

# Fire prevention program being kindled in schools

By DENNIS SMITH  
Special to The Champion

If area fire officials have their way, children across Halton will be taking a break from the three Rs to learn about fire prevention.

Fire prevention officers appeared before the Halton Roman Catholic School Board recently to provide information on the Learn Not To Burn program.

In an interview prior to the meeting, Art McGlynn of the Burlington Fire Department was enthusiastic about the program's future.

"The intent is to have it in all Halton separate schools starting in September, 1994," said Mr. McGlynn, Burlington's chief fire prevention officer. "Following that, we hope to implement it in public schools."

He said separate school board officials and trustees seem strongly supportive about the free program, and he's confident it will be fully implemented next fall.

Learn Not to Burn was introduced to pre-schoolers last year, and currently, the program's resource books are being piloted at four Halton separate schools.

The program teaches children how to prevent fires, and also stresses the importance of smoke alarms and fire

escape planning.

Twenty-two fire safety behaviours that are key to fire survival and burn prevention are taught.

A curriculum for Learn Not to Burn is being organized into three levels, spanning kindergarten through grade 8.

The level one program (kindergarten to grade 2) will be made available cost-free to participating schools for the next three years.

The next two levels will be phased in, subject to joint fire service, school board and community fundraising activities.

Mr. McGlynn said Canadian Tire Corporation has put up \$800,000 to fund the program resource books used across the country.

The fire prevention officer said the program has been extensively tested in the United States, where it originated.

"It's the kind of program where a teacher can take the resource books, and pretty much teach it on her own," he said.

About 10 lessons would be required to teach the program, and one visit from a firefighter would be helpful, said Mr. McGlynn.

"This program could be implemented as part of the school health

program," he added.

In a background report, program supporters noted that Canada has one of the worst fire loss records among industrialized countries. Each year, more than 500 people die in fires across the country, and about 2,000 more are injured.

Many of the victims are children, who are often unable to escape a fire without help. Some hide in closets or under beds, making it difficult for firefighters to locate them.

The board received a presentation on the matter as an information item.



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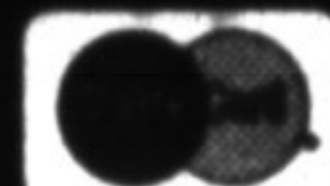
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Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 297 and 300 of The Municipal Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter M.45 as amended, that the Council for the Regional Municipality of Halton proposes at its meeting on Wednesday, May 18, 1994 to pass a by-law for the reconstruction of Guelph Line from 220 metres north of 15 Sideroad to Cameron Drive, Town of Milton.

Plans showing the proposed work may be inspected at the Public Works Department office, Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario or at the North District Operations Centre, 1600 Steeles Avenue, Milton during normal business hours.

On Wednesday, May 11, 1994 at 9:30 a.m. in the Halton Room at the Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario, Council through its Planning and Public Works Committee will hear in person, or by his/her counsel, any person who claims that his/her lands will be prejudicially affected by the said by-law and who applies to the Regional Clerk no later than Wednesday, May 4, 1994 to be heard.

For further information, please contact Mr. J. Choi, P. Eng., Manager of Design at extension 7611 from one of the following numbers:

From Milton 825-6030  
From Halton Hills 878-8113  
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