

# HDSB trustees vote to add 'Ethel' to Gardiner Public School

By Tim Whitnell  
Metroland Media Group

A former Halton District School Board trustee and board chair is still getting her name in the news.

At the Dec. 17 public school board meeting, the 11 trustees voted unanimously to officially rename Gardiner Public School as Ethel Gardiner P.S.

The idea was formally recom-

mended at the board level earlier this year by former Halton Hills trustee Alice Strachan and former Burlington trustee Dianna Bower.

The addition of Gardiner's first name reflects a concern within the school community that the school's name should be the entire name of the school's namesake, stated a board press release.

Ethel Gardiner was a former Halton public board teacher

(1967-95), trustee for the Georgetown community (1995-2006) and was elected chair of the board for six consecutive one-year terms (1998-2003).

She died of cancer in June 2007 at age 69.

Gardiner P.S. opened on Danby Street in Georgetown in January 2009.

There was a difference of opinion on the board when the name

of the school was being considered at the time.

"I know the community wanted (the name) Ethel Gardiner from the start," when the school's name was first considered, Kelly Amos, chair of the board and a colleague of Gardiner's, said at the Dec. 17 board meeting.

Newly-elected Halton Hills trustee Jeanne Gray said she sensed "great support" from her

community for the name change.

"We are righting a wrong from several years ago. I knew Ethel. She was innovative and ahead of her time," echoed Milton trustee Donna Danielli.

Oakville trustee Ann Harvey Hope said she was a member of the public in the audience when trustees originally voted on the school name.

Continued on page 12

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