



Board of education chairman Len Auger congratulates new vice-chairman Betty Fisher.

Fisher relishes new job

The road to vice chairman of the Halton Board of Education has been a long, hard haul for Georgetown's Betty Fisher but one that has got her adrenalin pumping.

Fisher was familiar to the board even before her first election four years ago, when she was part of the Renaissance group. Her first taste of politics came in 1978 when she defeated incumbent Bert Hinton in the race for the Acton/Esquesing seat on the board. In 1980 she switched seats and now represents Georgetown. She went to Burlington with a purpose, and is now seeing her work brought to fruition.

Besides all the regional board's committees, such as salary, staff and advisory committees, Fisher also has made quite a name for herself on the powerful ALSBO (Association of Large School Boards of Ontario) and OSTC (Ontario School Trustee Council) both at the provincial level.

ALSBO is made privy to policy decisions in the Ministry before they are made public to the school boards, and are given a chance to respond to the various documents.

Fisher is on the executive of ALSBO and is chairman of the curriculum committee. She is also on the executive council for the Ontario Association for curriculum development council. She is an alternative director for OSTC.

Even though her duties as vice chairman will mean many more hours in Burlington, Fisher will continue her term on ALSBO and OSTC. Her election to vice chairman is for one year.

Fisher estimates she spends from 20 to 40 hours a week on the job at meetings. With an annual salary of \$7,200, it works out an average of \$5 an hour, based on a 30 hour week. And that estimated time does not include the five to 10 hours she spends talking on the telephone to constituents.

But she knew before she was elected the job would take that many hours away from her life. She admits that not all trustees have to devote so many hours to the job, and that had she been employed, she would never have been able to sit on ALSBO. She has had some days when she had five meetings in one day.

But she gets Sundays off, she says.

The recently released Secondary Education Review from the Ministry is probably coming more into the line of how she felt education should be before she became a trustee, she says about the provincial decision to phase out grade 13 and get back to basics.

"Things are going off the rail with too much innovation," she warned, "and kids are not having the basic education. This will make sure the kids going into university, college and the job market will be well prepared."

Fisher says she is a "real trustee advocator" and feels the board is where the power should be, rather than the staff. She is optimistic this is happening now.

Fisher feels her role as vice chairman, assisting chairman Len Auger, is to help the trustees see more facets of education in order to get involved.



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Community Calendar

Christmas get-together

This Friday evening, there will be a CBC Christmas gathering at the Georgetown Public Library where everyone is welcome to enjoy Christmas cookies and wish each other season's greetings. There will not be meetings for the following two Fridays, and Norman Elson asks for a good turnout on Friday January 7, 1983.

George's antics on stage

A Super Special Treat for Christmas... at the John Elliott Theatre on December 22 at 7.30 p.m. will be the Theatre's production of Curious George.

Adapted for the stage by Santo Cervello, Curious George is based on the popular picture book series by H.A. Rey.

With the use of two gigantic books, mime, dialogue, juggling and a unicycle, the actors promise to present George's escapes in a unique way.

Seniors trip

Caledon Information Centre is again organizing a Seniors' Bus trip to a local shopping mall in December, exact day as yet to be announced. For more information, call the CIC at 857-1050, 584-9375.

A Time For Joy

The Cantante Singers Christmas Concert is scheduled for Friday December 17 at the John Elliott Theatre and is entitled "A Time For Joy."

Music selections range from classics like Do You Hear What I Hear? and Joy To The World to fun-loving songs like Jingle All The Way under the direction of A. Dale Wood.

For more information, call 877-4162.

Parenting the Teenager

A new course helping parents understand teenagers will be offered by North Halton Youth Services in January.

The series of workshops, followed by support groups for parents of teenagers will be held at the North Halton Youth Services headquarters at 113 Mill Street, Acton. There is no charge for the course, but registration is necessary by calling Carol McMullen at 853-3310.

Ballet trip

Now you can see the Nutcracker Suite!

The Georgetown "Y" is offering a trip to the National Ballet of Canada's performance of The Nutcracker Suite at Toronto's O'Keefe Centre.

Tickets have been reserved for the 2 p.m. matinee performance on Sunday January 2, 1983.

It is important to pre-register at the "Y" by Thursday December 16 by 1 p.m. The fee is \$20 per person and \$18 for each additional family member. Call 877-6163 for more information.

Christmas events

On Sunday, December 19 from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. visitors to Mountsberg Wildlife Centre are invited to build a bird feeder, make tree ornaments, roast chestnuts by a fire, enjoy a horse drawn sleigh ride and sing Christmas carols.

For more information, call 878-4131 (weekdays) or 854-2276 on the weekends.

Winter experience

Mountsberg Wildlife Centre is also having a winter Experience program from December 26 until the end of February where there are opportunities to Cross-country ski, skate, toboggan and snowshoe or watch a film.

Call the above numbers for more information.

