

# Our Lady of Victory School upgrades put on hold pending Milton growth

By IRENE GENTLE  
The Champion

Milton has been left out of a multi-million building boom in the Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB), at least for now.

A \$2 million plan to add six new classrooms along with other renovations to Our Lady of Victory elementary school has been put on hold while the board searches for the facts on Town growth and servicing.

"To do responsible planning we wanted to get more information than we currently have," said HCDSB chair Jim Sherlock.

A prior look at space needs in the Catholic board had put the Milton school in the running for provincial cash, said Chris Jewell, a communications officer with the HCDSB.

"They had done a study in June and at that time they were on the list," he said "They were looking for projections, and that's what put it on hold."

To find that information, economists C.N. Watson and Associates have been hired to do a study of the

entire region.

Its conclusions will be supplemented by reports from individual municipalities "to see what subdivisions will come first," said the HCDSB superintendent of plants Giacomo Corbacio. "We're hoping in the next six months to have all that information."

When it comes in, the board will decide whether to proceed with renovations to Our Lady of Victory or change tact.

"We have dollars for space," said Mr. Corbacio. "The question is do we put a big enlargement on Our lady of Victory or do we build a new school in a new area? It depends on what the study says."

When it all happens also depends on the time frame supplied by the municipalities.

"You don't want to build a new school and have it half or three quarters empty for a while," said Mr. Corbacio. "What we need to know is how quickly will this new growth produce students."

Under the Ministry of Education's new funding formula, cash is available to schools that can prove they

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**JIM SHERLOCK**

have more students than space.

"The formula looks at how many spaces you have and how many you need," said Mr. Jewell. "There are areas where we are experiencing growth and we do not have the spaces."

And for those with a demonstrated need, the cash is bigger than before, said Mr. Sherlock.

"It's one of the real benefits of the funding formula," he said. "Now it's much better. The only problem is it isn't very helpful in acquiring sites."

Student enrollment has been growing steadily for years in the separate school board, said Mr. Corbacio.

But a crush at Milton's Bishop

Reding Secondary school is expected to ease through the planned construction of a school in Georgetown in 2002.

Currently, Halton Hills students are directed to Bishop Reding. And HCDSB elementary schools are pretty much at capacity, but the balance is poised to tip when new students begin pouring in.

"We are watching the situation in Milton very, very closely," said Mr. Sherlock.

But putting a dollar amount on renovations throughout the board is difficult because it's a moving target, said Mr. Corbacio.

"It fluctuates on a regular basis because it's tied to enrollment," he said.

Under the funding formula, Burlington's Assumption Secondary School and St. Paul's and St. Raphael's elementary schools will receive additions in upcoming months.

So will Oakville's St. Vincent school and Acton's St. Joseph's school. And a new elementary school is also in the works for Georgetown in 2001.

## Last chance for award nominations

Monday is the last day to nominate a person or business for the annual Chamber of Commerce Community Awards.

The Milton Chamber of Commerce, which has been handing out the awards since 1972, has this year expanded the business awards to include both Businessman and Businesswoman of the Year as well as Business of the Year for both large and small companies, said Sandy Martin, executive director.

The Chamber will also again offer the Lifetime Achievement Award, but Civic Improvement of the Year and Civic Organization of the Year awards have been excluded.

Ms Martin said nominations can be mailed or faxed to the Chamber, and are to include the person or business name, phone number and, most importantly, why they deserve to win.

"We want as much information as possible as to why they think that person is worthy."

Once everything is in, a committee made up of Chamber members and non-members review all the nominations.

### Awards gala

The Chamber will recognize three people from each category at its gala celebration April 8, but only one person will receive the award.

This year's celebration will be held at Granite Ridge Golf Club on Dublin Line.

Everyone is invited to attend. Tickets cost \$60 and include a gourmet dinner and the awards.

Nominations can be sent to the Milton Chamber of Commerce, 251 Main St. E., Suite 104, Milton, Ont., L9T 1P1, or faxed to 878-4972.

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