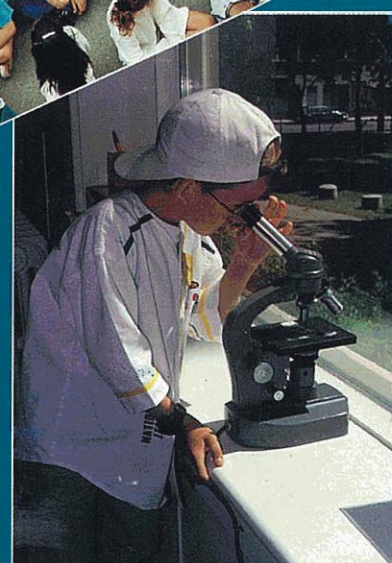
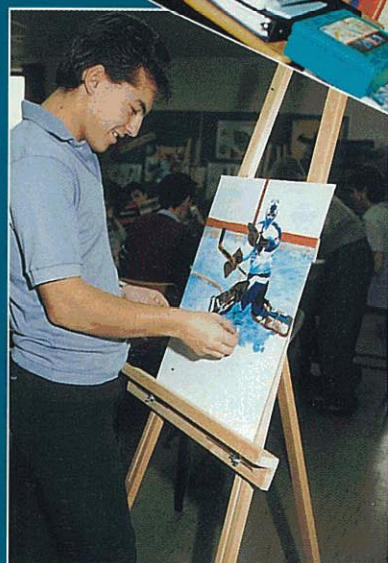
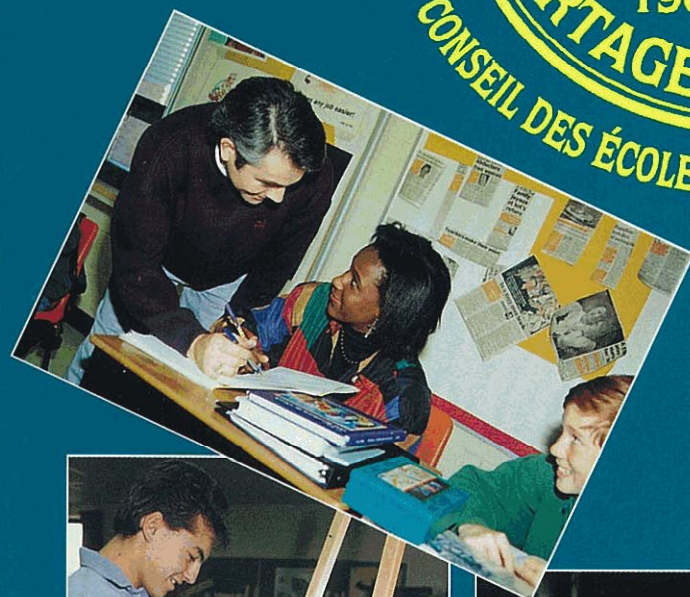
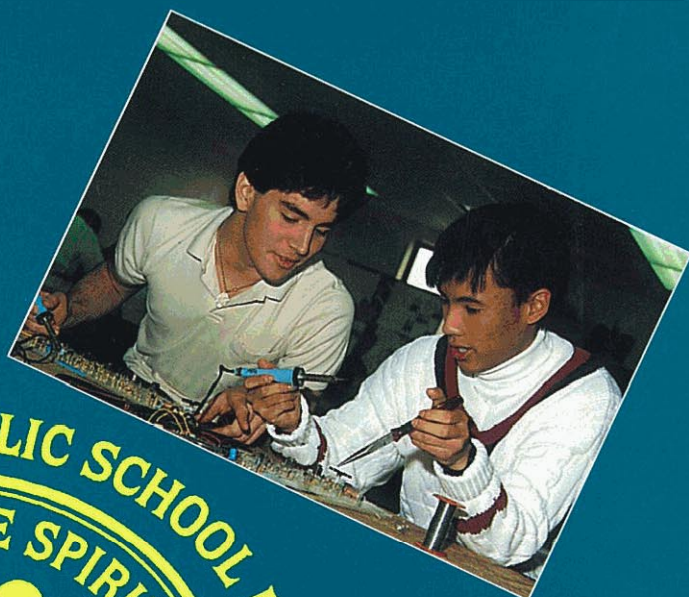
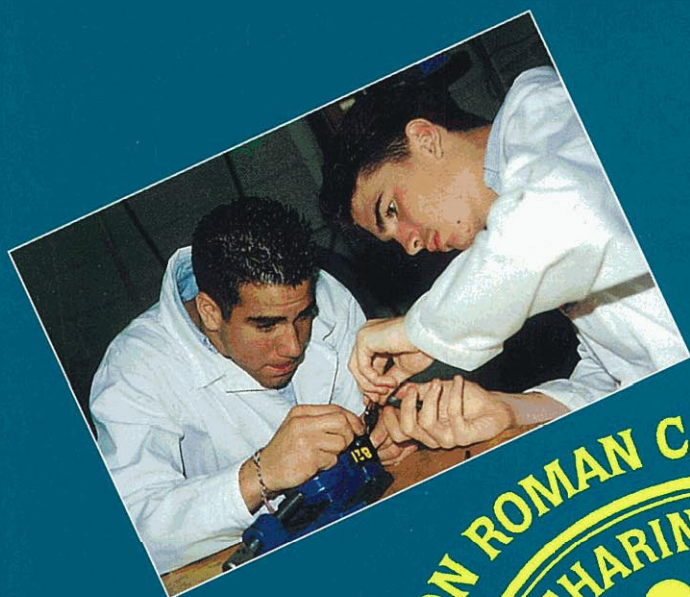


A 25TH ANNIVERSARY PERSPECTIVE



A 25TH ANNIVERSARY PERSPECTIVE

AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

OF THE

HALTON ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD

1969 - 1994

By Angela Blackburn

CONTENTS

Summary	Page 1
In The Beginning	
Oakville	Page 2
Burlington	Page 7
Halton Hills	
Acton	Page 9
Georgetown	Page 11
Milton	Page 12
Amalgamation	Page 13
The Quest for French Language Instruction	Page 20
The Birth of The French Language Section	Page 24
The Bold Step Into Secondary Education.....	Page 25
The Full Funding God Send	Page 28
The Population Explosion	Page 34
...To The Present.....	Page 38
Acknowledgements	Page 48

Board 25th Anniversary Prayer

O God, we thank you as together we celebrate twenty-five years of education in the Halton Catholic School System. We are grateful for the generosity of all those who have and continue to give of their faith, wisdom, experience and talents, in providing Excellence in Education.

May you bless us in all our various responsibilities so that we may continue to contribute to society for the glory of Your name and the well-being of our youth.

We ask all this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Composed by:
The Very Reverend D. Noon,
Dean of Halton January, 1994

*Celebrating 25 Years Of
Excellence
In Catholic Education*



*Célébrons 25 années
de succès de
l'éducation catholique*

Prière pour le 25^e anniversaire du Conseil

Mon Dieu, nous te remercions de nous donner la chance de célébrer en tant que Conseil des écoles catholiques de Halton notre vingt-cinquième anniversaire. Nous apprécions la générosité des gens qui par le passé ont partagé leur foi, leur sagesse, leurs expériences et leurs talents avec nous et qui continuent à le faire dans le but de dispenser l'excellence en éducation.

Bénissez-nous et guidez-nous dans l'accomplissement de nos responsabilités pour que nous puissions continuer à contribuer à parfaire la société et le mieux-être de la jeunesse en ton Nom.

Tu es notre Dieu et Père pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.

Composée par :
le très révérend Père D. Noon,
Doyen de Halton, janvier 1994

The Halton Roman Catholic School Board

1969 - 1994

The year 1994 marks the 25th anniversary of the Halton Roman Catholic School Board.

The school board was officially established January 1, 1969. Its roots however stem back to the mid-1800s . The development of the school board can be traced through the growth of parishes and schools in the four municipalities which now form the Regional Municipality of Halton.

The regional school board was born in 1969 as the result of provincial legislation which mandated the consolidation of school boards throughout Ontario. The municipal school boards of Burlington, Oakville, Georgetown and Milton amalgamated to become the Halton Roman Catholic School Board.

In the years following amalgamation, the Board witnessed, not only the physical growth of its English language schools, but also the development of French language schools, and the eventual establishment of a French Language Section of the Board to govern the French language schools.

In the late 1970s, the school board ventured into the area of secondary education and over a six year period, assisted by the advent of full funding to Ontario's Catholic school boards in 1984, established five secondary schools.

Over the same years, the Board dealt with unprecedented growth, particularly in the southern half of Halton Region, increased demands on the education system and numerous changes in the education field itself.

The Halton Roman Catholic School Board was born January 1, 1969 and was officially named the Halton County Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

Its roots however, can be traced to the mid-1800s through the development and growth of the Roman Catholic Separate School Boards of the towns of Oakville, Burlington, Georgetown and Milton.

The regional school board was the result of Ontario's provincial School Consolidation Act which mandated the four municipal school boards to amalgamate and form the larger, regional school board, effective January 1, 1969. The municipal school boards in Halton were among 1,500 school boards in the province consolidated to the more manageable number of 150 school boards, province-wide.

A few years after the amalgamation, in 1974, regional government arrived in Halton, changing Halton County to the Regional Municipality of Halton. Consequently, the Catholic school board dropped the word "county" from its official name.

A century before however, the face of Catholic education in Halton was quite different.

IN THE BEGINNING...

The development of Catholic education in Halton cannot be traced without acknowledging the parallel development of the region's Catholic parishes which, for the most part, coincided with the establishment of individual schools.

As parish communities evolved in various pockets of what was to become Halton, so too, did Catholic school communities. The school buildings often preceded the construction of church buildings.

Once built, individual schools operated under independent school boards, and were given school numbers by the Department of Education and given rural route postal addresses.

As more schools were established in the various municipalities, they often joined to form one municipal Catholic school board.

Oakville was the first of Halton's four communities to establish a Catholic parish, St. Andrew's, which emerged in the early 1820s. The adjacent St. Mary School was subsequently founded circa 1856.

In fact, the ever expanding St. Andrew's parish was central to the development of the first several Catholic elementary schools in Oakville. Those new school communities eventually spawned new parishes for the town.

OAKVILLE

Catholic settlers first arrived in the Oakville area before 1820. In 1818, Irish immigrants settled along the 8th and 9th concessions, known as Trafalgar, an area referred to as "the Catholic swamp."

By 1821, St. Andrew's parish was emerging. By 1836 it had been established as a mission. Its church was later built at the northeast corner of King and Reynolds Streets, on land acquired in 1855 in the form of a donation by Oakville's founder Col. William Chisholm.

In 1859, St. Andrew's parish was finally operating independently under its first pastor, Father Jeremiah Ryan. Three years earlier, in 1856, Father Ryan had founded the now demolished St. Mary School at 343 King Street, located just behind the church site. A handwritten log book from St. Mary School, states it was, at that time, the only school situated between Toronto and Hamilton.

St. Mary's was to become the oldest school in Oakville and the oldest school operated by the Halton Roman Catholic School Board, before falling to the wrecker's ball in 1987. The school site is now a parking lot to St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church as the land on which St. Mary's was located, belonged to the Hamilton Diocese, not the school board.

Four years after founding the school, Father Ryan brought three Sisters of St. Joseph to Oakville to operate St. Mary's, which was then, a one-room structure which boasted a meeting area above its only classroom.

The sisters resided in a convent at 150 King Street, and two of the sisters instructed approximately 107 students of all denominations, in music, art and sewing.

As the years passed, St. Mary's expanded to become a two-room school and, at the turn of the century, plumbing was added to the school replacing outhouses which had been located at the rear of the school. The plumbing was arranged by W.S. Davis, a prominent east King Street resident, and a school neighbor.

St. Mary's was enlarged again in 1931, and by 1953, it had six rooms and a principal's room. The renovated school was blessed November 1, 1953, but continuing construction work delayed its open house until March of 1955.

