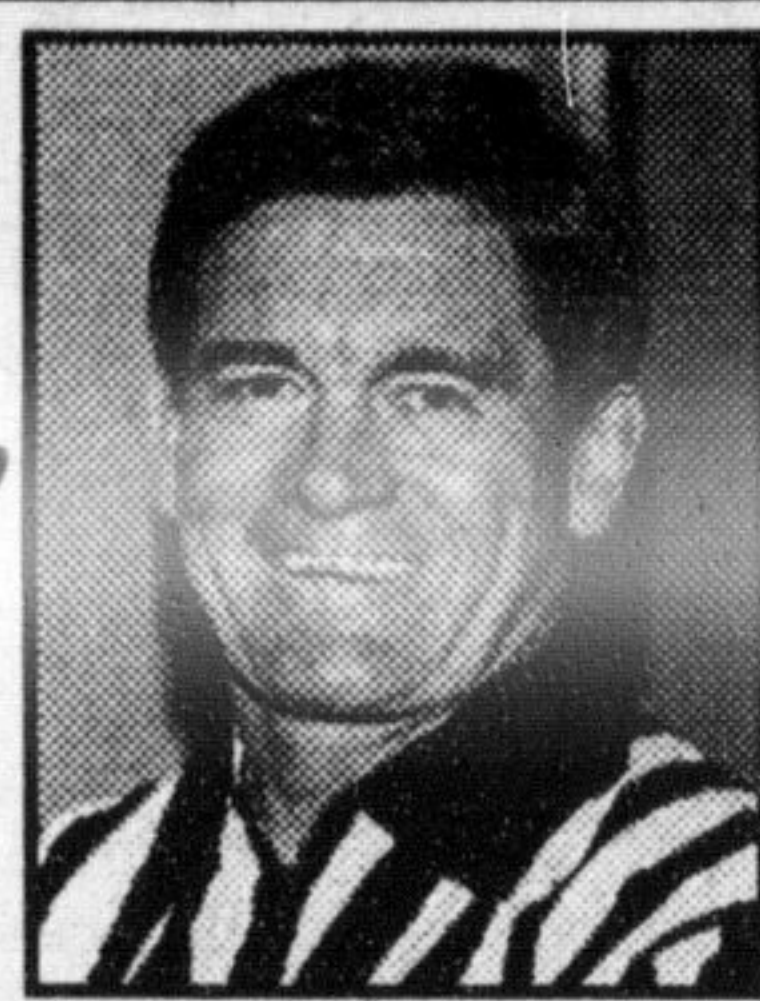
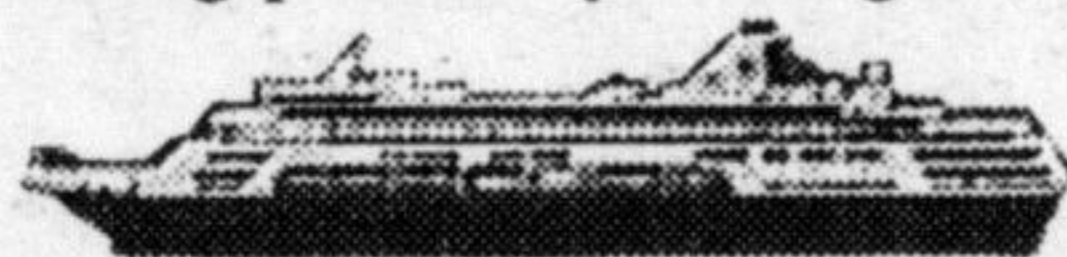


Travel
with
Bruce Hood



JAMAICA LOVES YOU!

TOURISM TO JAMAICA got a boost recently when the JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT made a major decision to send troops to tourist resorts — a big step to eliminating crime and the harassment of visitors. A \$1 billion dollar industry for them — a 3% increase in '97 (1.5 million tourists!) — it's time they took control of this problem, which we witnessed again on a recent trip there ... **CANADIANS TRAVEL CANADA MORE** — Canadians are travelling within our own country. There were 58.5 million trips of one or more nights in Canada during the first nine months of 1998, a 13.8% increase over the same period in 1997... **MORE ELECTRONIC TICKETING** — AIR CANADA has launched electronic ticketing on its flights to Bermuda, adding to its e-ticket service to virtually all of North America and London Heathrow. (For the uninitiated, this means 'ticketless travel' — when you make your booking AT YOUR TRAVEL AGENCY, all you will need to know when you arrive at the airport is your name and flight number, to receive a boarding pass for your flight!) ...



WINDSTAR CRUISES has the former CLUB MED 1, a 5-masted sail cruise ship, renamed the WIND SURF, added to their fleet of sailing vessels — the WIND STAR, WIND SPIRIT and WIND SONG — any of the four are a 'MUST-DO' for a real sailing/cruise adventure! The original three are only 440 feet long, while the newest is three times that size. WIND SURF carries some 312 passengers, and will ply the waters of the MEDITERRANEAN this summer. The smaller and therefore more intimate ships carry 144 passengers. (Still one of our favourite memories — a 10 day New Year's sail on the Windstar out of Barbados!) ... **HOLLAND AMERICA LINES** has secured 23 additional peak-season permits to enter ALASKA'S GLACIER BAY — a treat, ask anyone who's been there ... **A CRUISE ON THE MED THIS SUMMER, OR TO ALASKA — ????** ...

* * *

TRAVEL TIP OF THE WEEK: Don't be embarrassed by having too large a carry-on for your flight, and having to check it at the last minute at the plane entrance because it just won't fit — plan accordingly — we witnessed quite a 'debate' over this once more on a flight recently!

