

Milton schools burst at seams W. I. Dick gets large expansion

An upsurge in elementary school enrolment in Milton means W.I. Dick school is in for a major expansion costing between \$800,000 and \$900,000.

Halton Board of Education decided Thursday that since enrolment has gone up so much in Milton they are in a position to ask for Ministry of Education approval for more facilities and space at W.I. Dick.

Last month the board decided to put W.I. Dick at the top of its list of schools which are slated for upgrading once funds become available. The board had changed W.I. Dick's status after parents presented a brief in the spring persuading the board that the school badly needed a library and general purpose room.

W.I. Dick had formerly been number four out of eight schools on the board's priority list.

Superintendent of Business and Finance Bruce Lindley said enrolment in Milton was far above board projections, especially in kindergarten classes, and he thought growth would continue in the town.

He blamed new housing and new residents moving into the area for the startling increase in registrations at Milton area elementary schools and said a trend was clear that this growth would continue.

"There was a lot of building in Milton last year and it is expected to continue. It would appear the schools will be to capacity by September of 1976 and if changes aren't made there will be more students than room in Milton schools by the fall of 1977," he warned.

Lindley noted there are 250 new homes built or being built in Milton and 150 more slated for construction in registered plans. He predicted this would mean many more pupils would have to be accommodated at Milton schools in the next few years.

"We are in a position with this kind of growth to go to the Ministry for approval to provide more pupil places in Milton and it would be more economical to provide the upgrading at W.I. Dick along with expansion for more pupil places at the same time," he explained.

Trustee Rev. Gary Morton agreed it would be more economical to do the upgrading and expansion at the same time and thought the province would see the logic behind this move.

Director of Education Emmerson Lavender noted that when the board first

looked at future growth in Milton quite a while back they had decided they might make W.I. Dick into a middle school.

Milton Trustee Bill Lawson said the enrolment trend was clear. He predicted that if action wasn't taken soon "problems in Milton will be serious in 1976, worse in 1977, and terrible by 1978. We could end up with portables all over town if we don't move quickly in the direction of expansion of Milton schools."

Lawson added the board couldn't afford to delay any longer on the construction of more classrooms in Milton because more classrooms will be needed by next fall.

The board decided to remove W.I. Dick from the upgrading priorities list and give it special status by asking the province to allow a major expansion because of the need for more classrooms.

The board decided to go ahead with the plans which were made up in the event W.I. Dick becomes a middle school and not wait to see if the changeover to a middle school is made.

Board members agreed the problems in Milton are urgent and action must be taken. In an interview later Lindley said the board will ask Queen's Park for permission to expand W.I. Dick in October but he didn't know if work could begin at the school by 1976.

He said no definite expansion plans have been nailed down but was sure the expansion would include at least all of the provisions the board had thought would be necessary should W.I. Dick become a middle school.

Lindley said the expansion would cost at least \$800,000 to \$900,000 and said the only thing preventing the project from going ahead would be if the province turned the board down. He said he thought the board is in a good position to have its request granted in light of the enrolment figures.

He noted the problem of crowding in Milton schools could be solved by changing school boundaries once W.I. Dick is expanded.

Lindley said a change in the boundaries would be necessary since both Robert Baldwin and W.I. Dick schools are near capacity now and Martin Street is now over the capacity level. He pointed out only J.M. Denyes School isn't near capacity and there is still lots of room for pupil growth at that school.

Tentative expansion plans at W.I. Dick call for con-

struction of a gym and gym storage areas along with building a resource centre, industrial arts class, home economics room, art and music classrooms and a new administration area. The board's proposals indicate the present administration area will be used for guidance facilities and the kindergarten classroom will be converted to a staff and supply room.

Board estimates call for \$879,400 to be spent on the project at W.I. Dick and that figure could increase if more regular classrooms are required at the school.

In addition, the board has a \$125,450 expansion program at Martin Street middle school on the books which includes new construction and conversion of present facilities. It is not known what will happen to the Martin Street proposal but it could also materialize if growth in Milton continues and W.I. Dick can't be converted into a middle school because of climbing enrolment.

Milton says no to oil company

Milton Council's Planning and Development Committee has chosen to ignore what some councillors described as a moral responsibility to Imperial Oil.

Don Culbert of Imperial Oil appeared before the committee to ask that a rezoning on property the firm owned on Highway 25 near Highway 401 be reconsidered. He presented a long list of correspondence between the previous planning board for the town, town staffers and the company.

On Nov. 21 of 1973 Milton Planning Board passed a motion that an amendment to the zoning by-law be prepared accommodating a change in zoning in the Imperial Oil property to accommodate a highway commercial zone there.

Await report Milton Planning and Development Committee considered the matter Sept. 24, 1974 and delayed action, pending a report on the need for more gas stations in town.

That report has been completed and indicates an overabundance already. Since then, council has said that only those three firms that have permission for gas bars will be allowed.



THE NADALIN BROTHERS Henry and Louis (right) are pictured with the memorial plaque unveiled at the CN Station building during Wednesday's official opening. At left is Enio Scelisizzi, who donated the plaque. The Nadalins contributed electrical work toward the station's restoration, in memory of their parents Mr. and Mrs. Sante Nadalin.

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\$559,000 subsidy

The Ontario Government has given Milton Council \$559,000 in road subsidies so far this year.

Of this amount, \$349,000 is for road construction while \$210,000 is to be used to maintain existing town roads.

The subsidies were provided by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

Board cancels meeting

Halton Board of Education members went along with Trustee Richard Goodin's request to have the September 18 Ontario election night meeting cancelled last Thursday.

Goodin said he couldn't believe the board was planning to meet the night the election results would be revealed. He thought it was the duty of each trustee to follow the results.

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