In the 1955-1956 school year, St. Mary's six rooms were in use by local students. It was not until January of 1956 however, that negotiations were concluded with Notre Dame Motherhouse, Waterdown for the return of sisters to operate the school. So it was on September 4, 1956, that St. Mary's re-opened with 159 students and six teachers, under the direction of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

During that same year, Oakville witnessed the arrival of two new Catholic elementary schools in town, each under the direction of its own school board.

One was St. James School located at 255 Morden Road, which served a new growth area of St. Andrew's parish in central Oakville. The other, St. Dominic School, was to serve a newly formed parish community in Bronte, in southwest Oakville. The St. Dominic's parish had detached itself from St. Andrew's a year earlier, in 1955, but didn't obtain its own church until 1962. St. Dominic School was built before St. Dominic Church structure, on a five-acre site at 2405 Rebecca Street. The Hamilton Diocese owned four acres of the land, while the fifth was donated by a local farmer. Mr. Carlos Troccalino.

Two months into the 1956 school year, on November 25th, Bishop Joseph F. Ryan visited Oakville to confirm 148 St. Mary's students and to bless the new St. James School, which had been named in honor of pastor Rev. James A. Kirby.

In early 1957, St. James School experienced difficulty when its principal unexpectedly resigned. No new principal was available from the Notre Dame Motherhouse in Waterdown, so a class of 19 St. James students was temporarily transferred to St. Mary's in order to finish their school year.

On May 26, 1957, St. Mary's students celebrated their First Holy Communion, the same day that Rev. James A. Kirby suddenly died.



A class of students from Oakville's St. Mary School in the 1949-50 school year.
St. Mary's was the first school built in Oakville.

Rev. Father Peter Watters, who became the first chairman of the regional school board, himself attended St. Mary's as a student. He recalled it being a one-room school with 38 pupils in Grades 1 to 8 under teacher, Miss Mary Ferguson. Actually, it was a two-room school but the second room was rented out to Halton County in order to accommodate a public health nurse, he said. His Grade 8 class consisted of six students, three boys and three girls. Father Watters, who recently participated in St. Andrew's 150th anniversary, and its 100th anniversary as an altar boy, came into possession of the old hand bell once rung to signal recesses and lunch hours at St. Mary's before the school was demolished.

By 1960, the central Oakville Catholic community's growth continued. That year a new Oakville Catholic Community Centre was blessed and opened. It served as a school, meeting and recreation facility, and chapel for St. Andrew's parish. However the following year, in 1961, St. James parish community was established and by 1964, had constructed its own church.

Another new school in Oakville, St. Vincent's, also opened in 1960, and was located at 1280 Braeside Drive. St. Vincent's construction however, was not completed for the planned September start of school, so classes of Grade 1 and 5/6 found alternate accommodation in the basement of St. Mary School. Yet other St. Vincent's classes were housed at the Oakville Catholic Community Centre until November 11, 1960, when St. Vincent School was finally ready to open under its new principal, Mr. Larry Loftus. Mr. Loftus had been hired by the St. Vincent School Board, a three-man board which included Oakville residents, Messrs. Bernard Murphy, John Bannon and Bud Corcoran.

In 1962, Oakville's continued growth required yet another school, St. Joseph School, at 447 Warminster Drive.

It was also in 1962, the same year kindergarten was introduced in Oakville's Catholic elementary schools, that the Oakville Catholic elementary school boards amalgamated to form the Roman Catholic Separate School Board of the Town of Oakville. The new board operated the five Oakville Catholic elementary schools: St. Mary's, St. Dominic's, St. James, St. Vincent's and St. Joseph's.

Other schools quickly followed in the Oakville area: St. Michael School, 165 Sewell Drive, 1964; and, St. Ann School, 2123 Hixon Street, 1965.

Although the Oakville Catholic School Board boasted a healthy financial standing at the time of the 1969 regional amalgamation, it had met its share of public controversy, that related to a proposed expansion of St. Mary School.

The expansion plan was designed to allow St. Mary's to house an influx of Catholic elementary students expected to come from high rise dwellings constructed in central Oakville. To accommodate the plan, the Oakville Catholic School Board expropriated five residential properties on the north side of William Street, directly behind the school.

The Oakville Catholic School Board also requested the Town of Oakville close a block of William Street between Allan and Reynolds Streets, to accommodate the expansion. The Board also planned a pedestrian overpass to allow access from St. Mary's to the expanded area and playground across the road.

The town however, refused the School Board's request and since the expected student growth didn't materialize, the expansion plan was never realized.

"There were a lot of bad feelings with much negative reaction and heartache, though the Board had acted in a responsible manner," Mr. Loftus recalled.

The matter of disposing of the then expropriated properties was left to the newly amalgamated school board and was brought to successful conclusion in the early 1970s.



By 1956, St. Mary's, originally a one-room school house, had six classrooms and had witnessed the opening of two new Oakville Catholic schools, St. James and St. Dominic. St. Mary's accommodated 19 St. James students in early 1957, after an unexpected resignation at St. James caused a staff shortage at that school that year.

A glance back at the growth of the Catholic school system in Halton identifies Oakville's neighbor to the west, Burlington, as the second Halton community to witness the arrival of a Catholic school within its borders.

BURLINGTON

In the 1840s, at least 15 years before St. Mary School had opened in Oakville, a Catholic community was developing in Burlington. Until that time, Burlington Catholics were also the spiritual responsibility of Oakville's Father Jeremiah Ryan.

By 1849, Burlington was established as a mission congregation and served by priests from Dundas. From 1853 to 1861, it was guided by clergy of St. Mary's parish in Hamilton and Mass celebrations were held in private homes, notably that of Pine Street resident, Napoleon Ogg.

By 1861, the original St. John's Roman Catholic Church was built and operating under the leadership of St. Andrew's, Oakville. It was finally declared an independent parish in 1925.

It was in 1948, that the Roman Catholic Separate School Board of the City of Burlington was established and by the end of that year, construction of the four-room St. John School, had been completed.

St. John School opened at 653 Brant Street with 78 students in its four rooms. The school expanded to eight rooms just three years later. By 1955, St. John School boasted a dozen classrooms.

The establishment of the Burlington Separate School Board was spearheaded by Monseigneur Corbett Warren, the pastor of St. John's parish, assisted by Burlington residents Mr. Maurice Hastings and Mr. Austin Fitzpatrick. Another Burlington resident, Mr. John R. Visser, later made a significant contribution to both the Burlington and regional school boards by serving as a property committee chairman for over 30 years. "John Visser knew every square inch of every building. He was constantly visiting the schools and checking on them," recalls former Oakville trustee and former Board chairman, Rev. Father James Mihm.

Shortly before the Burlington Separate School Board was established in 1948, the Aldershot community had seen the emergence of Holy Rosary parish in 1947. By 1951, the parish had built a three-room school and a parish hall, and by 1955, Aldershot had witnessed the building of a church as well as its school and parish hall.

As the Burlington community grew, so too, did its complement of Catholic parishes. Consequently Burlington's Catholic school population grew rapidly with the addition of several new elementary schools:

- *St. Raphael School, 4056 New Street, 1958
- *St. Gabriel School, 2227 Parkway Drive, 1959
- *St. Joseph School, 802 Drury Lane, 1963
- *Ascension School, 5205 New Street, 1964; and
- *St. Paul School, 530 Cumberland Avenue, 1968.

"The St. Gabriel's area is where I used to pick fruit," recalls long-time Burlington teacher, Miss Pat O'Brien reflecting on her days as a Hamilton-born youth growing up in the Hamilton/Burlington area. Miss O'Brien remembers an expanse of farmland and market gardens sprinkling the area which is now busy Maple Avenue, Burlington.



While the Halton Roman Catholic School Board was founded in 1969 as the result of a provincially mandated amalgamation of four municipal school boards in Halton, one of the first such municipal school boards to have been established was the Roman Catholic School Board of the Town of Burlington, founded in 1948,
Back row (left to right): A. Fitzpatrick, J. Marck, J. Ryan, F. Keller, D. W. Coombe, F. Cosgriffe.
Front row (left to right): J. Rigby, Father J. C. Warren, M. Hastings.

Similarly, Miss O'Brien recalled Burlington's continuing development during her early days as a teacher in Burlington.

"I remember when St. Raphael's was brand new," said Miss O'Brien, explaining the new school's principal had told her the location on which the new school was to be built and on a June visit to that site, O'Brien found an orchard. The following September, a school stood on the land. There were hurdles at the school's opening though, such as the challenge posed by the lack of desks and chairs for the Grade 1 students, in days when classes had enrolments as high as 50 students.

In late 1968, members of Burlington's Francophone social club, Le Club Alouette-Laval, had succeeded in its request for a French language parish in Burlington. Eventually the parish of St-Philippe was established in a building purchased from a former Calvary Baptist church congregation.

Le Club Alouette-Laval, a social club, had formed in Burlington in 1963. One of the founding members, Burlington resident M. Philippe Desjardins, was to be instrumental in the subsequent establishment of the first French language school in Burlington.

While the social club's efforts were progressing for the French language parish, so too were plans afoot for a request for a French language school.

On December 17, 1963, the club made its first request to the Burlington Catholic School Board for a French language school. In 1964, the Board indicated it did not support the request. Consequently, parents and the local French clubs instituted French classes on Saturdays at St. John School. The classes were taught by Mme. Thérèse Desjardins, Philippe's wife.

Unlike the Oakville Catholic School Board, the Burlington Catholic School Board, had escaped any major controversy prior to the 1969 amalgamation. It was to be Burlington's turn in the years shortly following amalgamation as the voice of Burlington's French community rose in its call for French language classes and for their own school with a francophone school principal. The subsequent closing of St. Francis Xavier School at 901 Francis Road, and its re-opening as the new French language school, was also to be a major controversy for the then newly amalgamated school board.

HALTON HILLS

ACTON

The Jesuits had served this Catholic community near Guelph, including others in north Halton, until 1857, when a church was built in an area referred to as "Little Dublin", about 4 km. from Acton's present St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church.

As the congregation outgrew the church, another church building, originally constructed by a group of Protestant congregationalists, and later owned by the Salvation Army, was purchased and renovated to become St. Joseph's in 1887.

St. Joseph's Church had been established approximately 100 years before Acton's school, St. Joseph School, opened at 41 School Lane in a building rented by the school board and known as the Old Stone School, originally Acton High School, and later Robert Little Public School. By 1982, a new St. Joseph School opened at 147 Mill Street West.



St. Joseph School, Acton, was first housed in 1977 at a site rented from Halton's public school board at 41 School Lane, Acton. In 1982, a new St. Joseph School opened at 147 Mill Street West.

1994 Board Chairman and Halton Hills trustee Mrs. Irene McCauley recalled, "The people in the community really lobbied and worked hard to get that school," as she reflected on the new St. Joseph School building.

GEORGETOWN

Between 1852 and 1893, Jesuits from Guelph also served the spiritual needs of Catholics who had settled in Georgetown.

In 1858, a small church, St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, was built but, over the years, became an "eyesore" through lack of maintenance, to the point of once offending a visiting bishop, and was eventually replaced by a new stone church in 1885, Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church.

By 1965, a new Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church building opened on land adjacent to the already existing Holy Cross School at 222 Maple Avenue.

Holy Cross School had opened in 1958, shortly after the formation of the Roman Catholic School Board for the Town of Georgetown. That School Board was formed at an April 26, 1958 meeting, conducted in the Holy Cross church hall.

The six-man School Board had authorized the purchase of an 11-acre Maple Avenue school site from Mr. David Tost, for \$1,800 per acre. The school, Holy Cross, officially opened October 18, 1958.

Throughout the 1960s, there were a string of additions to the school. Mrs. McCauley remembers those years, in particular, her late husband, John's involvement with a community effort to build a stage in the elementary school.

While the English language school thrived in Georgetown, so too was a French language school population emerging. About 25 percent of Holy Cross parishioners were francophone and by June 8, 1960, the Georgetown school board had received a request to provide French language classes at Holy Cross School.

