

Some Catholic trustees leery about campus plan

By Howard Mozel
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

The best way to carry the torch of Catholicism isn't to shrink away from the world at large, says a senior Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) official, but to be an active participant in it while remaining true to core principles and faith.

Superintendent Larry Clifford made that comment at last Tuesday's board meeting where some trustees expressed concern that moving into a proposed joint Halton Regional Campus might conflict with, and perhaps even erode, the board's autonomy, identity, Catholicity and more.

"We need to be out there," said Clifford. "We deserve to be out there."

Superintendent Rick MacDonald agreed, saying that the downfall of Catholic education won't be triggered by partnering up with others. The board has to be a player with the remaining stakeholders, he continued, and not let isolationism and paranoia win out.

"It gives us an equal share at the table," he said. "Our partners do value Catholic educa-

tion."

In a nutshell, the government office "supercentre" concept is one that involves the creation of a major, 540,000 square foot multi-use campus on the Bronte Road property currently occupied by Halton Regional headquarters as well as adjacent land that is up for sale. If it comes to pass, the site would be a central location that would include four distinct areas of office space for the Region, Halton Regional Police, HCDSB and the Halton District School Board, housing about 1,900 staff.

It's estimated that the campus would cost approximately \$127 million, but would result in an overall savings of more than \$20 million for taxpayers - as opposed to how much it would cost if each of the four partners pursued individual buildings.

The site would also include an outdoor community square and a multi-services facility linked to the office space that would house amenities to be shared by the four partners, such as a joint board/council chambers, cafeteria, daycare service, support services or perhaps even a Tim Hortons.

The project could prove to be

an important step in solving overcrowding at the HCDSB's five cramped administrative facilities and save taxpayers even more money through a host of efficiencies.

Burlington trustee Bob Van de Vrande got the ball rolling last Tuesday when he said a report on the impacts of the campus on the board - gleaned from a variety of sources including Bishop Anthony Tonnos - highlighted only vague concerns, not specifics and what needs to be done to safeguard the board.

"This is the future of the board," he said.

In no uncertain terms, Education Director Lou Piovesan said he disagreed with Van de Vrande's interpretation that the report was incomplete and remained adamant that the board will never compromise its principles.

Earlier in the evening, Milton trustee Rev. David Wilhelm said 20 years ago he would have been less concerned about such a partnership but, given today's climate in which institutions of Catholicism are under increased pressure, he remains apprehensive.

• see BAILEY on page A12

It's SHOWTIME! Large Selection of inventory to choose from!

2006 Pontiac Torrent



CASH **\$26,477****

SMART LEASE **\$278*** APR **2.90%**
PER MONTH

2006 Allure CX



CASH **\$25,888****

SMART LEASE **\$265*** APR **1.25%**
PER MONTH

2006 Montana SV6



CASH **\$20,499****

SMART LEASE **\$197*** APR **4.00%**
PER MONTH

2006 Cadillac CTS



CASH **\$34,788****

SMART LEASE **\$359*** APR **2.50%**
PER MONTH

2006 GMC Envoy SLE



CASH **\$38,798****

SMART LEASE **\$348*** APR **2.75%**
PER MONTH

2006 Pontiac Pursuit



CASH **\$14,998****

SMART LEASE **\$159*** APR **2.70%**
PER MONTH

2006 Pontiac G6



CASH **\$22,998****

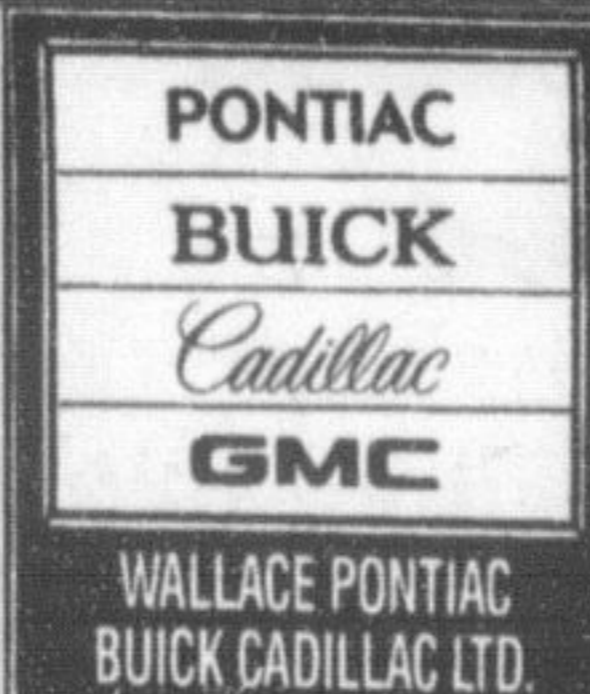
SMART LEASE **\$229*** APR **1.25%**
PER MONTH

2006 Lucerne



CASH **\$29,998****

SMART LEASE **\$398*** APR **5.40%**
PER MONTH



Wallace
PONTIAC • BUICK • CADILLAC
905-878-2355

801 MAIN ST. E. MILTON
MON. - THURS. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM
FRI. & SAT. 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Smartlease are based on 48 mths and include 80,000 km with \$0.15 over and are plus freight, down payment (Torrent \$3635 down-total due \$5852; Allure CX \$3440 down-total due \$5726; SV6 \$5175 down-total due \$7617; Pursuit \$2445 down-total due \$4294; Envoy SLE 4x4; G6 \$3480 down-total due \$5732; Lucerne \$3225 down-total due \$5633); license and applicable taxes down on approved credit. Cash prices are plus freight, taxes and license. All rebates assigned to dealer. See dealer for complete details. Some conditions and restrictions apply. Full details available from your dealer and at gmcanada.com. See dealer for details.

La Rose
Italian Bakery and Delicatessen

Fresh Bread and Buns Baked daily 7 days a week!

1st AWARDS 2005

Weekly Bakery Specials

Soft Buns Whole Wheat or White, Round or Oblong **\$1.79** per dozen or .15 each

SAVE! 30¢

Rustic Corn Bread **\$1.69** ea

Fresh Produce No. 1 Grade

Product of Chile **Red Seedless Grapes** **\$1.49** lb

Product of Ontario **English Cucumber** **99¢** ea

Product of USA **Romaine Hearts** 3 pack cello bag **\$1.99**

Delicatessen

Vera Mortadella **\$3.49** lb OR \$0.77/100g

Brandt's Honey Maple Ham **\$3.99** lb OR \$0.88/100g

Brandt's Hungarian & Summer Salami **\$4.99** lb OR \$1.10/100g

SPECIALS IN EFFECT FROM TUESDAY, MARCH 14TH TO MONDAY, MARCH 20TH, 2006. WHILE QUANTITIES LAST.

327 Bronte Street S. • White Oaks Plaza
905-875-0303

REGULAR STORE HOURS		Bronte St.	
Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 am - 7 pm	Friday 8:30 am - 8 pm	Derry Rd.	X
Saturday 8:30 am - 6 pm	Sunday 9:00 am - 5 pm	Main St.	