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Catholic board looking at building 25 new schools

By **KIM ARNOTT**

Special to The Champion

The Halton Catholic District School Board needs to build 22 new elementary schools and three new high schools over the next 20 years to keep up with growth in the region.

That's the conclusion of a report presented to the board May 16 by the consulting firm C.N. Watson and Associates Ltd.

The report provides a sharp contrast to the situation faced by the Halton District School Board, which is looking at closing a number of under-utilized schools in order to receive provincial funding for new building projects.

The Catholic board's 20-year plan doesn't call for the closures of any schools.

"We're grateful that our challenge is growth," said Catholic board Chair Jim Sherlock. "I certainly have a lot of sympathy for boards who have to contemplate school closures. It's a very, very difficult challenge for boards that are in that position."

Provincial funding for new schools is only available to school boards with an overall shortage of space across their system.

Boards like the Halton public board, which have excess capacity, although it may be in the wrong geographical areas, aren't eligible for money to build new schools.

The consultants' report, commissioned by the Catholic board as part of its development of a long-term capital strategic plan, predicts 76,000 new homes will be built in Halton over the next 20 years.

The bulk of the growth, about 43 per cent, is expected to take place

in Oakville. Milton is expected to get 24 per cent of the new housing, while Burlington will get 23 per cent and Halton Hills 10 per cent.

That means the Halton Catholic District School Board should expect its enrolment to grow to more than 36,000 students by 2019, up from about 21,000 today.

Over the next five years, the report calls for three new elementary schools and one new high school to be built in Oakville, two new elementary schools in Milton, and one new elementary school and one new high school in both Georgetown and Burlington.

Trustees accepted the report as information and will circulate it to local school councils for comment. It will come to the board for approval in principle June 20. A long-term capital plan must be submitted to the Ministry of Education by October.

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Most poor reside in the south

• from **ROUGHLY** on page 1

nity are stronger today than they were in 1996," he said. "I think we're dealing with something that's 1996 and panicking in 2000."

But the information is valid, said Halton's social services director Adelina Urbanski. "You don't want to panic or overreact but you want to keep your eye on the trends."

In Halton, Burlington and Oakville carried 85 per cent, or about 26,000 residents, of the region's poor.

Families or single parents supporting very young children were more likely to be living in poverty than those raising older children, and those with a lower education were more likely to be poor than the better educated.

But single women proved to be an exception, with poverty being prevalent despite education levels. Also, the poverty rate of single people was found to be higher than that of couples or families, said Halton senior policy analyst Wendy Kowalski. "We're quite amazed so many single people in Halton are poor. We think it has to do with the cost of living alone and paying the bills."

MILTON 2000
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Attention.... to those Milton residents currently enrolled in the monthly Pre-authorized Tax Payment Program (PTP)
The first installment of the final PTP billing was originally scheduled to be withdrawn from your bank account on June 01, 2000, with the last of the 5 (five) installments being October 02, 2000. Due to delays in the billing process, **the remaining 5 (five) PTP withdrawal dates have been changed to:**
July 04, 2000
August 01, 2000
September 01, 2000
October 02, 2000
November 01, 2000

Please note that there will **not** be a withdrawal during the month of June as previously notified. A statement will be mailed to you shortly advising in writing of the withdrawal due dates and their respective amounts.
The due dates for the **installment** PTP plan remain as June 30, 2000 and September 29, 2000. Should you require further clarification, please contact Corporate Services direct at (905) 878-7252 ext. 393.

NOTICE

Municipal Elections 2000

Make sure you are on the Voters' List

TAKE NOTICE that Municipal Enumeration Forms will be mailed by the Ontario Property Assessment Corporation (OPAC) to households within the Town of Milton. This form will be mailed in a distinctive envelope with the words "Municipal Elections" printed in blue letters on the top left.

Please note that not every household will receive an Enumeration form. The Ontario Property Assessment Corporation has advised that only those properties where OPAC has indications that voter information, for one reason or another requires updating, will receive the form.

The Enumeration form contains information to determine who is noted on the Voters' Lists for the November, 2000 Municipal and School Board Elections. Accordingly, please follow the instructions set forth on the form and return same to OPAC by **June 1st, 2000.**

Any questions pertaining to the form should be directed to the help line number noted on the Enumeration Form itself.

Note: Any person moving out of the Town of Milton before the November Municipal Elections, are advised to contact the Clerk's Office in the municipality to which you are going to reside, thereby ensuring that you are on the correct Voters' List.

Helen Lisi
Town Clerk

Think Spring

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