



Looking Up

The prince and sparrow make their debut next week at J. M. Denyes School in the musical *The Happy Prince* by Oscar Wilde. Georgina Ramsay (left) is the prince and Andrea Rose is the sparrow in the production which has two casts. Dawn Dicks also plays the prince opposite Susanne Jolly, the sparrow. Evening performances are scheduled for April 21 and 23 with morning and afternoon shows on April 29.

Halton's shortfall in chronic beds called 'shocking'

Halton lags far behind provincial guidelines in chronic-care beds, says a study just made public by the Halton District Health Council.

The results come from an accommodation survey of chronic- and extended-care beds completed in January by the council. Not only is the chronic-care situation "shocking", according to general director Bill Leonard, but the region is behind guidelines in three of the five bed types identified in provincial guidelines.

The shortfall is by far the biggest in chronic care. This is the type where a patient needs continuous supervision along with rehabilitation and therapeutic services.

Halton has 39 chronic-care beds - less than half the number recommended by the province.

Halton has only 5.5 chronic-care beds for 1,000 people over 65 years of age. The guidelines call for 11.9 beds per 1,000. But Halton is even further below the provincial average which is 12.9 beds per 1,000 people over 65.

This shortage has also started a ripple effect, which leads to patients being improperly placed. If the provincial level of care cannot be obtained, people are taking what they can get resulting in their receiving less care than they should.

To raise the care level, the health council is recommending extensive

expansion of the amount of chronic-care, extended-care and rehabilitation beds.

In the chronic-care area, the council says Halton needs to add 95 beds this year; 30 in 1987-88; and 50 beds in 1988-89. It also recommends an additional 145 extended-care beds and 15 to 20 rehabilitation beds this year.

In the courts

Two years for robbery

Sean Francis Lee, 18, of Campbellville, was sentenced to two years less a day in jail last Thursday in Milton District Court.

Mr. Lee pleaded guilty to armed robbery committed at the Livery Variety Store in Campbellville on Saturday Dec. 28.

Following the jail term Mr. Lee is facing 24 months of probation.

Tracey L. Allen, 21, of 74 Main St. Acton has been fined \$400 and has had her licence suspended for one year.

She was picked up and charged with impaired driving and over 80 mg on Wilson Drive on Monday March 3.

Ms Allen pleaded guilty to the impaired charge, but the over 80 mg charge was dropped.

Police sing for Society

The Milton Historical Society will pay tribute to the Milton police protection, past and present, at Milton Library, tomorrow (Thursday) at 7:45 p.m.

A prize-winning group, the Choristers from the Halton Regional Police, will open the session with 30 minutes of popular and traditional songs.

Former Milton police chief Ray Andress, now serving with the regional police, will recall some of the more turbulent and memorable incidents from police files.

Historical displays and photos will help set the nostalgic tone. For more information, call Ken Lamb at 878-6391. Visitors are welcome.

Teachers reach pact

Roman Catholic Separate School teachers approved a tentative agreement Thursday night, but by the lowest margin ever on a ratification vote.

Only 65 per cent of the 600 teachers voted in favor of the two-year pact with the Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board, said Bernie Butt, president of the Ontario English Catholic Teacher's Association in Halton.

The key issue of dissatisfaction is the lack of planning time provision in the contract, said Mr. Butt. This was one of the most important aspects going into talks last year, he added.

What was achieved in this area, he said, was that a committee of board and teachers has been set up to report back by April 30 with a plan that would give teachers an equitable amount of planning time. Since it could involve the hiring of more teachers, Mr. Butt doesn't expect it to go into effect until the fall. It will be put into the collective agreement, he added, and not just the board policy.

The teachers will get approximately a five per cent salary increase in the first year. Part of it will be effective from last September to last December with the rest becoming effective in January.

This will bring the top salary, said Butt, for those with maximum qualifications to \$45,672. The average teacher will get about \$35,000 and the lowest for a non-degreed teacher is \$16,234. Butt said he doubted whether there was anyone in this lowest category.

For the past 14 years, he said, it has been OECTA's goal to eliminate the wage gap between the separate and public teachers. This contract narrowed it slightly so the difference is now between two and three per cent, he added.

The second year of the contract calls for the teachers to get cost of living increase, based on the Toronto consumer price index, plus one per cent, Butt stated.

The board has contributed \$35,000 to be put toward improving extended health care benefits and the dental plan, he said.

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