Initially the School Board did not support the request but by September 18, 1960, the Board did agree on the provision that parents would pay for transportation and additional site rental costs until a new classroom could be added to the existing school to house the French language students.

What would later become École Sacré-Cœur was essentially founded in the basement of Holy Cross School said present day French Language Schools education superintendent M. Jean-Luc Bernard. A few of the first French language classes were housed in the basement of Holy Cross, while other classes were accommodated on the school's second floor.

As the new Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church building neared completion in 1965, Georgetown's francophone community had asked if it could assume the old church building as a French language parish. By 1966, that request had been approved by the Hamilton Diocese and the parish of Sacré-Cœur came into being.

Again, Georgetown's School Board received a request from the francophone community, this time for a French language kindergarten class. French language classes were already being offered to approximately 138 Grade 1 to Grade 8 students at Holy Cross. However, due to a lack of available space, the Board didn't support the community's request for a kindergarten French language class. Amidst threats of a boycott of classes by parents and students, the issue quieted but would surface again.

In 1967, francophones in Georgetown were outraged by a School Board decision, based on financial considerations, not to build a second Catholic elementary school in the community even though a site had been purchased.

In 1968, further controversy erupted in the Georgetown community when a Sacré-Coeur parishioner, Mlle. Thérèse St. Jean, offered a four-acre site to the School Board for a new school. Since the site was outside the town limits, the land was deemed to be beyond the School Board's jurisdiction. Amidst these discussions, francophones were agitated by the fact that an addition was being built on Holy Cross School.

Department of Education officials looked to the impending amalgamation of local school boards in 1969, as grounds for a possible solution to the discontent.

MILTON

Missions at Milton and Milton Heights were attached to Burlington's St. John's parish as early as 1925. In 1932, a used radial car in Milton Heights was incorporated as a chapel and known as Blessed Margaret Mary Church.

By 1936, the Milton area missions, along with the Trafalgar Mission, were joined to form Holy Rosary parish and in 1938, an area church, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Trafalgar was re-opened, after not being used for almost 50 years, to accommodate the newly established Holy Rosary parish.

The St. Peter's Church building dated to the Trafalgar Mission which began circa 1819 when a first Mass was said in a private home in the area. Later, in 1823, a small log church was erected. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church was later built in 1882, but had closed because of a dwindling population, not to be re-opened until 1938 for the Holy Rosary parish.

In 1942, the radial car in Milton was replaced by Milton's new Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Church at Milton Heights.

Over a decade later, in 1953, the Roman Catholic Separate School Board for the Town of Milton was established. Within a year, the six members of the local School Board found themselves painting and laying tile in order to open Milton's first Catholic elementary school on schedule.

Holy Rosary School opened in 1954 at 141 Martin Street. The two-room school was operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph and by 1958, an addition had given the school a total of eight classrooms.

Over time, each of the local school boards in the Halton area implemented change in their respective schools. Each had begun offering kindergarten classes. The various implementation dates of programs though, even the programs themselves, varied from school board to school board.

Oakville, for example, was the only school board with an itinerant music teacher and that Board offered French classes in earlier grades, the first to do so among its neighboring counterparts.

Standardization of programs and practices amongst the school boards was the daunting task thrust onto the table of the newly amalgamated School Board in 1969.

AMALGAMATION

The Halton County Roman Catholic School Board officially emerged January 1, 1969. The regional school board was the direct result of an amalgamation of Halton's four area school boards, an amalgamation thrust upon the boards by the Ontario provincial government's School Consolidation Act. That act laid the groundwork for the consolidation of 1,500 Ontario school boards into 150 schools boards.

"It was a major political policy decision," said Halton Roman Catholic School Board director Mr. Cliff Bymes.

For some of the smaller boards of trustees, it was a bitter pill to swallow. "There was a lot of opposition to it (amalgamation). Some people were losing power and identity," said Mr. Loftus.

The idea of school board amalgamation had been bandied about as early as 1967 and by 1969 was to become a reality.

In late 1968, the local school boards had formed the Interim Separate School Organization Committee (ISSOC), its members' task was to lay the groundwork for amalgamation.

On December 9, 1968, the inaugural meeting of the soon to be officially amalgamated school board was held and a chairman and vice-chairman were elected.

The new Board included the following trustees:

Mr. Peter A. Watters, Oakville (Chairman)*

Dr. Leno Braidia, Oakville

Rev. J. W. Flaherty, Oakville

Mr. Michael Noonan, Oakville

Mr. James P. Hourigan, Burlington (Vice-chairman)

Mr. William English, Burlington

Mr. Donald G. Hill, Burlington

Mr. Harry McDermott, Burlington

Mr. Robert J. O'Brien, Burlington

Rev. Blake J. Ryan, Burlington

Mr. John R. Visser, Burlington

Dr. Jack Cudmore, Milton

Mr. Angelo Tonelli, Milton

Mr. W. A. Boyle, Georgetown

*Peter Watters later resigned from the School Board and entered Pope John XXIII Seminary. He was subsequently ordained a priest of the Hamilton Diocese.

Burlington School Board business administrator, Mr. Tom Brady, was named the new Board's business administrator and treasurer. Department of Education school inspector, Mr. James Hogan, was appointed the Board's new education director and secretary to the Board.

"It was a good, practical thing for them to do. However, it did create major problems because it displaced a lot of people who'd been in the Boards for a long time. They were no longer the "kingpins" and I'm speaking not of trustees so much as administration," said the first regional School Board chairman, Rev. Father Peter Watters.

Father Watters said the amalgamation in fact, introduced a complete restructuring of the education system, "from top to bottom." A large organization replaced "the country school". School boards were used to regular school visits from provincial school inspectors. They purchased special services, if needed, and "hadn't been in the habit of running with a director of education." As the amalgamation occurred, a school board administration developed that included not only a director of education but various superintendents, consultants and specialists.

The mood of the newly amalgamated Board included one of "an excellent spirit of cooperation between the two major stakeholders, Oakville and Burlington, because they had been quite progressive in their development," said Father Watters. Additionally, the new Board "got the best of both worlds" in its new staff complement.

In particular, Father Watters commended the Board's first director of education, James Hogan. "He was a venerable gentleman who was a great guy and very, very intelligent. Of course, he was elderly, but gosh I respected him. We were darned fortunate to have him as our first director. He guided us through those early days. He knew the business, and he was a level-headed gentleman who had a good sense of direction."

Father Watters was however, cautious to share that commendation with Mr. Tom Brady who headed finances and Mr. John Birett who headed plant. "Tom Brady and John Birett, along with James Hogan were the three people who really and truly just saved our necks on so many occasions. They were hard-working, dedicated people."

Oakville resident Dr. Leno Braida had been chairman of the Oakville Catholic School Board for several years when amalgamation became a reality. He first sat on the ISSOC committee, became vice-chairman of the first regional Board and then became chairman in the early 1970s.

In Dr. Braida's eyes, amalgamation resulted in the School Board becoming "a big business." "It was a far cry from the local trustees who visited the school in their ward once a week and ensured the grounds were clean," said Dr. Braida.

"It was an evolution many companies go through," said Dr. Braida, who admitted he favored the philosophy of the School Board operating in a business-like fashion, especially in matters of budget. He said the municipal school boards couldn't have survived over the long terms. "There was a lot of duplication of services," he noted.

In particular, the issue of secondary education was a matter of finance for the smaller municipal boards. The concept was initiated at the Oakville School Board level in the late 1960s but wasn't viable financially. It was later, under the leadership of Mr. Cliff Byrnes as education director that the matter of secondary education again surfaced.

It was under Dr. Braida's chairmanship, that Mr. Byrnes was hired in 1971.

"Cliff always struck me as an honest guy who was progressive. He was seen as the kind of leader who could propel us into the seventies," described Dr. Braida.

It was also under Dr. Braida's chairmanship that the controversy over the French language schools erupted in Burlington. However, Dr. Braida acknowledged, "When you start to make change, people want change but you can't go whole hog, you have to go step by step. It just takes time."

Dr. Braida, who was known for predicting the length of board meetings by the number of cigars he carried to those meetings, also admitted that during the early years after amalgamation, negotiations with teachers took up a lot of the Board's time.



The amalgamated regional School Board operated out of a Burlington administrative centre located next to Burlington's St. Joseph School. The neighboring elementary school, St. Joseph's, later housed the first secondary school students of Halton's Roman Catholic School Board in 1978 before it moved into its own school building, Assumption, in 1980. St. Joseph's later closed and became the expanded school board administrative centre.





The amalgamated regional School Board named Mr. James Hogan as its first education director. Mr. Hogan however, retired two years later and Mr. Cliff Byrnes stepped into the director's shoes in 1971. Mr. Bymes remained at the helm until his retirement in the summer of 1994, a period in which Mr. Byrnes was known for his many talents, not the least of which was his easy rapport with students.

It was at a December 18, 1968 special meeting of the amalgamated School Board, that the new Board of Trustees got down to business.

Trustees sanctioned the phasing out of the former local School Boards' satellite offices, while employees of those Boards continued their employment until the end of June 1969. Another order of business was the setting of trustee honorariums.

In 1965, the Ministry of Education had set specified trustee honorariums to be based on pupil numbers in the school jurisdictions. Much later, the Ministry of Education approved trustees setting their own honorariums.

New Halton Roman Catholic School Board trustees received \$150 per month. The chairman received an additional 50 percent of that stipend.

Prior to amalgamation, trustees for most of their years, had performed their duties without payment, except for a token gesture of appreciation such as an annual Christmas outing for dinner and a theatre show in Toronto. The Burlington Catholic School Board had, just before amalgamation, set a \$50 per month honorarium, its first such allowance.

At the time of the 1969 amalgamation, the new school board was nearing a student population of 6,000 students enrolled in Kindergarten to Grade 8. That population would explode to nearly 20,000 students enrolled in Junior Kindergarten to OAC (Ontario Academic Credit, previously Grade 13) by 1994, the 25th anniversary of the amalgamated school board.

The early period of amalgamation saw a program of standardization to provide policy and program equity throughout the school board, from salary scales and transportation, to Special Education, Kindergarten and French language classes.

Many significant changes followed amalgamation. One early event was the retirement of the board's education director, Mr. James Hogan.

After only two years with the amalgamated Board, Mr. Hogan retired and into his shoes stepped the young Mr. Clifford G. Byrnes, who would lead the Board through much of its growth over a span of 23 years before retiring himself in the year of the School Board's 25th anniversary, 1994.

"I don't think as a teacher you sensed that much of a change (with amalgamation), although we always used to complain that Oakville spent too much," recalled long-time Burlington teacher, Miss Pat O'Brien. She believed however, the system became less personalized. "As the Board grew you started to wait in line for requests, though you waited for frills, not for things really needed in the classrooms."

"Amalgamation was an expected and necessary thing. It just made sense because all the needs were the same," said Miss O'Brien.

Still, it was an adjustment. "Georgetown and Milton were just spots on the map. It was only when you met the teachers that you felt that each of us were part of a family. We gradually became aware of the Oakville schools. At that time, Oakville was (like) Toronto, it was miles away," Miss O'Brien said.

From a teacher's perspective, even Christmas changed over the years. Miss O'Brien said the small Boards used to have a Christmas party. Teachers were given chocolates. Now, teachers receive a Board Christmas card.

"The first two years of amalgamation were very busy," recalled retired business superintendent Mr. Tom Brady. By September of 1969, payrolls and maintenance systems of all the former local school boards, had all been incorporated into one system. "I spent most of my hours doing it," said Mr. Brady.

Amalgamation was viewed differently by many. "The smaller boards in Georgetown and Milton felt they would benefit more than those in Oakville and Burlington and in fact they did," Mr. Brady said.

But for long-time trustee Mr. Angelo Tonelli from Milton ("The North"), amalgamation was "scary". "All our trustees were on unfamiliar ground because it (amalgamation) was forced on us. We were told by the government that it had to happen," said Mr. Tonelli.

