

# Catholic High future is in doubt

Refusal by the Halton Board of Education to agree to the need for a Catholic high school building in Oakville could quash plans for a new St. Ignatius of Loyola high school by 1986.

The new high school was given the go-ahead by the Ontario Ministry of Education three weeks ago, but with the provision that an agreement be reached by both the Halton school board and the Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board on the need for the new school building.

The refusal has angered Oakville separate

school trustee Mike Boyle, who said he personally believes the public board trustees are "stalling" because of the new provincial policy to fully fund Catholic high schools.

"We're not going to turn in something (full funding) that we've fought 100 years for," he commented on what he considers public board resistance to the new funding. "We're not going to be used as second class citizens anymore."

Plans for the new Loyola high school, to be built in the Glen Abbey community, were put on hold last summer by the Ministry of

Education after former Ontario Premier Bill Davis announced in June that his government would provide full funding for Catholic high schools. Davis committed his government to start with spending \$40 million this year to begin the phasing in of public funding for all Catholic school grades.

The Catholic education system currently receives full funding for elementary schools only, and partial funding for Grades 9 and 10. There is no funding for senior grades, although Catholics also pay education taxes into the public system.

As a result, Halton residents sending their children to Catholic high schools must pay a tuition fee of \$695 per student per year in the senior grades.

The approval given by the ministry for the new \$10 million Loyola high school would make Loyola the first fully-funded Roman Catholic high school in Ontario "designed in its entirety on the same equitable capital base as any public secondary school," said Cliff Byrnes, director of education for the Halton Separate School Board at the time of the ministry announcement.

Attached to the announcement three weeks ago, however, was a note from assistant deputy minister Duncan Green that, "It would be helpful if a joint statement could be signed by the chief executive officer of each board respecting the position of each board respecting the need for St. Ignatius of Loyola as a full secondary school."

But at a Halton school board meeting following the announcement, trustees opted against signing a joint statement and instead sent their own letter to Green. The Halton trustees offered to accommodate the Halton separate school board by phasing in Catholic grades year by year into one of their Oakville high schools with a low enrolment, until the school can be eventually taken over by the separate board, according to Halton board chairman Betty Fisher.

"We find this the most economical way of dealing with the situation," said Fisher. She added that the board will have an empty high school building available in 1985 because of declining enrolment, adding that building a new Catholic school for Loyola students now would be unfeasible.



## Canada Trust Re-opens

The revamped and enlarged offices of Canada Trust on Main St. were re-opened Dec. 31 with Mayor Gord Krantz cutting the ribbon. Present from left were Maurice Beaty, Bob McCraith, manager; Mayor Krantz; R.W. Garhouse and J.M. Ledwith.

# All belongings lost in blaze, nothing is left

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part of Marjorie's former home.

Of all items lost in the blaze she will miss a painting of three Holstein cows "in a beautiful frame" the most.

"When she came out of that house, all that was left was her," said Mrs. Fretz.

Marjorie doesn't know why she woke up that morning.

When she did she grabbed a flashlight and headed through the smoke-filled house to the front door. She recalls it slammed behind her and neither she or two men who came to her aid could open it again.

She imagines the surviving dogs must have run out as she did. Although the cold must have been unbearable as she stood barefoot in the snow, the

shock of the disaster shielded her from it. Physically, Marjorie suffered no ill effects from the fire. She was released from Milton District Hospital the day after she was admitted.

She might have had to stay longer if neighbours hadn't supplied her with clothes. Mrs. Fretz found the holiday a hindrance when attempting to get help for her friend.

Since that time response to Marjorie's plight has resulted in donations of sufficient winter clothing.

Anyone interested in helping Marjorie rebuild may make donations through Susan Brethey at The Canadian Champion. Donations may be mailed to her at The Champion, Box 248, L7T 4N9 or dropped off at the office at 191 Main St.



There's fun just about everywhere now thanks to the recent ice fall and Monday's snow storm. This group is shown having toboggan excitement on Childs Dr. at Sixteen Mile Creek.

# Cold weather a boost to HRCA's activities

Few people think about wintertime activities at conservation authority sites when they can still see green grass in the backyard, says Gary Hutton publicity director of the Halton Region Conservation Authority.

And that was true until New Year's Eve when the snow (in a manner of fashion) arrived increasing HRCA hopes that residents will get out to see what the Conservation Authority has to offer.

Mr. Hutton told The Champion activities at the Mountsberg Wildlife Centre are dependant on snow, and the number of people attending is sharply down from this time last year when there was lots of snow.

But at the Crawford Lake site, the attraction of its wealth of Indian lore is not seeing a decline in visitors.

He notes some people are hiking rather than cross-country skiing at Hilton Falls and Rattlesnake Point. Another adjustment made during weeks leading up to the new year was substituting horse-drawn wagon rides at Mountsberg instead of the usual sleigh rides.

With the colder weather I imagine the skating pond at Mountsberg will be open, but we're still looking for snow," Mr. Hutton said.

Glen Eden Ski Area marketing manager Carol Patterson said the facility is having a much better season that it did last year.

"Last year we opened Dec. 10 and stayed open," she said. "This year we opened on Dec. 8 and 9 and then were closed until Dec. 22. We've had the odd closed day since then."

Last year on Dec. 29, Glen Eden was busy setting attendance records at 3,400 people. This year the hill was closed on Dec. 29.

If the temperatures had co-operated, Glen Eden officials said they could have made enough snow to keep the slopes covered. What snow had been made was lost because of warm weather during Christmas.

Temperatures have since remained sub-zero and it was anticipated there would be snow this weekend on the Little Dipper, Boomerang, and Washboard.

Sunday was the first special event of the year at Glen Eden with a Moistar race for children and adults.

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**E.C. Drury Jan. 14 General/Advanced**

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**E.C. Drury 878-0575 Milton District 878-2839**

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**FRENCH IMMERSION HALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Information meetings are being held to explain Grade 1 and Grade 7 French Immersion programs starting in September 1985. Application forms have been mailed to all students presently in Kindergarten and Grade 6 in the Halton Board of Education. Additional application forms may be obtained from any Halton Elementary School.

Locations of information meetings are as follows:

**ACTON** 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 16, 1985 Robert Little Public School 41 School Lane

**GEORGETOWN** 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 15, 1985 George Kennedy Public School 75 Weber Drive

**BURLINGTON** 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 16, 1985 The Halton Board of Education 2050 Guelph Line

**OAKVILLE** 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 15, 1985 Queen Elizabeth Park School, 2301 Yolanda Drive

Betty Fisher Chair Wally Beevor Director

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