The Way To Go!
Bruce Hood
Travel
Professional Travel
& Cruise Officials

878-2886
16 Martin St.
(downtown)

Also in Halton Hills, Oakville and Clarkson
www.brucehood.com

Bringing The World To You Since 1961

Board to probe another option in closing debate

By DENNIS SMITH
Special to The Champion

After months of looking at school closures, the Halton District School Board will now consider the flip side of the coin.

Recently the board called for a detailed staff report outlining the positive and negative effects of not closing schools at the current time.

The board sought the report after also approving a recommendation package to continue the school closure review process.

In suggesting the 'no close' report, Burlington Trustee Sheila Flook indicated staff have just been following orders so far by recommending school closures.

"They haven't been asked to cover the effects of not closing schools; there are two sides to this," she said. "Personally, I don't see how anyone can vote to close schools without considering this motion."

The recommendation, which was passed unanimously, calls for a report by March 3. However, education director Dusty Papke said it could be finished earlier.

The latest suggested deadlines for closure decisions are April for elementary schools and December for secondary schools.

The board is considering closures because it must eliminate excess capacity to start receiving provincial funding for new schools. Surpluses are estimated at 1,800 pupil places in elementary and 3,200 in secondary schools.

Oakville Trustee Lynn Roberts urged removing a minimum 3,200 space reduc-

tion target suggested for the new secondary school accommodation subcommittee.

"I'm concerned with these minimum expectations for this committee," she said.

Burlington Trustee Michael Ellis agreed. "A number of trustees still believe we don't have to close schools. There are still alternatives out there."

But others said the 3,200 spaces must be reduced to gain funding for badly-needed new schools. "We have a major problem at the secondary level, we have to get to that figure," said Burlington Trustee David Bird. "How we do it depends on how creative we can be."

Trustees narrowly approved having the sub-committee consider a minimum reduction of 3,200 spaces, with recommendations due by November.

The sub-committee will consist of trustees, staff and representatives of both school and student councils. They will look at possible secondary school closures in southern portions of Burlington and Oakville.

The board also approved the following school accommodation recommendations:

- Establishment of an accommodation management committee, comprised of all trustees and senior administration;
- Referral of a recent staff report to the accommodation management committee for discussion and recommendations.

The report suggested closing three elementary schools — Champlain and Fairfield in Burlington and Oakwood in Oakville.

Money matters at local council

• from PAY on page 1

the committee is?" he asked. "Maybe we should also distance ourselves from the selection process."

Mr. Malboeuf, who is not a member of the administration committee and therefore unable to vote at that level, suggested that the responsibility be passed to Milton's new Chief Administrative Officer, Mario Belvedere.

The suggestion was turned into an official amendment by Councillor Ron Furik, who in the end was the only one to vote in its favour.

Hunter supports it

Despite this, the motion received some support from committee Chair Wally Hunter.

"My sentiment is we should try to keep politics out of it as much as possible," he said. "There's certainly some validity to the motion."

Appointing the members of a committee is not tantamount to political influence, argued Councillor John Challinor, who had originally raised the issue of the stipend review at a recent council meeting.

The review was triggered by a potential move from the province to strip local councillors of the right to one third of their pay tax free.

"The beginning and end of council's involvement would be the selection process," said Mr. Challinor. "I don't think you'll see any political interference."

To say that politics never intrudes in committee selections would be naive, countered Mr. Malboeuf.

"I can see politics playing games," he said. "This is a politically touchy thing. Let's keep away from it."

Unfair, says Penman

Seeing a new CAO tackle the politically sticky subject would be just as hard for people to swallow, said Mayor Gord Krantz.

"The perception would be just as bad with somebody new having to select the committee," he said.

Asking the CAO to navigate that particular political minefield is just unfair, agreed Councillor Brian Penman.

"I think if this motion is defeated, (Mr. Belvedere) will heave a sigh of relief," he said. "I vote to get him off the hook."

Councillor Barry Lee came out firmly against changing the status quo when it comes to committee appointments.

"We have a process in place. I'm not in favour of passing the buck and handing it over to staff," he said. "To take it any further is ridiculous."

The issue will go before council for final approval.

OPENING Sat. Feb. 27 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

OPENING Sat. Feb. 27 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

Come & Celebrate our GRAND OPENING

Music Lessons SPECIAL
Guitar, Bass Guitar, Keyboards, Drums...
SIGN UP FOR 8 LESSONS AND ONLY PAY FOR 6!

2 FREE LESSONS

CHECK OUT OUR SELECTION OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS & ACCESSORIES
Dean Markley, Ernie Ball, Fender, Jasmine, Hohner, Casio, Zildjian, Remo, Sieko, Jim Dunlop, Takamine, and many more.

164 Main St. (905) 876-2219

Mon. - Thurs. 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Fri. - 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Sat. 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

MARCH IS Maple Syrup MONTH
Weekends and March Break (15th-19th)
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Bronte Creek

Horsedrawn wagon rides, pancake house, gift store, candy shanty, syrup trail, maple sugar demonstrations, costumed interpreters and tours of the turn-of-the-century farmhouse.

During the week, education programs are available.
Please call to reserve a program.

Located between Oakville and Burlington, north of the Q.E.W., exit 109 (Burloak Drive). (905) 827-6911

Starting a Small Business?

Attend the Entrepreneur Workshops

Hosted by the
Halton Business Development Centre

March 8	What's an entrepreneur & Small Business Panel?	\$25.00
March 10	Plan your way to profits	\$35.00
March 29	Market your way to sales	\$35.00
March 31	Tax tips	\$35.00

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Location: Halton Regional Centre
1151 Bronte Road, Oakville

Registration fee: \$125 for all 4 Sessions
To register: Call 905-825-6300

Halton
A World Class Place To Be
www.haltonbusiness.com

Acton 519-853-0501
Georgetown 905-878-8113
Aldershot 905-639-4540
Streetsville 905-823-6720