"It ended up that we (Milton) benefitted. But I was one trustee of 12 in the larger board. I didn't know if I was going to gain or lose on particular issues. But the trustees from Oakville and Burlington were no different than I and they were trying, in earnest, to do what was in the best interest for everybody, not just for their own community," Mr. Tonelli said.

One early controversy in the years shortly after amalgamation was a planned addition to Milton's Holy Rosary School. The former Milton School Board had tentatively approved an expansion plan for Holy Rosary School and had told the community what to expect. The newly amalgamated School Board however, found the addition had never been officially authorized by the former Milton School Board and the new Board would not proceed on the planned expansion. "Hard battles were fought at the board table on that," said Mr. Brady.

"Teachers and trustees were suspicious (of amalgamation)," said one of the first Halton Catholic Board education superintendents, now retired, Mr. Anthony Hennelly. That suspicion stemmed from the fact that each municipality's School Board representatives formed only a portion of the regional Board, as opposed to the days when their concerns were the only ones addressed by their own School Board.

"Trustees (on the new Board) had to have more of a global outlook," Mr. Hennelly explained.

Mr. Hennelly and Mr. Brady gave the new Board consistency as Mr. Brady had been with the Burlington Catholic School Board and Mr. Hennelly, with the Oakville Catholic School Board. "The devil they knew was better than the one they didn't know," laughed Mr. Hennelly.

Burlington had the majority of trustees but the first two Board chairmen were from Oakville, Mr. Peter Watters and Dr. Leno Braida.

In the early years after amalgamation, Mr. Ernie Chiarelli, a new education superintendent, died suddenly and was replaced by Miss Kay Kennifick, the first female superintendent.

"Kay was seen as ahead of her time and she achieved a lot with curriculum and staff development," said Mr. John MacInnis, a long-time principal in Oakville and Burlington.

Another female first was the appointment of Mary Moore as principal of St. Ann School in 1965. "That was a big move for the Board," noted Mr. MacInnis.

The naming of Georgetown's École Sacré-Coeur, Halton's first French language school, occurred in 1973. École Sacré-Coeur had operated within Georgetown's Holy Cross School and had been identified as Holy Cross French Language School. École Sacré-Coeur continued to share the Holy Cross School facility until much later, 1988, when it moved into the leased Wrigglesworth Public School at 96 Guelph Street.

The school remained in that rental facility until 1993 when the doors opened to a brand new École Sacré-Coeur school building on Georgetown's Miller Street. The new facility boasted the board's first French language child care centre with 32 full-time spaces. A before-and-after school French language program was also expected to begin by early 1994.

When École Sacré-Coeur vacated the Wigglesworth building in 1993, the ever growing Holy Cross School student body sought relief and 400 of that school's 800 students made Wigglesworth, Holy Cross School's new east campus.

THE QUEST FOR FRENCH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

1973, just four years after amalgamation, was the year in which the pursuit of a French language elementary school in Burlington took the spotlight.

In 1969, Bill 141 had amended the Education Act, requiring school boards to establish French language classes if demanded by enough French language school ratepayers with a minimum number of 25 students.

By September 1969, French language classes emerged at St. Paul School, Burlington, where classroom space was available to accommodate students. About 73 students attended French language classes for Kindergarten, Grades 1/2 and Grades 3/4.

By 1973, there were 176 French language students at St. Paul's enrolled in Kindergarten to Grade 7. In March of 1973, the Club Alouette-Laval's education committee (struck when the club was founded, with the objective of securing a French language school) officially requested a French language school to be established the following September.

On April 11, 1973, the regional Catholic School Board responded by offering to appoint two principals to the St. Paul site, one English, one French. The francophones wanted a French language school principal, but they wanted that principal in their own French language school building.

As no further action on the francophone community's request for a French language school was taken by the School Board's October 1973 board meeting, the parents decided to take action in November.

On November 20th and 21st, 1973, the francophone parents and almost 200 children boycotted classes at St. Paul School. A week later, about 50 parents and a few students marched on Queen's Park in Toronto.

By May 1974, St. Paul French Language School had its first francophone principal, an acting principal in head teacher, Mme. Thérèse Desjardins.

The following September, the school was renamed École St-Philippe. Its 220 students remained housed in the St. Paul's building with their new principal, Mr. Lou Piovesan, who, in 1982, became a superintendent of education with numerous responsibilities that included French language instruction and supervision.

Also in September 1974, the French language school's parents association, L'Association Parentes Instituteurs, the equivalent of the Catholic Parent Teacher Association (CPTA) in the school board's anglophone schools, was established.

Ultimately, it was provincial legislation that secured change for the francophone community in Ontario when the provincial government mandated the provision of French language education where numbers existed to warrant their establishment.

"The French community now had something to support them in their demands," says Mr. Piovesan. Of the earlier boycott of the school and Queen's Park protest, Mr. Piovesan says, "The francophones were frustrated in their efforts to obtain their own school and principal. It was being denied to them so they took measures to obtain what was rightfully theirs in law."

Mr. Piovesan said the resistance often encountered by most francophone communities was a "southern Ontario phenomenon", occurring in a geographic area in which there was a "reluctance to establish French language schools."

Hats were tipped however to Mr. John MacInnis, St. Paul's principal, who, it was said, for years was able to sensitively balance the needs of his school's two communities, francophone and anglophone.

In September 1978, École St-Philippe opened on the site of the former St. Francis Xavier School at 901 Francis Road, Burlington. École St-Philippe students and staff had vacated St. Paul's, a school which had by then, six portables on its site to accommodate its French pupil enrolment.

The dwindling student body of St. Francis had been transferred to Holy Rosary School on Plains Road East, paving the way for the establishment of École St-Philippe. However, continued vandalism, including a fire, plagued the opening year of École St-Philippe at its new site.

The French language school's move to the St. Francis site, vacated by anglophone students, was viewed differently by many. Miss Pat O'Brien, a St. Francis teacher who moved to Holy Rosary with the St. Francis students, remembered moving day when some irate parents threatened to lay in front of trucks to prevent the move to the "other side of King Road."

That same year, 1978, Oakville students who'd been attending École St-Philippe were directed to Oakville's new French language school, École Ste-Marie.

École Ste-Marie was originally housed in the former St. Mary School on King Street. Its anglophone students had been transferred to St. James and to St. Vincent schools.

In 1983, École Ste-Marie found a new home at 336 Maurice Drive, the former Elmwood Public School. The building was originally leased, and subsequently purchased and renovated by the Catholic School Board.

A French language school has yet to become a reality in Milton, but that town's francophone community is currently served at Georgetown's École Sacré-Coeur.

St. Paul School, Burlington, accommodated the growing student body of Burlington's first French language school, École St-Philippe, until the French language school opened its own building on the site of former St. Francis Xavier School on Francis Road, Burlington in September 1978.





French language classes had begun at Georgetown's Holy Cross School in 1960. It was in 1993 that north Halton's francophone community witnessed the opening of a brand new École Sacré-Coeur on Miller Road, Halton Hills.

THE BIRTH OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE SECTION

In 1986, provincial legislation once again, stepped in on behalf of Ontario francophones.

Bill 75 determined that French language schools, under the direction of anglophone school boards, would be guided by a French language section within the board, with full governance authority.

French speaking trustees were elected at-large within the communities served by the French language schools, and education director, Mr. Cliff Byrnes, conducted the first interim trustee election at École Ste-Marie in Oakville.

Messrs. Gilbert McCraw of Oakville, Andre Paradis of Burlington and Ken Norman of Halton Hills, were the first French language section trustees elected to the School Board.

The French language section participates with the English language section in common areas of jurisdiction, such as transportation and budget. Issues such as new schools, admissions, school closings, programs, hiring, planning for new schools have now become the sole responsibility of the French language section; as is the case with the English language section.

Although there was a struggle to secure French language rights at the Board, once those rights were entrenched, there was solid cooperation between the two language sections of the School Board.

Long-time Burlington trustee, Mr. Bob O'Brien, recalled as chairman of the English language section when he and M. McCraw, president of the French language section, travelled to Queen's Park to give a presentation on the issue of French language governance within the Board. "We may have been the only board in the province to make a joint submission," he said.

It was during the chairmanship of Mr. William Hawken, Q.C. of Burlington, that the French Language Section emerged.

"We envisioned an integrated board with French and English panels and that has worked out. During my tenure, I would say it was probably the only one in the province that did work, and work effectively. I'm very proud of the fact that both panels showed an understanding, patience and willingness to work together," said Mr. Hawken.

THE BOLD STEP INTO SECONDARY EDUCATION

By the time the French language school issue had subsided, the Halton Roman Catholic School Board was venturing onto new ground in the area of secondary education.

Until the late 1970s, only Catholic elementary education, SK to Grade 8, was offered to Halton residents. Provincial funding extended to Grades 9 and 10, which were considered senior elementary grades within the province's Catholic school system.

While the Halton Roman Catholic School Board, like its earlier municipal predecessors, had a Catholic representative to the public high school board, Catholic ratepayers, primarily Burlingtonians, were declaring the need for Catholic secondary education. Former Oakville trustee Father James Mihm said Halton was the only community within the Hamilton Diocese not offering secondary education at the time.

Former Burlington trustee Mr. Bob O'Brien said he recalls chairing, in the early 1970s, the Catholic School Board's Extended Education Committee which studied the question of secondary education for Halton students. "It was at least ten years from the moment we actually started to think about a secondary school, that we opened our first secondary school, Assumption," said Mr. O'Brien.

There were numerous recommendations for and against the concept, the most notable problem being the Board-commissioned P.S. Ross Report, and the most notable support for the provision of secondary education being the community ratepayers' demand for it.

"There was tremendous support for secondary school education and that was confirmed when the campaign for funding was initiated," says Mr. O'Brien. While there were expectations that corporate donations would outweigh private donations, the outcome was the opposite.

In 1976, the Board took what Mr. Byrnes describes as a "bold" step into Catholic secondary education.

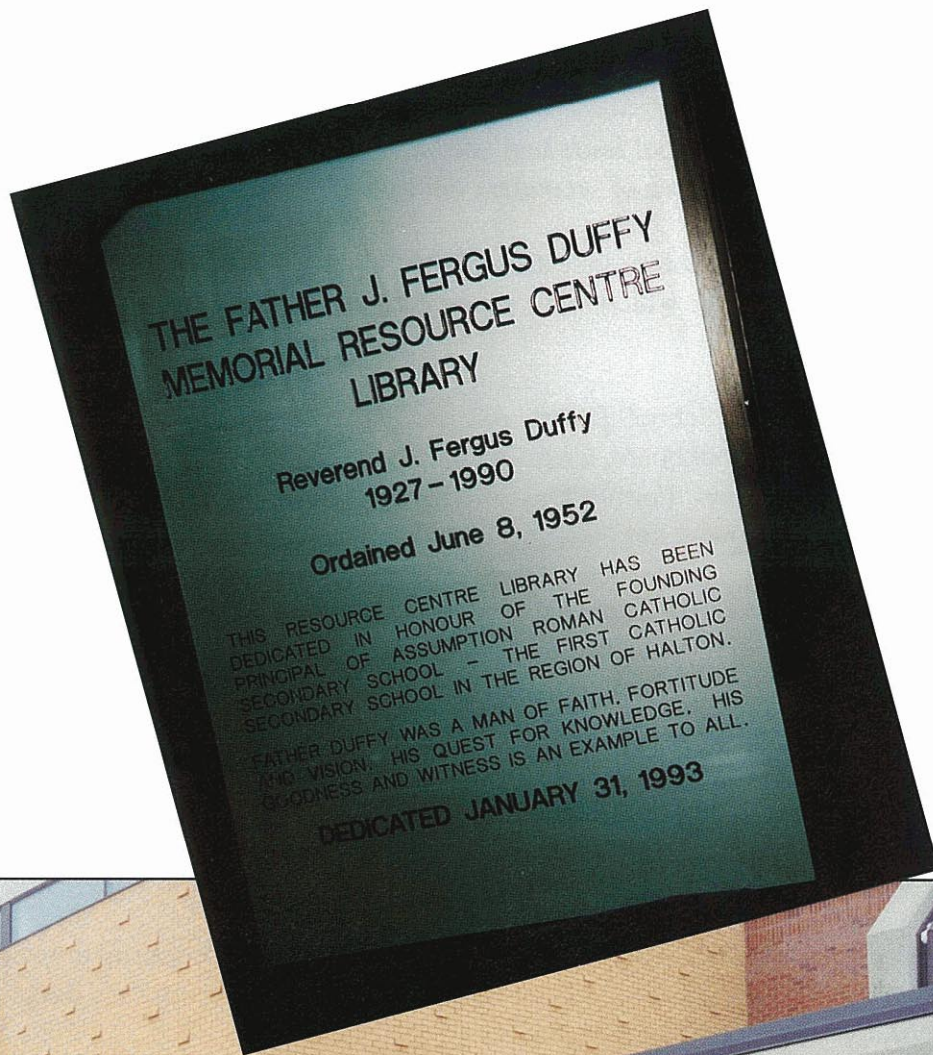
By 1978, the student body of the School Board's first secondary school, Assumption, began classes in the former St. Joseph Elementary School at 802 Drury Lane, now the Board's administrative centre. The St. Joseph's student body had been transferred to St. John School a year earlier, in 1977.

