

Halton North PC board chosen

The Halton North Progressive Conservative Provincial Riding Association has elected a new executive for 1994. They are Mike Armstrong (Georgetown), John Gibson (Georgetown), Carol Barr (Georgetown), Bruce Attenborough (Campbellville), Murray Brown (Acton), Darryl Demille (Campbellville), Donald Gordon (Milton), Bob Johnston (Georgetown), Bill Paterson (Acton), Jamie Snow (Georgetown), Ruth Wood (Campbellville), Dr. Ian Bourke (Campbellville), and the Hon. James Snow (Georgetown). The executive was chosen from a cross-section of the riding, which includes north Halton and its major centres of Milton, Georgetown and Acton.

"Our first priority this year will be to conduct an extensive candidate search across the riding. Any interested parties may contact me personally at 877-7744," says new President Mike Armstrong.

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No reprieve for school board on plan to delay junior kindergarten

By KATHY YANCHUS
Special to The Champion

Just when the Halton Board of Education thought it was safe to plan its budget, along comes a memo from the Ministry of Education.

Trustees had barely finished celebrating a reprieve from the Ministry on the implementation of Junior Kindergarten (JK) in Halton from 1994 to 1997, when rumours started circulating about the reprieve not meaning a total postponement of the plan.

In response to the rumours, Halton Board of Education chair Dave Whiting fired off a strongly-worded letter in opposition to implementing JK before 1997 in Halton, but the ink wasn't even dry before the Ministry memo arrived.

The memo states: "Although the deadline for full implementation of JK is September 1994, school boards may request a temporary exemption from this requirement. School boards that are granted an exemption will be permitted to phase in the full implementation of JK by no later than September 1997.... Exemption will not permit school boards to postpone the implementation of JK until 1997. Only in the most unusual of circumstances will a board be given approval for a plan that does not provide for the enrolment of some JK pupils beginning in the 1994-95 school year."

With the impact of the social contract and the need for severe fiscal restraint, there is "simply no money

for any new programs, particularly one for which there has been absolutely no demand in our region," said Mr. Whiting.

The Ministry's memo throws a monkey wrench into budget talks, through which trustees are trying to freeze this year's education taxes.

The public school board has estimated the full implementation of JK would cost the board \$9 million. The Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board has already implemented JK in all of its schools.

The memorandum received from the Ministry in November of last year simply outlined the process or exemption, explained Maurice Poirier, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Education and Training, and any other translation of it was wishful interpretation on the part of Hal-

ton trustees.

The reason for the follow-up memo was to clarify questions that arose following the November memo, but to his knowledge, no other schoolboard took the initial release to mean they had another three years to plan for JK, said Mr. Poirier.

"The intent of the legislation is to phase it in, not wait it out," he said. The Ministry, however, is allowing for flexibility because of the diversity of schoolboards across the province, he said.

School boards have been asked to forward their requests for exemption by mid-April.

Partial implementation of JK could mean its availability at certain schools for the initial year and expansion after that, said Mr. Poirier.

Joint school transit links to be evaluated by both Halton boards

Trustees of the Halton Board of Education gave the go ahead recently for discussion of a joint transportation system with the Halton Separate School Board, despite fears from some trustees that they would be giving the transit committee carte blanche.

Oakville Trustee Penny Siebert said details were too sketchy and no cost savings had been discussed. She said it was not clear whether the boards would operate under one policy instead of the existing two.

"There are not enough details about what the system would look like," said Ms Siebert, who said she would not support a proposal that would encompass two separate policies.

Under the current board transportation policy, Kindergarten to Grade 2 students living over 1.6 kilometres from their school are bused; Grade 3 to 8 students living over 3.2 kilometres and high school students residing over 4.8 kilometres are bused.

Ms Siebert said their system "is decidedly more strict" than that of the separate school board, which buses all elementary school children living more than 1.6 kilometres from

their school and high school students residing over 3.2 kilometres away.

Ms Siebert opposed a two-policy system, whereby students in the same grades and of equal distance from their perspective schools would not receive the same transportation treatment.

Burlington trustee and Board Vice-Chair Don Cassidy said Ms Siebert was imposing pre-emptive conditions that would tie the hands of negotiators needlessly.

Mr. Cassidy said he was not insensitive to the issues Ms Siebert raised, nor to the discrepancies in the two systems, but that passing their motion simply opened the door to negotiations.

"Until the motion goes through, we aren't even at the party yet," said Burlington Trustee Dave Coons. "Please do not pre-empt negotiations that have not yet begun."

"What I wanted to make clear," said Ms Siebert, "is that I cannot live with a transportation system that has two policies. In effect, if trustees are unaware that the will of the board is not to have two separate policies, your time will not be well spent."



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Saturday Feb. 5 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Activity	Time	Location	Sponsoring Group
Friday Feb. 4			
Youth & Family Fun Skate	8 p.m. to 9 p.m.	Mill Pond	Milton Youth Place
Saturday Feb. 5			
Opening Ceremonies - Greetings from the Mayor & others	9 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.	Mill Pond	Dept. of Leisure Services
Family Free Skate	9:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Mill Pond	Dept. of Leisure Services
Ice Sculpturing	10 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Mill Pond	Artistic Ice Carvings
Live Owl Display	10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Mill Pond	Mountsberg Wildlife Centre
Petting Zoo	10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Mill Pond	Halton Junior Farmers
Family Free Skate	1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Memorial Arena	Dept. of Leisure Services
Family Crafts	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Lions Club Hall	Milton Children & Youth Centre
Face Painting & Clown Tricks	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Memorial Arena	Milton Community Information Services
Lego Play Centre	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Memorial Arena	Red Cross Babysitting Service
Crafts Display & Exhibits	1 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Leisure Centre	2990 Army Cadets & Girl Guides
Volleyball Tournament	1 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Leisure Centre	Community Groups Performing
Washboard Hank & Fiddlin' John	1:15 p.m. to 2 p.m.	Lions Club Hall	Jakebox Charlie's
Carnival Fun Swim	1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Leisure Centre	Milton Public Library
Stunt Kite Flying Demonstration	2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Arena Grounds	Milton Leisure Centre Staff
Pow-Wow Dance Performance	2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Lions Club Hall	Toronto Kite Flyers
Linedancing Demonstration	2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Lions Club Hall	Georgetown Pow-Wow Committee
Figure Skating Show	2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Memorial Arena	Milton Seniors Recreation Centre
Magic Show	3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Lions Club Hall	Party California
Children's Games & Races	3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Memorial Arena	Milton Youth Place
Broomball Tournament	6 p.m. to 11 p.m.	Memorial Arena	Milton Optimist Club
Dance	9 p.m. to 1 a.m.	Lions Club Hall	Milton Optimist Club

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