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# No contract, but teachers continue to work

By HERB GARBUTT

Special to The Champion

Although most local educators returned to the classroom this month without a contract, there is little concern among teachers' groups.

Three of four teaching contracts, with both the public and separate school boards, expired a few weeks ago. In each case the teachers will continue to work under the expired contract until a new settlement is reached.

The elementary Catholic teachers signed a two-year agreement in August.

While that is not an unusual situation, it perhaps takes on greater significance this year. Ontario Education Minister John Snobelen said recently he is contemplating taking away teachers' right to strike and having the government take over contract

negotiations on a province-wide basis. Mr. Snobelen made the comments while announcing a two-month review of Bill 100, which governs collective bargaining between teachers and school boards.

Joe Diubaldo, president of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (Halton secondary schools), said Mr. Snobelen's plans won't impact the current negotiations.

"This minister floats a trial balloon a week," he said. "If you were to negotiate based on the things he floats, you would just throw up your hands."

Many teachers are suspicious of Snobelen's proposal. Kathleen Carroll, president of the Halton District of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, said taking away the right to strike is not necessary because so few negotiations end in a strike. Ontario Teachers' Federation statistics show that more than 97 per cent of agreements are reached without a strike.

"Our argument is, why change the system if it has been so successful?" Ms Carroll said.

While there has never been a full teachers' strike in Halton, secondary school teachers from the separate school board did stage a work-to-rule campaign last year.

## Sheridan musical

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Tickets cost \$19. For more information or to order tickets call the Theatre Sheridan Box Office at 815-4049. The theatre is located on the college campus one mile north of the QEW on Trafalgar Road in Oakville. Parking is free evenings and weekends.

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