Former Burlington trustee Mr. William Hawken recalled the "rainy" day that commemorated the official sod turning of the new Assumption secondary school, and a "very significant day for the Board."

Burlington's Assumption Secondary School was then constructed, albeit in an unusual manner. It was really a shared facility, one portion (Grades 9 and 10) publicly funded as a senior elementary school; the other, a secondary school (Grades 11, 12 and 13) supported privately by tuition fees and a fundraising campaign in the church parishes. Catholic secondary education had to adopt the form of a private school structure at Grades 11 to 13 in the absence of provincial funding.

A fundraising campaign for Catholic secondary education began in 1976 and 1977. Donations were made during Mass collections throughout the region and school board employees made contributions via a voluntary payroll deduction between 1976 and 1984.

Various parishes were instrumental in the Bishop's appointment of a private Board of Governors in 1977, a board which was responsible for the new private secondary school's operation.



Assumption Catholic Secondary School, Burlington, was built as a senior elementary school but housed the first Halton Catholic secondary students. The Grade 11 to 13 student populace was governed as a private school operation under the direction of a separate Board of Governors.

Strong supporters of the new secondary school, like Oakville resident Mr. Don Schrenk, who later became a trustee and served as chairman of the School Board, found a new challenge on the Board of Governors which met monthly and worked closely with the School Board trustees and education director Mr. Cliff Bymes.

"The Board of Governors was chiefly a fundraising body and it provided parental input," described Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. Schrenk, who wasn't one of the original Board of Governors appointees, said he isn't sure the body was ever formally dissolved, only that it ceased to exist when Bill 30 (completion of funding) finally became legislation in 1986. Father Mihm recalled its members were thanked via a Diocesan appreciation dinner.

Mr. O'Brien was Board chairman in 1978 when the Assumption school building first opened its doors with 246 students.

Each year the secondary school expanded a grade and on June 30, 1980, Assumption's student body moved to its new building at 3230 Woodward Avenue. The former St. Joseph's site, located next to the Board's original head office, became the system's Catholic Education Centre on Drury Lane.

"The original concept of secondary school education in Halton (the largest push for Catholic secondary education came from the parents in Burlington) involved a long range plan to locate the first secondary school in Burlington, the second in Oakville and the third in Milton. And that's what we did," said Mr. O'Brien.

By 1982, the Grade 9 student body of Oakville's first Catholic secondary school, St. Ignatius of Loyola, was assembled with Grade 8 students housed at 2405 Rebecca Street, the former Georges Vanier Senior Elementary School.

Close to two decades earlier, 2405 Rebecca Street was not only the site of St. Dominic School, but was also the site for Oakville's first open concept school, Georges Vanier. Vanier represented the Board's first venture into teaching Grade 7 and 8 students in one building as a senior elementary school.

"Vanier was the one and only senior school the former Oakville Board planned and designed. It resulted from the combination of a need for more space at the west end of town and the desire of some board members to go into senior schools," recalled Vanier's first principal, Mr. Larry Loftus.

The original Vanier students were temporarily housed at St. James until February 1969 when the Georges Vanier building opened.

"That was when open concept first reared its ugly head," recalls Mr. Loftus. Vanier was one of the last projects of the former Oakville School Board and was experimental in design, along with the new St. John School. Both schools, however, opened shortly after the 1969 amalgamation under the direction of the regional School Board.

Several years hence, Georges Vanier's rooms were closed as educators abandoned open concept teaching. Mr. Loftus said the concept demanded strong teachers and did lay the foundation for the later successful team teaching philosophy.

In 1982, Vanier housed the student body of the new St. Ignatius of Loyola Secondary School while plans were in the works for a new Loyola school building at a site on Nottinghill Gate, in Glen Abbey, Oakville.

Those design plans however, were to change with the arrival of full secondary school funding to Ontario's Catholic school boards in 1984.

THE FULL FUNDING GOD SEND

June 12, 1984 is a date etched into the memory of education director Mr. Cliff Byrnes.

On that day came the announcement from then Ontario Premier William Davis of the completion of funding to Ontario's Catholic school boards, Grade 9 to OAC level.

Mr. Byrnes described it as a "God send" and the date holds much meaning for Catholic educators.

At that time, the local private secondary school sector was already in debt for approximately \$150,000 for the operation of Assumption. The Board was also planning the design for the new Loyola secondary school in Oakville.

"I was on the second hole of the Burlington Springs Golf club when somebody drove around and announced to us the government's decision," recalled Mr. Bob O'Brien of the full funding decision.

Father James Mihm explained the news came during the annual trustee golf tournament, a tournament which has since grown and is now known as the John R. Visser Memorial Golf Tournament.

Shortly after the announcement, a group of Halton Roman Catholic School Board representatives, including Mr. Byrnes, travelled to Queen's Park to secure Ministry of Education approval for a total revision of the Loyola design plans to reflect a senior secondary school plant and facilities.

Until then, Loyola had been designed, like Assumption, as a senior elementary school. The Ministry of Education agreed to approve a new secondary school design plan for Loyola, but only if the Board committed to be responsible for the additional funds should Bill 30 not be successfully legislated. When the legislation was approved, the Ministry of Education allocated the funding retroactively.

Full funding became legislation two years later, in 1986, and in October of that same year, the studentbody of Loyola moved into its new home, Oakville's first Catholic secondary school.

Loyola was not only Oakville's first Catholic secondary school but was the first secondary school in Ontario to be fully constructed with Ministry of Education capital grants following the government's announcement.

"You had a sense of history, of accomplishment and growth. You felt as though you were laying the groundwork for the future, doing something that was going to be around for a long time," recalled Father Mihm who was Board chairman at the time of the extended funding announcement. Father Mihm saw ground broken for Loyola but returned for the school's opening to Oakville from Brantford where he was then posted.

The School Board was making good on its plans for secondary education in Halton. With funding secured, the Board turned its attention to Milton.

The student body of Bishop Paul Francis Reding Secondary School was assembled in 1986 with a Grade 9 class housed in rented facilities at the former Speyside Public Elementary School in north Milton.

In October 1987, the new Milton Catholic secondary school opened its doors at 1600 Main Street East.

Long-time Milton trustee, Mr. Angelo Tonelli, recalled what he viewed as a struggle to open Bishop Reding Secondary School, a struggle with the Town of Milton over water and sewer services to the school whose site was located just beyond the geographic area serviced by the town.

The political struggle occurred at a time when Milton's water and sewer system was not yet positioned to accommodate major development growth.

In 1988, the Bishop Reding Secondary School library resource centre was officially named in honor of Mr. Tonelli. "To me, it was the epitome of my ambition to get a secondary school in Milton," Mr. Tonelli admitted.

Mr. Hawken, who was School Board chairman during the negotiations for Bishop Reding Secondary School, credits the north Halton community for its support, from the students enduring hours of busing in the years prior to having their own high school, to Catholic ratepayers supporting him during appearances before the Milton Town Council.

In 1989, the School Board returned its attention to Burlington. In November of that year, Notre Dame, a second Burlington secondary school was completed, officially blessed and opened at 2333 Headon Forest Drive in north Burlington. By the time Notre Dame reached a full Grade 9 through OAC (Grade 13) complement in 1992, Assumption had been given a long deserved facelift with an upgrade and an addition of eight classrooms.

Mr. Hawken recalled what he described as "tremendous pressure" on him as a Burlington trustee by the Assumption school community which was in need of expansion but had to wait patiently until a new Burlington secondary school facility was built. The former Burlington trustee recalled the over-capacity enrollments and some 22 portables on the school site, yet he also recalled how several Assumption students once came to his defence during a meeting to attest that Assumption was unique, not because of its physical plant qualities but the quality of education inside. "I thought that was an apropos thing and I've never forgotten that," said Mr. Hawken.

During the same period of the late 1980s, the need for a second Catholic secondary school was felt in Oakville.

The Ministry of Education had directed Halton's public and Catholic school boards to cooperate in examining existing secondary student accommodation in Oakville. During years of what became, for Halton's public school board, a major controversy, the public school board reorganized its secondary students and vacated the former Gordon E. Perdue High School on Margaret Drive.

"Our Board purchased Perdue for \$1," said Mr. Byrnes, noting, "Catholic ratepayers, for years, had been paying secondary school taxes to the public school board." Mr. Byrnes believed Catholic parents had a vested capital interest in secondary school plant facilities and have had that interest ever since public secondary education was provided in Halton.

At the former Perdue site, St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School emerged. In subsequent years, several grades of the St. Thomas student body were temporarily housed at the former Vanier campus on Rebecca Street as Aquinas was renovated with final completion in December, 1993.

While the completion of funding to secondary schools was good news for Catholic educators, it also brought with it what Burlington trustee and former Board chairman, Mr. James Sherlock, described as a "ton" of problems. Specifically, the problem was the lack of start-up grants for the Catholic secondary schools.

"To what had been a growing board to begin with, and with the addition of secondary schools and then full funding, came a ton of problems," said Mr. Sherlock.

"We had been underfunded for decades so the very fact that they gave us funding for secondary schools increased the expectations of ratepayers and teachers," said Mr. Sherlock, noting that even with extended funding, the Halton Catholic School Board still has a long way to go to achieve financial parity within its system compared to public school boards.



The extension of full funding to Catholic school boards was announced in 1984 while plans were already underway to build Saint Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Secondary School in Oakville's Glen Abbey community. The building plans were revamped, and in 1986, Loyola opened its doors becoming the first Catholic secondary school built with provincial capital grants. That marked a first for Oakville, Halton and Ontario.

However, full funding was still viewed as a positive step. "The arrival of secondary schools was cause for celebration. It was a very upbeat, a very positive time: and teachers were clamoring to be moved into the secondary schools," recalled Miss Pat O'Brien.

In the short space of some six years, the Halton Roman Catholic School Board had delivered on its plan for Catholic secondary education in Halton, and more.

"The vision was to have three secondary schools in Halton," says Mr. Byrnes. As of 1994, the board had established five secondary schools and has plans for three more over the next 15 years.



Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School was constructed in 1989 as the second of Burlington's Catholic secondary schools following the completion of Bishop Reding Catholic Secondary School in Milton in 1987.



As the need for a second Catholic secondary school was felt in Oakville, the School Board acquired the former Gordon E. Perdue public high school on Margaret Drive in 1990. By 1993, that school had been fully renovated. Pictured above, Hamilton Diocese Bishop, The Most Reverend Anthony Tonnos congratulates students on their new school building.

THE POPULATION EXPLOSION

While Catholics had settled in Halton in the mid-1800s, their numbers decreased toward the late 1800s and early 1900s. Only after World War II did Halton begin to grow at a rate which eventually spawned the birth of the local Catholic schools, and the eventual emergence of the regional school board.

