

Teaching jobs not affected by decline in school enrolment

• from ENROLMENT on page 1
occurred in Burlington, Milton and Georgetown.

"It has caused some reorganization in the schools, which is to be done by September 30," said education superintendent Paul Anthony. "Most of those reorganizations should be completed by now. We're trying to minimize disruption to staff and students."

In some cases, the effect of the shuffling is that a student or class may begin the week with one teacher and have a different one by the end of it. Split-grade classes could be formed or undone by the enrolment fluctuation.

"We'll be within the 25:1 class-size ratio overall but we will have some larger classes," added Mr. Anthony.

The 285 figure caught some trustees by surprise and generated queries as to whether the students are being lost to the rival Catholic board and/or private schooling.

"People are very disillusioned with our board," said Peter Petrusich. The Oakville trustee said he has talked to some of his constituents who believe, as he does, many families with a non-Catholic parent are opting to join the separate school board.

"These people are voting with their feet and walking to the Catholic school down the street. We're losing our 'clients' forever."

"That's 9-10 classes (fewer) and we get funded based on the number of students. What about staffing implications?," Mr. Petrusich asked.

Mr. Anthony agreed with Mr. Petrusich that the board was lucky there would not be a negative impact on teachers, such as the need for layoffs due to fewer pupils.

Staffing figures are already "pretty tight", Mr. Anthony noted, adding there were several last-minute requests for leaves of absence as well as other teachers who moved on to other boards, all of which balanced the drop in enrolment.

Halton Hills trustee and board Chair Ethel Gardiner termed the student decrease a "real anomaly".

Superintendent Al Greyson said many factors could account for the significant drop in enrolment and he would delve more deeply to come up with exact answers. Meanwhile, he offered some hypotheses.

"This is the first year we integrated a different (computer software)

system in doing student enrolment projections. We're working on a different set of assumptions because we need to challenge traditional ones" based on residential planning.

"The Catholic board is now getting the higher ratio of (new) students," said Mr. Greyson, because more Catholic schools than public ones are being built around Halton Region.

The uncertainty of the existence of some schools is likely playing a part in which system a parent puts their child, he added.

The superintendent also alluded to other possible explanations for a general decline in public board enrolment, including dual income families delaying the start of having children or the switch to private schooling.

Busing regulations may also enter the picture, said Mr. Greyson. He noted the Halton board provides busing to Kindergarten through grade 5 pupils who live more than 1.6 kilometres away from their school and to students in grades 6-8 who are 3.2 km or farther away.

Conversely, the Halton Catholic board buses students from JK-8 if they are 1.6 km or more away.

Language program for school kids

Halton District School Board's International Languages (Elementary) Program is now underway and runs every weekend through the school year. Open to children from four years old to

grade eight, the program offers instruction in nine different languages. Classes are held in both Burlington and Oakville. To register, or for more information, call Dorothy Whiteley at (905) 632-2944.



FOR THE BIRDS WE HAVE



Large Feeders, Small Feeders, Tube Feeders, Suet Feeders, Fly through Feeders and many more feeders. We've got them all. And to hang your feeders, long poles, off set poles, double poles, short poles, tree limb hooks, baffles for squirrels, baffles for Racoons.

Oh Yeah our bird seed won't be beat either.

It's all at



MacKinnon Waterfalls & Ponds



724 Main St. E., Milton
(Just West of the GO Station)
1-905-876-2836

Linda of Rambrandt Landscaping will be picking our pond contest Winners. This weeks winners will be announced in Next Fridays Champion. It's going to be tough to choose. All the Ponds entered are a beautiful addition to the gardens..



