

Two more elementary schools on the way for Milton

New additions to alleviate overcrowding at existing schools

By Dennis Smith

METROLAND WEST MEDIA GROUP

Milton appears bound for the head of the class when it comes to getting new public schools.

Two of the next three facilities to be built by the Halton District School Board will be the Milton No. 7 and No. 8 elementary schools, parents were told last week.

Superintendent Steven Parfeniuk also said new high schools will open in Milton in September, 2012 and 2016.

He was speaking at a public information meeting for the board's Long-Term Accommodation Plan for 2010-13. About 30 people attended the session at Milton District High School.

"For the most part, schools in Milton are full as we speak," said Parfeniuk, superintendent of business services. "This is really the only significant area of growth in Halton Region."

He noted the student population at the board's elementary schools in Milton is expected to increase 33 per cent by 2016-17.

The superintendent said he hopes the new schools will alleviate crowding elsewhere. "We're really aggressively pursuing something that can relieve the pressure at Bruce Trail and Hawthorne Village schools."

Parfeniuk said plans for Milton No. 7 and No. 8 elementary schools won't be publicized until building sites are obtained from devel-

opers. It takes two years to open a school once the process starts, he added. "We don't want to get the community over-excited about the schools until we have the sites," said Parfeniuk.

He noted false hopes for completion of Milton No. 4 elementary school were raised for three or four years. The facility is slated to open in September and is named Tiger Jeet Singh Public School after a professional wrestler who's a longtime Milton resident and philanthropist.

Parfeniuk cited concerns like the board's building of a solid waste management delaying the new high school opening by a year.

"As the principal developer, there were things we were going through for the first time," he said. "Previously, we've developed schools after the homes and services have gone in. This new school is by itself in its own neighbourhood."

Parfeniuk said E.C. Drury High School will eventually be replaced but the board will keep the building for another use. Among other audience concerns were French Immersion, boundaries and unwanted school transfers for their children. Parent Brad Saunders said afterward he avoided moving to a new area because he didn't want to shift schools. "I really feel for parents who've been moved all around."

When new schools open there are issues with boundaries and programming, Milton trustee Donna Danielli said afterward.

"There's definitely anxiety and uncertainty, but we'll work to pull together the information and answers as quickly as possible," she said.

She's thrilled with the P.L. Robertson and Escarpment View elementary schools that opened earlier this year. "When new schools are built, there are new opportunities." Danielli also praised the input and teamwork of school council representatives who discuss issues with her and staff at Milton 'super council' meetings.

Parfeniuk told parents the board obtained \$200 million in the recent provincial capital funding round, with enough remaining for the three new elementary schools. (The third school is planned for Burlington's Alton community.)

"We've really had success in the past few

years," he said.

Parfeniuk said trustees are seeking a plan to renew high schools. The board receives only \$3 million annually for all school renewals.

He added there are no specific plans for closures or consolidations of Milton schools on the horizon.

Parfeniuk said feedback from accommodation meetings held in Halton communities will be presented to trustees April 21. He said the board's web site will be used to provide responses to questions not answered at the meeting. Absent parents can also send questions via the website (www.hdsb.ca). The Long-Term Accommodation Plan will go to trustees for approval next December or January after the municipal elections, said Parfeniuk.

A9 • Tuesday, March 30, 2010 MILTON CHAMPION • www.miltoncanadianchampion.com

GOT A KIA?

5 Year Warranty

KIA

KIA MOTORS
The Power to Surprise™

NEED SERVICE? CALL

Milton KIA 905-878-7700

One Test Drive and You'll Be SOLD! 65 Ontario St. North, Milton

FABRICLAND

SEW MUCH *More* THAN A FABRIC STORE!

FINAL DAYS!
Sale ends April 3rd.

Home Design Event!

<p>ENTIRE REGULAR STOCK DRAPERY PANELS</p> <p>40% Off</p> <p>OUR REG. PRICE</p> <p><small>Includes all regular panels, special purchase 2/pkg. panels and promotional panels not already on sale.</small></p>	<p>ENTIRE REGULAR STOCK Creations® Decorative METAL ROD SETS</p> <p>50% Off</p> <p>OUR REG. PRICE</p> <p><small>Rod Accessories also available at 50% off our regular prices!</small></p>
--	--

Birthday Sale starts Monday! See flyer for full details!

547 Main St. E. MILTON 878-0931

HALTON Country Inn

Fully Licensed L.L.B.O.

- Lounge • Patio • Golf
- Banquet Facilities

R.R. #3, 6th Line, Milton
905-876-3018

Easter Lunch Buffet

Easter Weekend • Sunday April 4

EASTER LUNCH 11am-1:30pm

Adults \$15.95 Kids (under 12) \$7.95

Followed by Easter Egg Hunt

FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL 905-876-3018