Only a decade after Halton's municipal school boards had amalgamated to become the regional Board however, there occurred a population explosion, the likes of which were unprecedented in Halton.

Growth became the key challenge during the 1980s as school populations rapidly expanded, placing increasing demands on educators and pushing existing school facilities beyond their physical limitations.

Portable classrooms became common place for the Catholic School Board which was struggling to obtain capital funding for new schools. The School Board however, had never been a stranger to tight finances.

"I think every school we built was full when it opened. We rarely caught up to the student population growth," said Mr. Bob O'Brien of those significant growth years. "There was phenomenal growth of the entire region. It just seemed to come alive with almost an explosion of student population." The system emerged with a new credible public image and a responsive program of services for every student.

It was also a period in which perhaps better educated and involved parents readily took their requests to the School Board, quickly familiarizing themselves with the benefits to be gained by effectively lobbying both the School Board and provincial government in presenting their school community's needs as top priority in the scramble for provincial capital funding.

The growth threatened the stability of schools as it became difficult to establish consistency in school communities or staff complements as both were juggled between existing school buildings.

Principal, Mr. John MacInnis, recalled how St. Michael School was, for a long time, the only Catholic school in the rapidly growing area of north Oakville.

The growth of the Catholic School Board in the mid -1980s was unlike the steady, but significantly slower growth that had initially followed amalgamation.

In Oakville, shortly after amalgamation, the two schools planned and designed by the former Oakville School Board were opened in 1969, Georges Vanier and St. John. École Ste-Marie was established in 1978 and Holy Family School opened in 1981, named in honor of the Year of the Family, recalled Father James Mihm, a former Oakville trustee.

St. Ignatius of Loyola was in the planning stages between 1982 and 1986, but after its opening, there followed a flurry of new school constructions, schools whose student bodies were being housed in existing schools (leaving the older schools bursting at the seams) while awaiting the opening of their own school buildings.

The race was on for capital funding of new schools in the growth areas, as more and more of the town's new population took up residence in developing areas north of the Queen Elizabeth Way.

In 1989, St. Bernadette School in Glen Abbey was temporarily housed at the former Vanier campus on Rebecca Street. It finally relocated to its new facility at 1201 Heritage Way in 1991.

St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School was aboard in 1990.

It was 1993 however, after bridge financing by the School Board, before some of the older schools were relieved by the opening of new schools - in River Oaks, Our Lady of Peace at 391 River Glen Boulevard; in Clearview, St. Luke's at 2750 Kingsway Drive; and, in Iroquois Ridge, St. Marguerite d'Youville at 1359 Bayshire Drive.

The population explosion that had hit Halton was being felt in Oakville but had first made its existence felt in Burlington.

Again growth in that city following amalgamation was steady but it gained speed rapidly.

In the 1970s, as École St-Philippe was developing, St. Patrick School was opened in 1970 at 200 Kenwood Avenue; Canadian Martyrs followed in 1975 at 3201 Lansdown Drive.

Assumption was on the scene in 1977 and opened its own facility in 1980. A year earlier, in 1979, St. Mark School had opened at 2145 Upper Middle Road.

St. Mark's establishment was followed by the opening of perhaps the School Board's largest elementary school, St. Timothy School. Its student population was originally housed in a rented facility on Croydon Road in 1989, but by 1991, had its own building at 2141 Deer Run Avenue. Notre Dame Secondary School had also arrived in 1989.

In Georgetown, St. Francis of Assisi School at 2 Duncan Drive opened in 1971. A new Acton school building had been constructed for St. Joseph School, by 1982. A new Georgetown elementary school currently tops the school board's 1995 Capital Expenditure Forecast priority list for capital funding approval and a renovation to Georgetown's Holy Cross School isn't far behind.

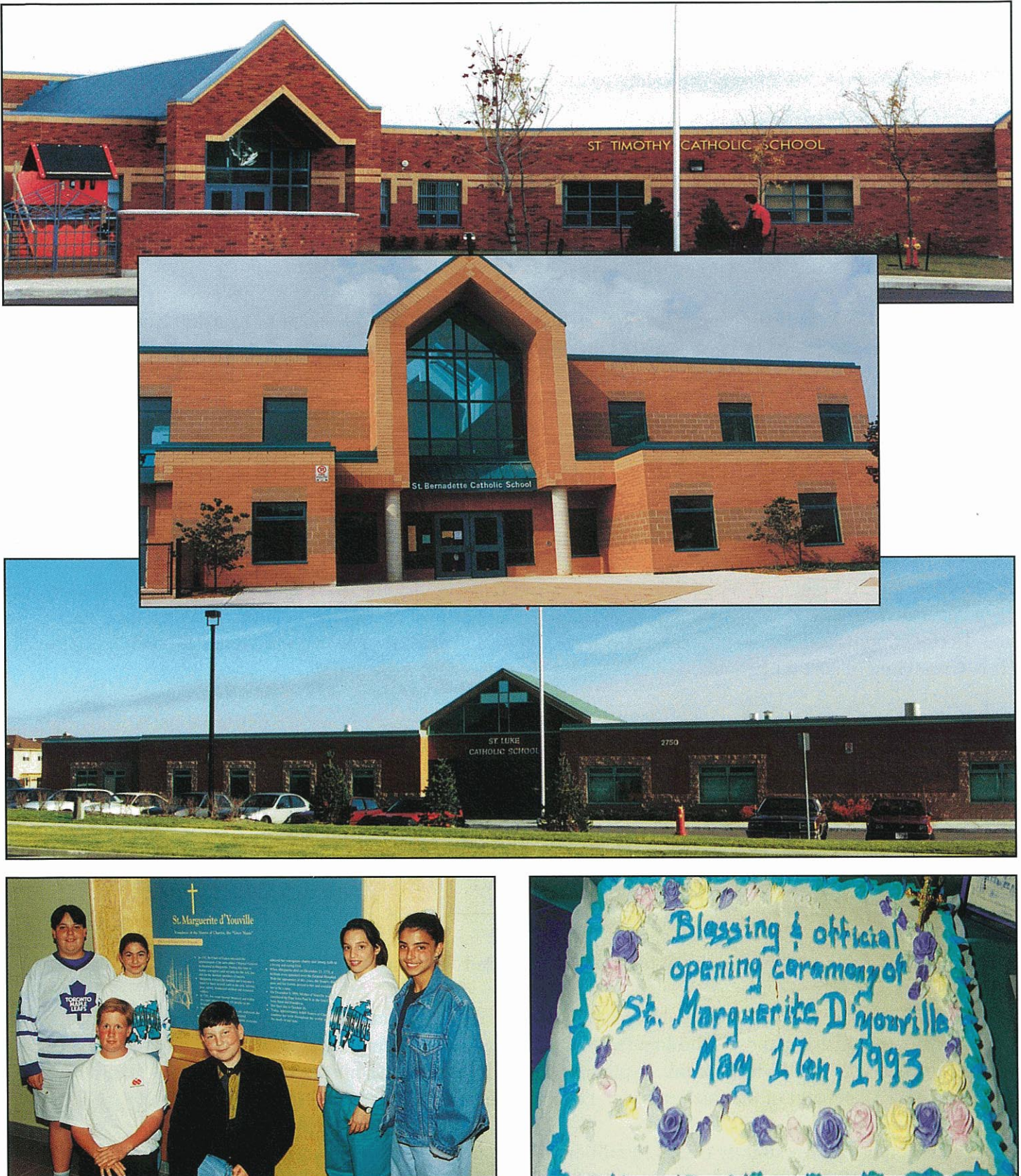
Milton witnessed the arrival of two new elementary schools in the years following amalgamation, St. Peter School in 1978 at 700 Woodward Avenue and Our Lady of Victory School at 540 Commercial Street in 1984. Both were followed by Bishop Reding Secondary School.

Oakville resident, Mr. Don Schrenk, served as School Board chairman during a significant portion of the system's high growth years. "When I was first elected as a trustee in 1985, we had about 10,000 students. When I became Board chairman (in 1988) we had 12,000 students. Three years later, the Board expanded to 17,000 students," said Mr. Schrenk.

During those "key" growth years, the School Board expanded by approximately 70 percent.

The Board also proved quite successful in making its appeals for capital funding heard at Queen's Park. "As the growth really started to expand, we did some soul searching and negotiating with the Ministry of Education in terms of our capital needs," said Mr. Schrenk, explaining it was in 1990 that Halton's Catholic School Board received approximately 10 percent of the total provincial capital allocation of funds to school boards.

We received approval for slightly over \$30 million to look after six new elementary schools and a refurbishment of Assumption and St. Thomas Aquinas," said Mr. Schrenk, adding the funding success story that year, even rendered Halton's public school board "quite shocked."



As population growth mushroomed in Halton, accommodation became a key issue for School Board officials in the 1980s and early 1990s, and saw the School Board open a string of new schools in the southern half of Halton Region. Those schools included: St. Timothy's, Burlington; St. Bernadette's, Oakville; St. Marguerite d'Youville, Oakville; and, St. Luke's, Oakville.

By the late 1980s, the Liberal provincial government announced that Catholic school board access to commercial taxes would be phased in over a six-year period. Mr. Sherlock pointed to, perhaps the largest commercial tax base in Halton, the Ford Motor Company, and the number of Catholic students educated in Halton from parents who work at Ford. Yet until the late 1980s, the Catholic School Board had no claim to the company's commercial tax base.

The implementation of lot levies imposed against new home construction to pay for new schools was another funding hope. However, by 1994, the issue was in a legal limbo as primarily homebuilders' associations fought against it in court.

Mr. Sherlock said the Halton Catholic and public school boards had cooperated in drafting a lot levy by-law however, it had not been implemented by 1994 pending legal proceedings on the same issue in York Region.

When lot levies were to be incorporated, the Ministry of Education was to reduce its share of capital funding to school boards from a 75% level to 60%. However as the growth spiralled, especially in the Greater Toronto Area, during the 1980s, that area's large school boards lobbied, and succeeded, in petitioning the province to drop the funding level. It was a move made in the hope that it would result in more school boards receiving funds. As growth put capital needs in Ontario school boards near the \$2 billion mark annually, the boards were fighting out their claims to the annual \$300 million in provincial grants, explained Mr. Sherlock.

As the School Board busied itself with the provision of the much needed facilities, Mr. Schrenk said there was a respite from the growth during the early 1990s, years scarred by a major recession. Growth is expected to be knocking on the door again in the short term however, as northern Oakville and northern Burlington continue to develop, and also in Milton and Halton Hills where the towns are poised for major development as soon as upgraded water services (known familiarly as "the big pipe") are realized.

—TO THE PRESENT

The challenges have been many in the years since amalgamation and many more loom on the horizon.

Unprecedented growth and related physical demands upon the education system seemed to overshadow other issues in the high growth years, but there continue to be many changes in education.

In 1984, the Education Act ensured that school boards were to provide Special Education for all exceptional students.

Mr. Anthony Hennelly, a former Special Education superintendent, recalled when, in 1969, the amalgamation opened the regular school system to developmentally challenged students. "It was a decision which should have been made a long time ago," he said.

"Over the years, Special Education services expanded and now we have one of the most sensitive Special Education programs in the province," said 1994 Board chairman, Mrs. Irene McCauley.

Another program that began in 1984 and successfully celebrated its tenth anniversary in 1994, was the arrival of Grandteachers in Halton's Catholic elementary schools. The concept of Grandteachers began slowly in Georgetown's Holy Cross School but later spread throughout the Board and in fact, was mirrored at Halton's public school board

It was Georgetown resident Margaret Dewdney's commitment that seniors had much talent and experience to share with youths, who, as society changed, often didn't have the benefit of extended contact with their own grandparents who often lived far away or were no longer living.

The program emerged when Mrs. Dewdney took it up with her friend, and Holy Cross teacher, Mrs. Geraldine Barnes. Holy Cross principal, Mr. Richard Lorito enthusiastically embraced the idea, coining the name Grandteachers.