Still working hard to stay #1

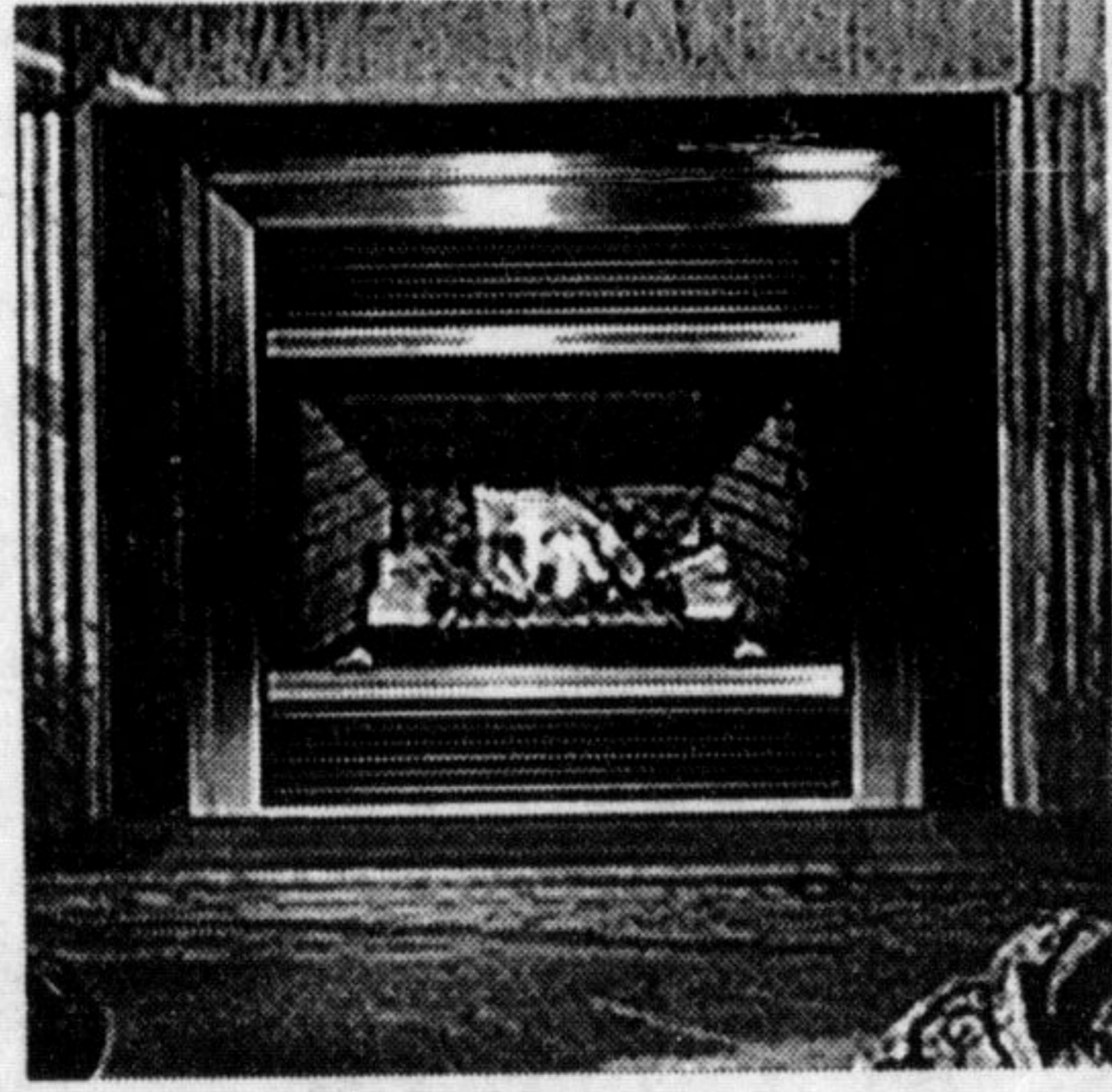
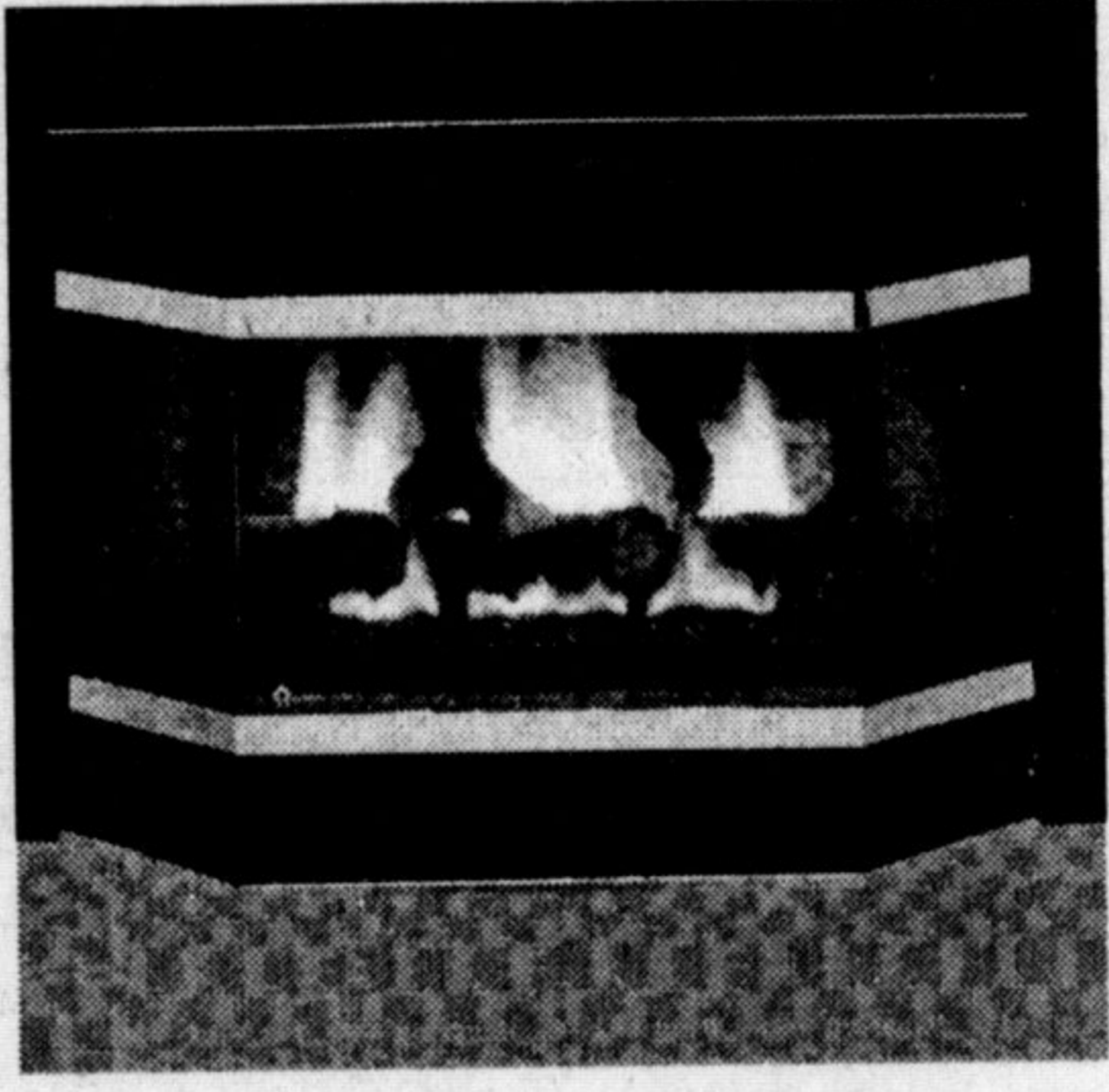
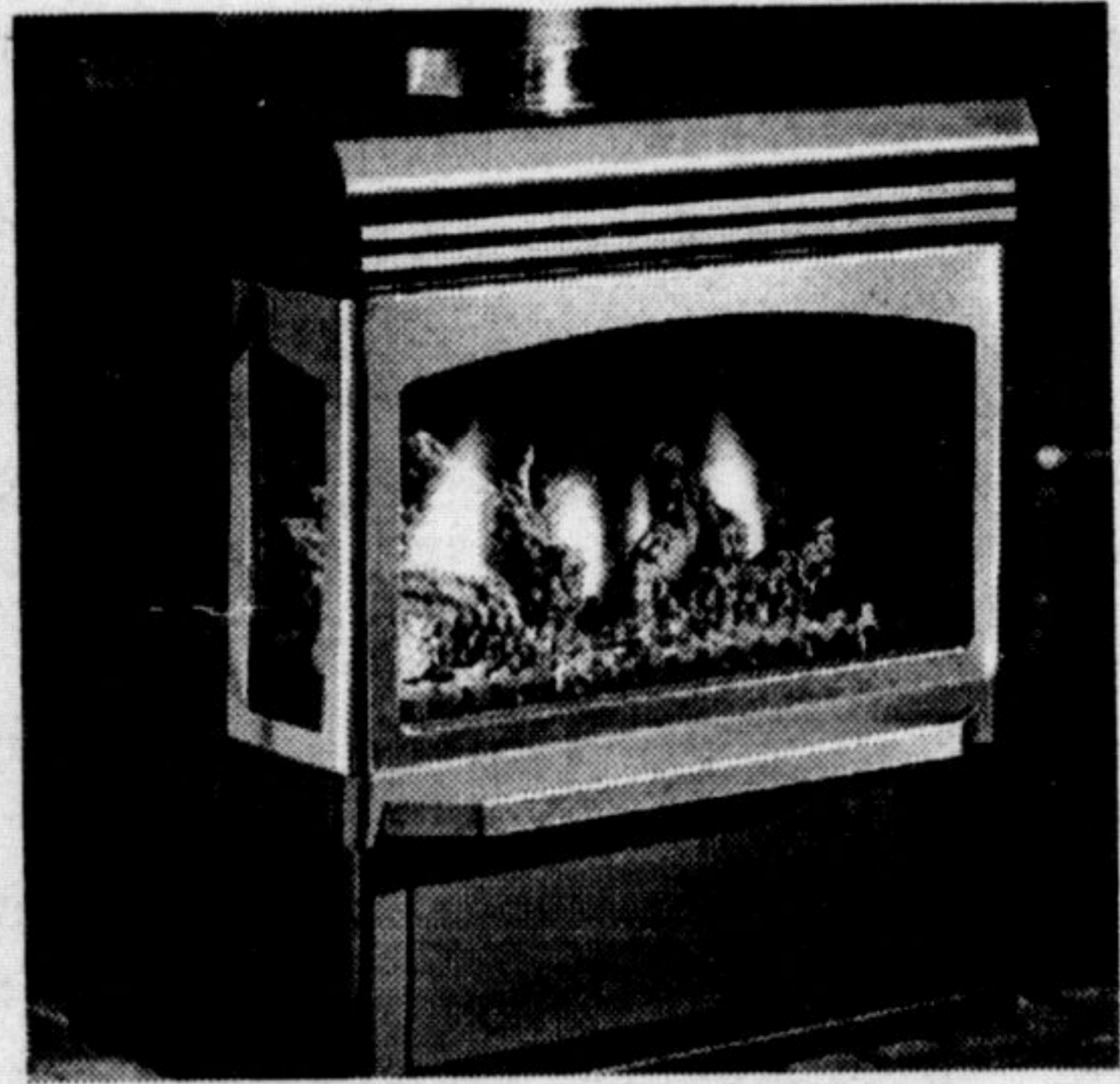
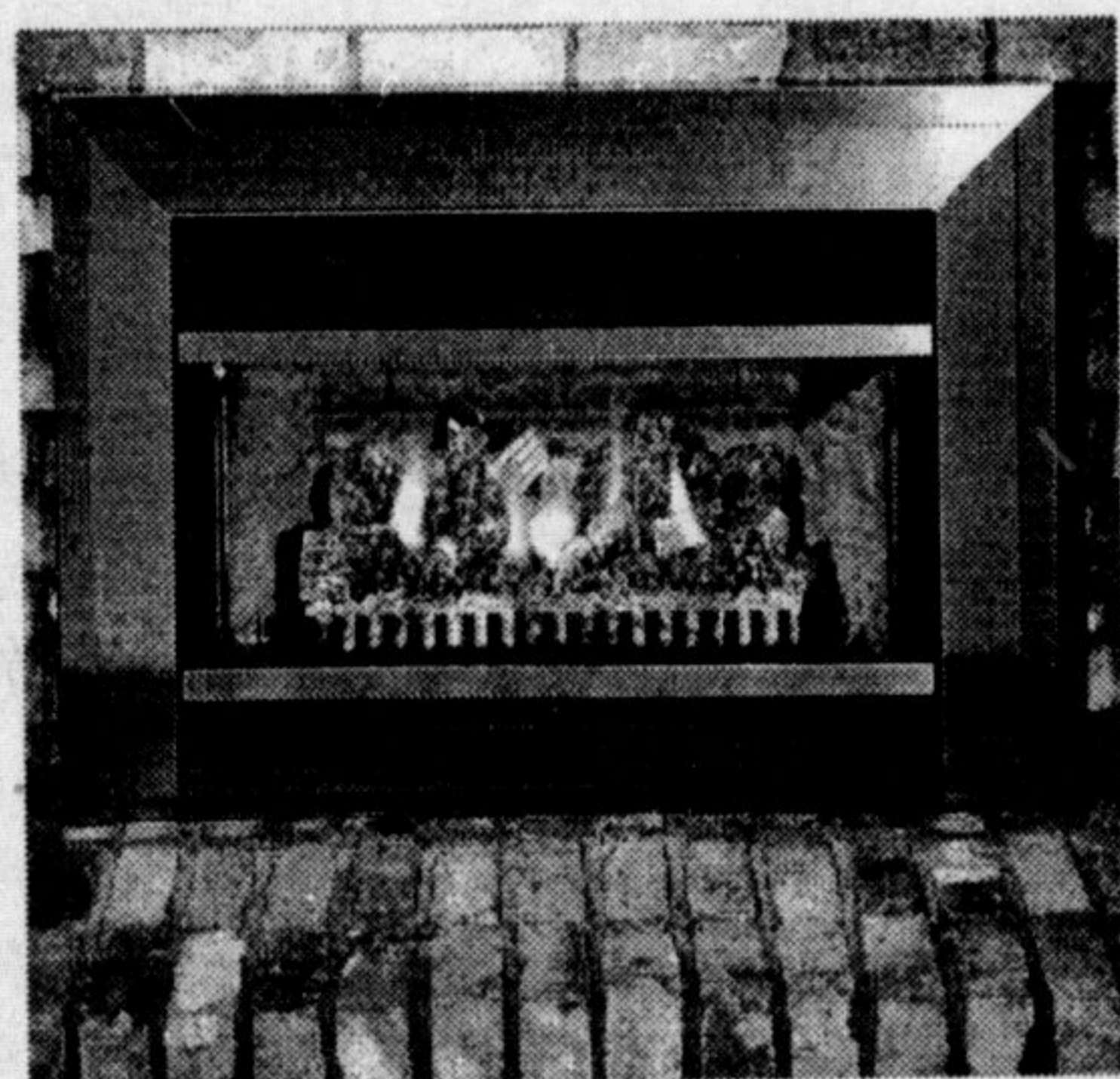


Saturday,
October 2nd
10am-4pm

7TH ANNUAL ONE DAY

Formerly
the Union Gas
Fireplace Sale

FIREPLACE SALE



MAJESTIC.
Fireplaces

Clearout!
MAJESTIC
DV36

- Bay window
- Brick lining • Fan
- Large surround trim

ONLY \$1750*

Limited Quantities

* Installation extra

Providing home comfort with:

- furnaces
- air conditioners
- fireplaces
- water heaters
- assurance plans
- service

take comfort
union
energy

SAVE AN EXTRA
\$50.00
just for bringing this ad in!
Saturday, October 2/99 only.

768 Westgate Road, Oakville
(905) 469-0570 (Burlington/Oakville)
or 1-888-71UNION

