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'87 basics will include computers

By CAROL STEWART-KIRKBY

A five-year plan, costing about \$4.5-million, will guarantee all children from Grade 4 to 13 the opportunity to use a computer in Halton's public schools by 1987.

The plan, yet to be approved by the Halton Board of Education, was presented at a special meeting of the board Wednesday. Harold Brathwaite, chairman of the computer advisory committee, explained the plan is aimed at making children computer literate. "In other words, make them confident users of computers; teach them what a computer can and cannot do; and show them the impact of computers on society."

The first year of the plan would be implemented in 1983 if the board votes in favor of the proposal in early February. By 1987, in elementary schools, there will be three to six microcomputers in each school. The board will buy 498 computers to achieve this goal and 25,500 children will have access to a computer by '87 compared to 8,700 in 1983.

In secondary schools, one lab (26 microcomputers, a printer and a disk drive) will be in place in each school. Another 175 will be purchased and distributed on a needs basis for libraries and special education programs, for example. The board will have to buy 617 computers to achieve the secondary objective and 18,000 students will have access to a computer by '87 compared to 4,420 in 1983.

BARE BONES

Brathwaite described the five-year plan as a "bare bones proposal" suited to the Halton education system. He stressed the board is not being asked to approve all five years of the project within the next few weeks. "We are asking for the approval of the first year of the plan now and in subsequent years we will bring the plan back to the board, after updating and modification. We do not expect a decision on the plan in its entirety this year," Brathwaite said.

The first year of the plan would include develop-

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Police probe fall into lake

An Oakville teenager is recovering in a warm and comfortable hospital bed after making an unexpected plunge into Lake Ontario Wednesday night.

John Edward Mackie, 18, of Brookside Drive, is listed in good condition at the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, after falling off the breakwater at the foot of Navy Street at 11:30 p.m.

Mackie managed to climb out of the icy water and reach a nearby house for help. According to the Halton police, Mackie was apparently suffering from hypothermia when an ambulance rushed him to hospital.

Police will investigate the accident.

TBA

Oakville Galleries education co-ordinator Dianne Bos is also vocalist and keyboardist for the Toronto new wave group, TBA. Bos is shown above with fellow TBA keyboardist Andrew Zealley during their recent Riverside engagement which attracted crowds of shaved heads and mini leopard-skin skirts. Those who came to dance weren't disappointed as TBA's frenetic sounds kept the dance floor filled to capacity all evening. For the full story and review, see page 14.

(Photo by Peter McCusker)