What began as two senior women teaching crocheting to a Grade 4 class, soon grew to encompass a host of school based activities such as reading aloud, baseball umpiring instruction, baking, singing and much more.

Junior Kindergarten arrived, with some trustees fighting tooth and nail against it, in September 1989. The French language section gave its approval and the English language section shortly followed suit.

However in the eyes of teacher Miss Pat O'Brien, Junior Kindergarten wasn't as big a step as Kindergarten, which she said, really broke new ground in the 1960s.

The regional Catholic School Board, like the municipal school boards before it, had always had an offering of summer school programs. It was in 1986, that those traditional summer school programs, along with a host of others, were joined under the new department of Continuing Education Services with Mr. Anthony Hennelly as superintendent.

By 1989, the department, the only one within the School Board to operate on a cost recovery basis, had its own principal appointed, Mr. Bruce Gillies, who was succeeded by Mr. Joe Diubaldo. In 1990, education superintendent Mr. Lou Piovesan assumed responsibility for the department.

Continuing Education Services first operated out of a portable classroom at the School Board's Drury Lane administration centre, however it moved to Assumption Secondary School in the summer of 1993.

Mr. Piovesan said school boards aren't bound to provide continuing education services but are encouraged to do so. The services are designed to respond to community needs.



Over the years, the face of education changed along with the physical growth of the School Board. Grand teachers became an integral part of elementary school life while the tradition and purpose of Catholic education saw religious instruction maintained and expanded.

The Halton Roman Catholic School Board's Continuing Education Services currently includes offerings in summer school, night school, adult day school programs, adult English as a Second Language classes and the newest LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) program.

Through Continuing Education, students can make up grades through summer school, adults can gain their basic high school academic credits or participate in general interest courses at night in classes where topics range from fitness and crafts to woodworking and computers, even marriage preparation.

Heritage Language programs, offering instruction in 23 languages, have, like summer school, always formed part of the Board's programs but are now included in the Continuing Education Services.

Mr. Piovesan expects continued growth in the new areas of computers and in the highly successful LINC program which, through joint efforts with the coterminous school board and local Sheridan College, offers newcomers to Canada instruction in English, citizenship preparation, and driver education.

In 1989, the Board had enrolled 827 summer students and saw that number mushroom to hit 2,938 by 1993. Similarly, 644 students took advantage of Heritage Language courses in 1993.

Mr. Piovesan doesn't conceal a smile when he indicates that Continuing Education Services actually made an \$80,000 surplus in 1992, funds that were directed back within the Board. Mr. Piovesan is also quick to give credit to Continuing Education Services principal Joe Diubaldo, Non-Credit/General Interest Courses manager Brenda Reddy and LINC co-ordinator, Gail Cote.

By the year of the Halton Catholic School Board's 25th anniversary, the entire school system totalled 18,670 students - 13,533 in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 and another 5,137 in Grades 9 through OAC. The Board was operating 37 schools - 29 English language elementary schools, three French language elementary schools and five secondary schools. The Board's motto had become "Sharing the Spirit."

In 1993, the destreaming of Grade 9 students from basic, general and advanced secondary school programs was being stressed in response to government mandate. That year also saw the forced acceptance of provincial Premier Bob Rae's Social Contract, decreased provincial funding, further belt tightening in budget restraint, and the taking of unpaid days by staff to help cut costs as Ontario reeled with the rest of Canada in the throes of a global recession.

"The Social Contract of the NDP government caused a lot of misunderstanding and confusion. I don't believe the government quite knew how to implement the Social Contract effectively," said Mrs. Irene McCauley.

While the Social Contract caused a lot of "consternation", the Board was fortunate in that its unionized employees and managers worked very hard and very amicably together, said Mrs. McCauley. "The Social Contract took up a lot of time in 1993."

Mr. Sherlock said the public is increasingly scrutinizing school boards and their finances and it's his belief a lot of the costs are tied to class size. That's the area in which the Social Contract made financial gains for the ratepayers, said Mr. Sherlock.

Despite several studies, no hard data links low class size to quality of education yet since 1977, the reduction of class size has been at the forefront of union bargaining. "The Social Contract has in effect ordered boards back to the 1977 levels of class size," said Mr. Sherlock.



Physical education instruction had changed from the days of the "old blue gym rompers" to high tech work outs.



Music, which is a mainstay of the expanding curriculum, offers more and more challenges.



Computers arrived in a big way, changing the face of education - and society itself - in the late 1980s. Teachers had to keep up to ever adaptable young students who regarded computers as a fact of life.

"The Social Contract has slowed down the reduction in class size. It had to be a terribly difficult but necessary decision," said Mr. Sherlock, noting both provincial and federal governments in Canada are grappling with tremendous deficit levels.

Likewise, the 1994 budget preparations also translated into a lot of work in 1993 but Mrs. McCauley said the Board was pleased with the outcome, a budget geared to maintaining acceptable levels of service despite tough restraint.

The Social Contract had a major impact upon employee unions and associations that had formed early within the school system.

It was in May 1969, the first year of amalgamation that the Board was negotiating with the Halton Separate School Teachers' Association's Economic Policy Committee. Mr. Loftus was chairman of the Teachers' Contract Negotiation Committee.

Miss Pat O'Brien recalled OECTA (Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association) in the early years but says it wasn't then a bargaining unit. In those days salary negotiations were done on a personal, not committee level. "I remember one trustee asking me "Give me a good reason why you should get a raise?" recalls Miss O'Brien.

Mr. John MacInnis said at the time of amalgamation, Oakville teachers had been negotiating with their Board but the Burlington teachers "seemed to be depending on the benevolence of the Board."

In the early days, principals had taught in their school as well as led their school administration. At the time of amalgamation, the regional School Board had to address the fact that some Oakville principals weren't teaching while others in the Board still were required to teach in their schools.

Later, vice-principals began to appear on the scene in large schools where student numbers necessitated assistance to the principal.

It was a conference in Niagara Falls in the late 1980s that first saw the concept of "empowerment" brought to local principals. The idea of the 'boss' loosening the reins and staff assuming responsibility and accountability for new directions. That concept would also open the doors to foundations of the School Board's Strategic Plan in 1990.

In 1993, the School Board's new *Strategic Plan, 1993 - 2000*, and Board mission statement were approved in the hope of defining the system's goals apart from bricks and mortar and allocating more decision-making power to the school level,

"The Strategic Plan is underway and we feel the Board is moving in a very positive direction," said Mrs. McCauley under whose chairmanship the Strategic Plan was finally implemented.

However it was Mr. Schrenk who was instrumental in the plan's development.

"We always had it (the plan) in mind with the growth that was taking place, the fact that we were moving from a small school board to a medium-sized board," said Mr. Schrenk.

"We felt it was time to take a look at where we wanted to go," said Mr. Schrenk, describing the School Board's previous planning as not always clearly focused.

"If you look at most major corporations, they are plotting a course for the future," said Mr. Schrenk of the Strategic Plan which is similar to a long range planning blueprint of the Board's future direction.

It was in the late 1980s that a steering committee of some 30 to 40 persons began defining the task of achieving a strategic plan. It involved students to senior staff, and everyone in between.

Under Mr. Schrenk's direction as chairman of the Strategic Plan Committee, a mission statement was set, along with goals and objectives, and the plan was eventually finalized by early 1993. By September 1993, the plan was being implemented under the direction of the Implementation and Review Committee and individual schools were beginning their own plans based on the Board model. The committee is now a standing committee of the School Board, something Mr. Schrenk believed denotes the importance of the Strategic Plan to the Board.

Through the 1980s, computers arrived in a big way in local schools, a challenge to older teachers and by 1993, work stations were designed to enable students and staff in the schools to engage in multi-media activities such as internal CD-ROM, telecommunications, and video productions.

Integration of exceptional students is now the preferred mode of instruction in Halton's Catholic schools. School-to-work apprenticeship programs are taking higher priority as the School Board tries to strengthen school/business/industry links. The environment has also become a major moral issue of the day.

Physical growth of the School Board continues to loom on the horizon and despite the recession of the early 1990s, major development is expected to occur next in the Georgetown and Milton areas. "Georgetown is growing by leaps and bounds," said Mrs. McCauley who anticipates the building of a second elementary school to join St. Joseph's in Acton, as well as a secondary school in Georgetown.

Mrs. McCauley also forecasts that technology will continue to have a major impact on education as it is more and more intricately intertwined with curriculum.

The School Board is now focusing inwardly with revisions to curriculum and educational strategies for the future.

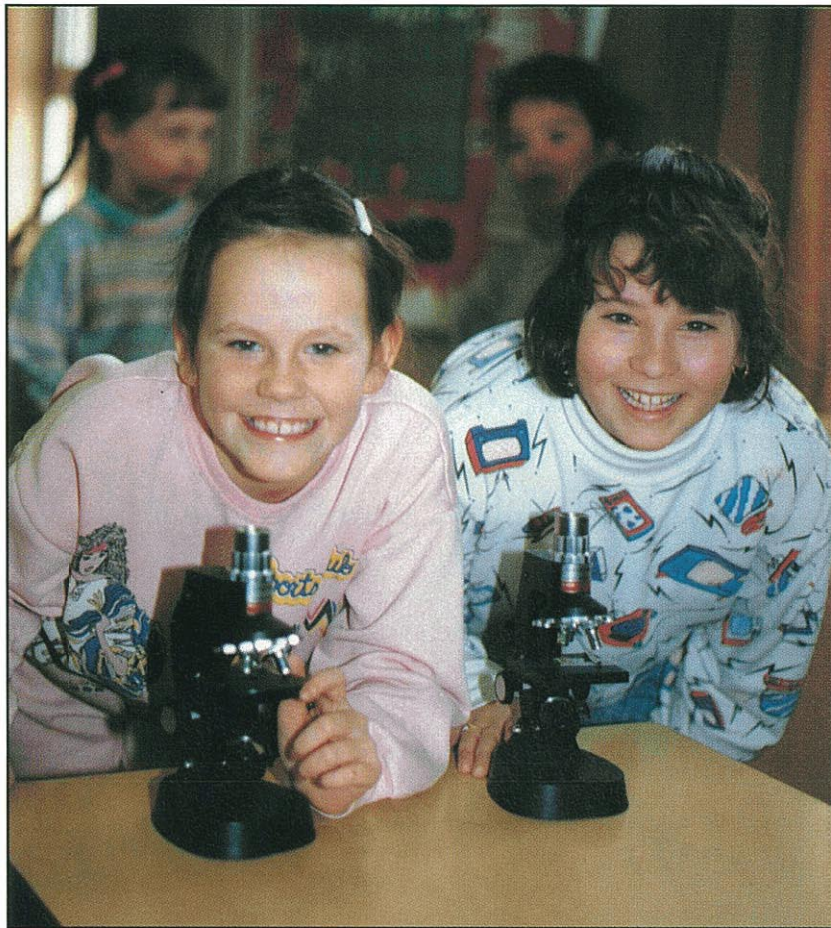
"The Board will have to look continuously at its programming. Education is changing very rapidly. Cognizant of the changes in the world, staff will require constant development so that students will be fully prepared for the future," said Mrs. McCauley.

Mr. Schrenk shares that vision of the future. "We have to find out what people really want. More demands are being made by parents to set the agenda, to set curriculum and for schools to be more specific about what students are taught," said Mr. Schrenk.

