

Council moves to stall closing of Percy Merry

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

Too many unanswered questions surround closing Percy Merry School, according to opponents of a Halton Board of Education recommendation.

Milton Trustee Tim Kingsbury, Kim Pickering, chair of the school's parent council, and several students made a pitch Monday night for the support of town council in their fight to keep the school open.

Council's general committee unanimously supported a wait and see motion, designed to postpone the closure decision until after water servicing and growth scenarios can be fully explored.

The Halton Board of Education has proposed closing Percy Merry and several other schools in order to save money on operating costs. They also propose selling the sites to raise capital.

Mr. Kingsbury said some of the targeted sites in south Halton are worth substantial sums. However he suggested the Percy Merry site, with questionable water servicing and a large school building, would be virtually worthless.

"We are giving no guarantee from the Milton council that the site will be serviced by water, we are simply saying water will remain a consideration for the site, all things being equal," said local Councillor Rick Day.

"The school zoning and official plan



"I support the motion. Why start over again? There will be development there. Percy Merry is the focus of the farming community in Ward 1."
.....
BARRY LEE

designation of the site as a school zone will remain in effect."

Ms Pickering said closing the school is "inappropriate" given unique learning opportunities presented by the rural school and the fact that it serves as a community centre for the south Milton rural area. In addition, she said, with large future population growth expected, closing the school and then building a new one in a few years at a much higher cost does not seem economical.

Several students unveiled a huge banner inscribed with dozens of messages trumpeting the school and insisting it be kept open.

Mr. Kingsbury admitted poor water quality at the school put it on the hit list for closure. Bottled drinking water is currently brought in, which contributes to higher than average operating costs on a per stu-

• see COUNCIL on page 8

Chudleigh: No better deal is likely

• from MALEY on page 1

marily outside major urban centres. It also reduced current doctors' ability to move their practice, or sell it upon retirement.

Dr. Maley said the government is not really as interested in getting physicians into under-served areas as it is in getting doctors out of over-served areas. He said the OMA has a program for matching new doctors to under-served areas. Government officials say the program is not working.

Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh said the province's doctors have been offered the \$3.8 billion pot of physicians' revenue and asked how they wanted to divide it up, with the caveat that there is no more money.

Dr. Maley says that amount has

remained the same for several years, during which Ontario's population has grown by 700,000 and has become older, leading to substantially higher medical costs.

"They say there is no more money but they want us to keep taking patients," said Dr. Maley. "They don't want to accept responsibility for an aging and growing population but they want to tell us where we can live, where we can work, how we will work and who we can talk to."

Negotiations between doctors and the province are "back to square one" said Dr. Maley, who added the government has moved away from its agreement of last month.

"Everyone is playing hardball now," said the Milton physician.

"I'm still hoping cooler heads will prevail. Increases in medical services can no longer be sucked up by the doctors."

Negotiations have a January 31 deadline but Dr. Maley said anything is possible between now and then. Doctors are anxious to conclude talks as their negotiators are practising physicians taking time away from their normal jobs, according to Dr. Maley.

Mr. Chudleigh said he hoped negotiations produce a system which can stand for some time but he expected a temporary solution to be forged out of the current situation. He called the 3.9 per cent billing clawback which was in the rejected pact "probably the best deal they'll ever see." The clawback is currently 10 per cent.

5—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, November 13, 1996

Shop Milton First for...

SERVICE, SAVINGS - and FUN!



HEY KIDS!
COME AND
MEET ME AT THE MALL
THIS SATURDAY
AT 11:00 A.M.

SANTA

Arrives at the Milton Mall
SATURDAY, NOV. 16 at 11:00 A.M.
GOLF CART PROVIDED BY TRAFALGAR GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB.

Children's entertainment every Saturday
At 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. from Nov. 16 through Dec. 14

MILTON MALL

Come celebrate our
5th Anniversary on November 16th.

TOTI FRUTI
Scented play putty demonstrations
11am - 2pm for kids.

Visit our store for
Fantastic Christmas Gift Ideas.

SOAPBERRY
S · H · O · P

878-6187

FABRICLAND

CANADA'S LARGEST FASHION FABRIC DISTRIBUTOR

FLYER SALE ON NOW!
Pick up your copy today!

Sew it & Save for the Holidays!

Entire Regular Stock!
FASHION VELVETS & VELVETEEN
Individually priced.
NOW 20-50% OFF
Our Regular Price

Entire Regular Stock!
**LACE & METALLIC FABRICS
SEQUINED TRIMS & APPLIQUES**
Individually priced.
NOW 20-50% OFF
Our Regular Price

Entire Regular Stock!
**100% POLYESTER
FASHION PRINTS & SOLIDS**
Individually priced.
NOW 20-60% OFF
Our Regular Price

A Fabricland Gift Certificate makes the perfect gift for the sewers on your list!

SUPER SATURDAYS!
SAT., NOV. 16, 23, 30, 1996 ONLY.

Our Entire Stock Of,
SEWING NOTIONS
Individually priced, excluding promotional.
SAVE 33% OFF OUR REG. PRICE

547 Main St. E.
Milton
878-0931

FABRICLAND

CANADA'S LARGEST FASHION FABRIC DISTRIBUTOR

The Best in Selection and Price Anywhere

Some items may be sold at a price lower than our regular price. Where this competitive pricing occurs, the advertised savings will be off our regular price.

Choose from Special Selections of:
PRINTED VELVETEEN
115cm wide. Our Reg. 14.98 m
NOW 7.49 m YOU SAVE 50%!
METALLIC TAFFETA
115cm wide. Our Reg. 12.98 m
NOW 6.49 m YOU SAVE 50%!
'Fantasy' POLYESTER PRINTS
115cm wide. Our Reg. 12.98 m
NOW 6.49 m YOU SAVE 50%!
'Sheridan' MICROFIBRE
115cm wide. Our Reg. 15.98 m
NOW 7.99 m YOU SAVE 50%!
ARCTIC FLEECE PRINTS
150cm wide. Our Reg. 19.98 m
NOW 7.99-9.99 m YOU SAVE 50-60%!
CRUSHED PANNÉ VELOUR
150cm wide. Our Reg. 12.98 m
NOW 6.49 m YOU SAVE 50%!
**100% WOOL FLANNEL, GABARDINE,
DOUBLEKNIT & WOOL BLEND
COATINGS & POLYESTER/WOOL KNITS**
140-150cm wide. Our Reg. 24.98-39.98 m
NOW 19.99 m YOU SAVE 20-50%!
FLANNELETTE PRINTS
105cm 100% cotton. Our Reg. 4.49 m
NOW 2.99 m YOU SAVE 33%!
BROADCLOTH Entire Regular Stock!
115cm wide, Polyester/cotton blend.
Our Reg. 3.98 m **NOW 2.69 m**
DECORATOR PRINTS
Includes assorted sateens, chintz, canvas.
Our Reg. to 18.98 m
NOW 50% OFF Our Reg. Price
W-I-D-E WIDTH LACE ENDS 295cm
Values to 18.98 m **ONLY 8.99 m**
Selected CHRISTMAS TRIMS
Bias tapes, ruffled & pleated bias trims
in solids and tartans.
NOW 50% OFF Our Reg. Price
(selection may vary from store to store)
V.I.P. CRAFT ENDS
115cm wide, 100% cotton.
Our Reg. 5.98 m **NOW 4.99 m** or panel
FELT 90-180cm wide.
Wool/rayon blend. Our Reg. 6.98-12.98 m
NOW 3.49-6.49 m YOU SAVE 50%!