

## Judy Alexander re-elected as board chairman

Halton Board of Education's first female chairman, Judy Alexander, won a second term as chairman Thursday by acclamation.

Trustee Irene Goobie, who nominated Mrs. Alexander, said the chairman has grown in the job and is knowledgeable and capable of directing the board through another difficult year.

The chairman agreed it will be a difficult year and suggested the board will be challenged to make sure the 51,000 students in Halton continue to receive quality education despite financial restrictions.

"The Prime Minister has spoken of self-discipline and learning to reduce our expectations but we must resolve that expectations of material things be reduced, not expectations of quality in the teaching learning situation. This will not be easy to achieve," she observed.

Mrs. Alexander suggested there was nothing to be gained grieving about the good old days in education and everyone should accept some of the new realities in education.

The chairman outlined a number of highlights of 1975 including the efforts by trustees to earn their raise which brought their earnings up to \$6,600.

The right to strike for teachers, a new director of education in Emmerson Lavender, the teachers' contract settlement, question period, more board meetings, and implementation of the work of the Primary Task Force and core curriculum in elementary schools were among the other highlights of the past year, Mrs. Alexander outlined.

She thanked last year's vice-chairman Rev. Garry Morton and the other trustees for their support and hard work.

Mrs. Alexander said everyone in Halton is thankful they haven't had a teachers' strike but noted the shock waves of the Toronto teachers' strike have been felt in Halton.



HALTON BOARD of Education chairman Judy Alexander congratulates Bill Herd on his election as vice-chairman Thursday. Mrs. Alexander was returned as chairman by acclamation for a second year while Herd beat out two other candidates for the vice-chairmanship.

"Can anyone in education believe a strike is beneficial?" the chairman wondered. She added one remedy for the problem of strikes which the government might be forced to look at is the elimination of Bill 100.

Discussing the current economic situation, Mrs. Alexander noted the board has never been forced to cut back on promised programs but added this could be the year for cuts. "There isn't much fat in our system but we will still have to tighten up and we may have to make some cuts."

**Hospital saves funds**

The surgical and paediatric ward and operating room at Milton district hospital were closed for two weeks at Christmas. Officials said the 29-bed ward and operating room were closed due to low patient occupancy and in an attempt to save some overhead costs, in keeping with the provincial government's requests for cutbacks.

## Bill Herd captures vice-chairman's job

Oakville trustee Bill Herd eliminated Burlington trustees Tony Goodyear and Noel Cooper for the vice-chairmanship of the Halton Board of Education Thursday.

When no clear majority was established after the first vote, Goodyear was dropped from the running and Herd defeated the remaining opponent, Cooper, on the second ballot.

After his victory Herd noted it probably wasn't easy for some of the more seasoned trustees to show so much confidence in a relative newcomer and said he looked forward to the year ahead.

After being nominated by Trustee Doug Wood, Herd said his decision to run had been well thought out and predicted 1976 and 1977 would test the board's strength just as much as the past year had. Herd pointed out the board faces strong challenges in the year ahead and strong leadership is essential.

He said the board must build up a strong base of potential leaders and promised he will have lots of time to do the vice-chairman's job. Herd added the board may have to make some unpopular fiscal decisions.

Former chairman Bill Priestner, who nominated Goodyear, said the trustee was good for the job because he is against spending more money.

Goodyear described himself as being a moderate as far as pressure groups are concerned and pointed out that for some time he has been expressing financial concerns and advocating spending restraint.

Georgetown trustee Ernie Bodnar nominated Cooper and explained his candidate had great experience in every phase of board operations.

Cooper promised to maintain his enthusiasm and spend time to make sure a good job is done. He added the most important thing was to make sure education in Halton continually improves.

Last year's vice-chairman Rev. Garry Morton did not stand for re-election.



## Region different

Oakville councillor Carl Eriksen, who brought greetings from the region to Thursday's inaugural meeting of Halton Board of Education, noted board meetings are a lot different from council meetings.

"This is a lot different from a regional council meeting. Most regional councillors are being accused of being parochial but I notice the board has just elected two Oakville trustees as chairman and vice-chairman," he observed.

Sitting in for Region Chairman Allan Masson, who couldn't attend the meeting, Eriksen said he suspected most elected officials in Halton realize the difficult financial challenge they are facing in the year ahead but hoped the board and region can continue to co-operate with each other.

"It will be a challenge for both of us to find out how we can keep the mill rate reasonable and still keep service at a high level," Eriksen noted.

The regional councillor suggested that since Prime Minister Trudeau has suggested all Canadians take a look at their values the board will no longer have a monopoly on the subject.

"The school board won't be off the hook on values but now we will all get a crack at it," Eriksen joked.

He said unlike other councils in Ontario, Oakville and he hopes all of Halton, will realize school boards are capable of looking after the taxpayers' money without being restricted by municipal councils. Eriksen added Oakville council had recently rejected another municipality's resolution to restrict school board spending.

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