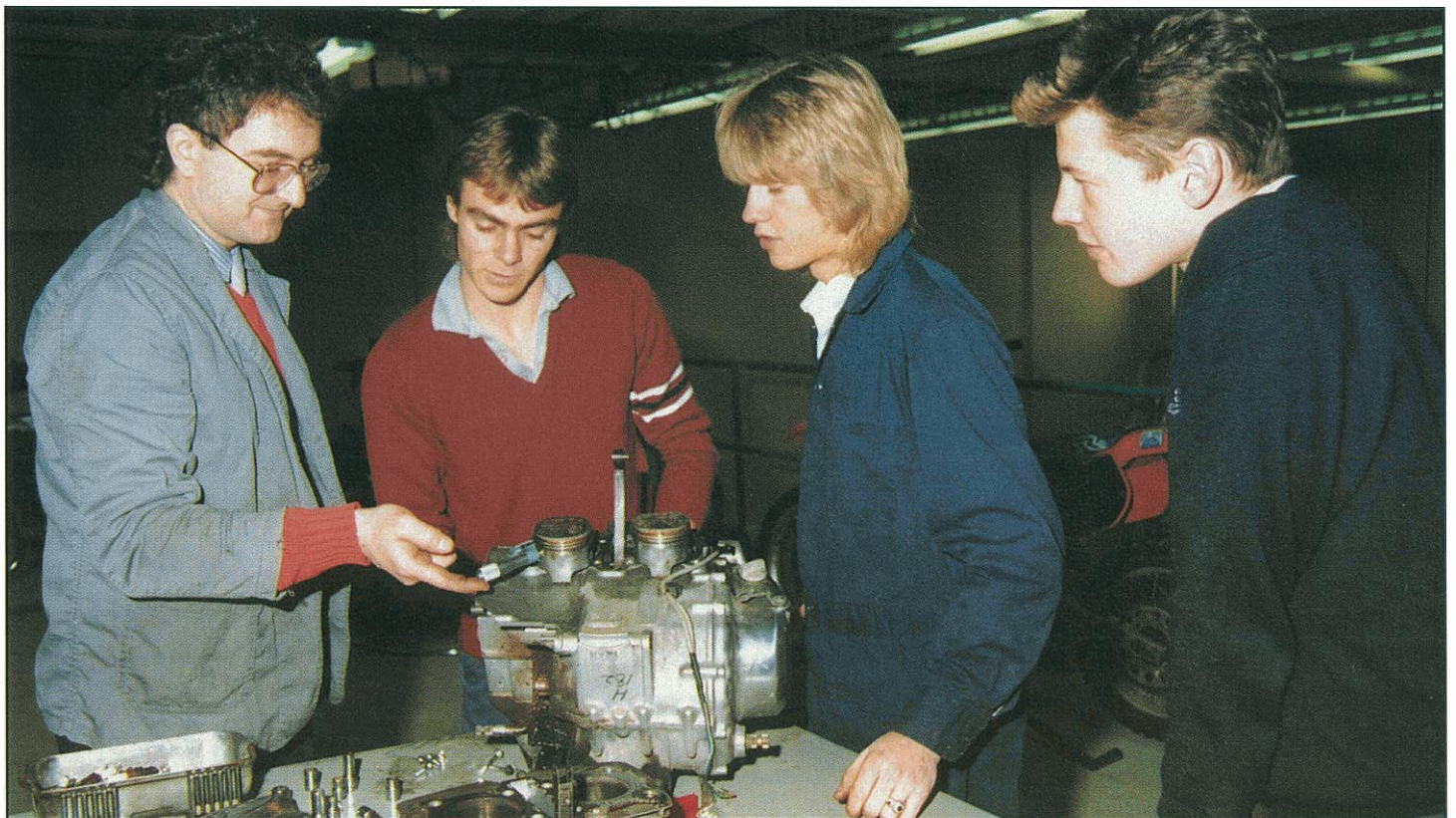
And as society changes, its needs change too. While it appears more responsibilities are being foisted upon school boards, Mr. Schrenk said many may be justified by the changing needs of society. "There are a lot of external pressures being brought to bear on education. We'll have to look at whether we'll be able to do full justice to our mandate," said Mr. Schrenk.

In an age when budgetary restraint is the unhappy norm, Mr. Byrnes said funding equity for Catholic school boards in Ontario still has a long way to go. Fiscal challenge however, is one challenge the Halton Roman Catholic School Board has met directly.

"It's a very difficult time to be on school boards now," said Father Mihm, "And the separate school boards are feeling it a great deal more than public boards. There may be full funding but we still haven't arrived at fair funding or equal funding. We're all faced with the same degree of cutbacks but since there's not the same degree of funding, the separate school boards are the ones that must take the more drastic measures," he said.



School boards in general expanded their equipment standards in everything from science classes to auto shop.



"Finances have always been a heavy concern," said former Burlington trustee Mr. Bob O'Brien, recalling his first years with the former Burlington School Board, "Our concern was with rising costs, the same issue which they're dealing with now."

While change looms in regard to the method of financing education, perhaps the tip of the iceberg is the new efforts of public and Catholic school boards and municipal government cooperation in regards to consolidating purchasing and transportation in order to save money.

The area of budget is also one that now bears a much different face than at the time of the amalgamation 24 years ago. Mr. Schrenk perhaps best summarized growth in the area of budget when he reflected on his last decade as a trustee and noted that within that time, within the space of three to four years, the School Board budget jumped from one of \$30 million to \$100 million.

1994 has been earmarked as a year in which to celebrate the School Board's accomplishments, its staff and its students. The Board's 25th year.

"There are many celebrations focusing on the staff and students and the accomplishments this Board, this system and its people, have made over the last 25 years," said Mrs. McCauley. "We want to concentrate on the excellence of staff and students and highlight that, not only to our taxpayers but so that the whole province is aware of it," said Mrs. McCauley.

"With the limited resources we've had over the years, this Board, as you look back historically, has many, many accomplishments," Mrs. McCauley smiles.

Mr. Hawken also credits the support of Halton's Catholic school system by the Hamilton Diocese and noted that Bishop Anthony Tonno is a leader who always makes himself available to the system. "When I look back on it, I say "Hey it's not a bad system, not a bad system at all. It's better than most and I don't regret one minute of it," said Mr. Hawken.

"What the system has achieved is commendable given the funding restraints it has had to cope with," admits Mr. Byrnes, who at the November 1993 Board meeting announced to the Board of Trustees and chairman, Irene McCauley, his decision to retire as of August 1994.

According to Mrs. McCauley, one of the major challenges of 1994 is the loss of Mr. Byrnes as education director and the search for someone to replace him.

"Mr. Byrnes has served this Board faithfully with a distinctive flair, an innovative style and an unmistakeable commitment to social justice and the teachings and values of the Catholic faith," said Mrs. McCauley, adding, "Our system is a reflection of his great leadership and his many accomplishments."

Mr. Byrnes was only the second education director of the Halton Roman Catholic School Board, having taken the position two years after the 1969 amalgamation, upon Mr. James Hogan's retirement, in 1971.

Mr. Byrnes, a Hamilton native who's father to eight children and has made Burlington his home, holds degrees from McMaster University, The University of Toronto and York University. He graduated from Hamilton's Teachers College in 1956.

Mrs. McCauley described Mr. Byrnes as approachable with an open door to others and remembered how he traditionally played Santa Claus with young Kindergarten students.

With the success of the Halton Catholic School Board's secondary school panel under his belt, Mr. Byrnes is particularly enthusiastic about the Board's new Strategic Plan. We've got the bricks and mortar, now we have to ask "What is our vision? What are we all about? " We can't forget our "raison d'être,"" he said.

At his April 15, 1994 retirement celebration, Mr. Bymes said, "Catholic education in Halton is strong, its foundation is secure and its future is bright."

It was at that retirement gala that School Board chairman Irene McCauley announced that the Board of Trustees had approved the renaming of the 802 Drury Lane administration centre, The Clifford G. Byrnes Catholic Education Centre, in Mr. Byrnes' honour.

Hamilton Diocese Bishop Anthony Tonnos said Mr. Bymes had made Christian beliefs "presentable, acceptable and even, miraculously, likeable" in changing times. Mr. Byrnes received a Papal Blessing from Pope John Paul II in recognition of his service to Catholic education in Halton.

"Cliff Bymes walked with the people of Halton and gave them all he had towards moving ahead in the great human and spiritual endeavor that is the Halton Roman Catholic School Board," said Mr. Denis Nolan, former Halton superintendent and now education director in Ottawa.

Nicknamed a "cuddly bear" who wasn't just a boss or colleague, but a friend, Byrnes was known for his continual petitioning to see a Halton school named St. Brigid.

In future, Mr. Bymes foresees the need to continue examining the education system in view of financial constraint, the governance of school boards and the need for schools to establish expanded links with the business community to better grasp the changes occurring in the business world.

"Catholic schools will always have the responsibility of supporting Catholic values in an ever diversifying student population," said Mr. Byrnes.

After 23 years at the helm of the Halton Roman Catholic School Board, Mr. Byrnes chose the School Board's 25th anniversary year - 1994 - to step aside to make room for a new vision for the future and a leader to take the Board into the 21st Century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to Mr. Cliff Bymes, Director of Education, Halton Roman Catholic School Board

Mrs. Geraldine Barnes, retired teacher, grandteacher, Holy Cross School, Georgetown
Mr. Jean-Luc Bernard, Superintendent of Education, French Language Section
Mr. Tom Brady, retired Superintendent of Business Services
Dr. Leno Braida, former Board chairman, former Oakville trustee
Ms. Monique Desjardins, teacher, École Sacré-Cœur, Georgetown
Mr. William C. Hawken, Q. C., former Board chairman, former Burlington trustee
Mr. Anthony Hennelly, retired Superintendent of Education
Mr. Boris Hofman, Audio Visual Technician
Mr. Paul Hourigan, Audio Visual Clerk
Mr. Christopher Jewell, Communications Officer
Mr. Larry Loftus, retired teacher/principal
Mrs. Irene McCauley, 1991-1994 Board chairman, Halton Hills trustee
Mr. John MacInnis, principal, St. Mark School, Burlington
Rev. Father James Mihm, former Board chairman, former Oakville trustee
Miss Pat O'Brien, teacher, Holy Rosary School, Burlington
Mr. Robert O'Brien, former Board chairman, former Burlington trustee
Mr. Lou Piovesan, Superintendent of Education
Mr. Don Schrenk, former Board chairman, Oakville trustee
Mr. James Sherlock, former Board chairman, Burlington trustee
Mr. Angelo Tonelli, former Milton trustee
Rev. Father Peter Watters, former Board chairman, former Oakville truster.

Other Resources

Après La Bataille - Le Succès, by Philippe Desjardins, Université d'Ottawa, October 29, 1990. (Son of M. Philippe Desjardins)

"History of the Development of the Parishes in Halton County" The Bicentennial Committee, Halton Roman Catholic School Board, November 1984. Text by Ken Foyster, Diocesan Archivist, Chancery Office, Diocese of Hamilton.

"Anniversary Reflections A History of the Hamilton Diocese" by Ken Foyster, Diocesan Archivist, Chancery Office, Diocese of Hamilton.

School Log, St. Mary School, Oakville

Minute Books, Halton, Oakville, Burlington, Milton and Georgetown School Boards, Halton Roman Catholic School Board Archives.

Written by Angela Blackburn

Board of Trustees / Conseilleres et conseillers scolaires

Irene McCauley
Chair



Alice Anne LeMay
Vice - Chair

ENGLISH SECTION OF THE BOARD

Troy Lassau
Chair

Krys Binkley
Vice - Chair

Rev. Ronald Cote
Joseph Deoni
Genevieve Dowson
Mary Lou Loughlin
Bryan McIntyre

Kevin O'Connor
Gerald O'Halloran
Donald Schrenk
James Sherlock
Ed Viana

Patricia Weber

SECTION DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE DU CONSEIL

Gilbert McCraw
Président

Kenneth Norman
Vice - président

Robert Clark

Senior Staff / Cadres administratifs

Cliff G. Bymes
Joseph Birett

Director of Education and Secretary of the Board
Superintendent of Business Services and Treasurer

Steve Balogh
Jean-Luc Bernard
Giacomo Corbacio
Angelo Di Ianni
William Fitzgerald
Luciano Piovesan
Diane Rabenda

Superintendent of Personnel Services
Surintendant de l'éducation
Controller, Building and Plant
Superintendent of Education
Controller, Finance
Superintendent of Education
Superintendent of Education

