

**ELECTION CENTRAL**

# First term positive, productive: Fisher

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so much animosity around negotiations that it could land the relationship for the rest of the year."

Working on the provincial organization gave her an overview of what's happening at the provincial level which has been an asset to her work on the board, Mrs. Fisher said.

"I have been really busy the past two years," she said. "It was a very productive, positive two years. I really found the trustees and administration operated with each other to better the education for the children."

This was Mrs. Fisher's first term on the board, but she had been attending board meetings regularly over the past seven years, and thus was familiar with board policies and procedure.

"I didn't feel at all uncomfortable when I sat at the table for the first time," she said.

Mrs. Fisher has some new goals for her coming term which she hopes to see the board doing some work on. She is concerned about the drug problem in Halton schools, and the relevance of secondary school courses.

**DRUG PROBLEM**

"I'd like to see some inroads in ridding our schools of the drug problem," she said. "I'd like to see us teaching children at a much younger age about the hazards, the absolute lunacy, of using drugs. I don't know whether it's caused by stress, lack of purpose, boredom. One thing we have to do in education is to teach children to be flexible in the face of changes in our economic structure and our changing society."

"It's a fine balancing act when you get into politics and you're in a bureaucratic

structure," Mrs. Fisher said. "You must get along with people, you must be able to see their point of view, in order to get the best done for the children."

"But there are times when you feel you are losing your identity, when you keep compromising. You have to work as a team but hang on to your own ideas and your own identity. It's not as easy as people think."

It's also not as easy for a woman in politics as it is for a man, Mrs. Fisher believes.

"Women still have their family and their home to keep going, and the job takes a tremendous amount of time," she said. "When a man comes home from work and has to go to a meeting, supper's ready for him, and he can just go."

"To be a female politician, you have to have an understanding husband and family. I've been fortunate that way."

# Sherk has few regrets about leaving board

Had Halton's 400 separate school teachers not ratified a new contract late last month giving them a 12 per cent salary increase next year, Halton Hills separate school board trustee Hartley Sherk may have changed his mind about running in the 1980 elections.

A 13-year veteran of separate school board affairs in both Georgetown and throughout Halton and most recently the board's salary negotiations committee chairman, Mr. Sherk told The Herald Monday night he'd made a personal commitment when negotiations began last January to see that the board and its teachers reached a collective agreement. Had they not settled, he said, he would have considered staying on.

But in hindsight, Mr. Sherk

said he had few regrets about leaving the trusteeship, now belonging to Irene McCauley. "I put in eight very dedicated years," he said. "It was a privilege and an honor to do the job and to learn there's so much to learn about education."

A project leader for Kodak Canada's industrial engineering department, Mr. Sherk said he was especially interested in planning problems which cropped up at the board.

**SEVEN YEARS**

And as chairman of the Halton board's salary negotiation committee for the past seven years, Mr. Sherk said that among the highlights of his trusteeship were the strategies planned and settlements reached between the committee and the board's staff and teachers.



HARTLEY SHERK  
One of the major accomplishments of the committee, Mr. Sherk said, was to bring

teaching salaries at the Halton separate board to a comparable level with similar boards across the province.

"We've come a long way with teaching salaries," Mr. Sherk said. "We're no longer down near the bottom of the scale but are more closely aligned with the provincial average and possibly even above it."

Along with getting non-teaching staff similar working benefits to their academic counterparts, Mr. Sherk said he is pleased that the committee was also able to quicken the pace at which the board's secretarial and clerical staff achieved salary increases due to experience and performance.

"We changed the job payment formula," he said. "You should know after three

months if a person is suited for the job and after six months if he knows his job well."

The committee also managed to change the salary structure for it's principals. Previously, principals regardless of their qualifications and teaching experience, were paid according to the number of students under their charge.

"The board didn't have the flexibility to move principals around based on qualification," Mr. Sherk explained. "If a highly qualified principal was moved to a smaller school, he or she would have to take a cut in pay. Salaries are now more equitably scaled."

**NO MONEY**

However, Mr. Sherk is a little disappointed that St. Joseph's school in Acton did not get the money the board

had anticipated for a new facility, although provincial education minister Bette Stevenson did allot \$30,000 for the purchase of the school property. Meanwhile, the board had listed the school proposal as its sole capital project for 1981 and expects that the new school will one day hold 300 students.

Mr. Sherk added that he would have liked to have chaired the new board to help implement changes in the board's decision-making structure, streamlining the number of monthly committee meetings from three to two and placing a little more emphasis on the board's general meetings. The addition of another superintendent (the board now has two) would also be of benefit, Mr. Sherk said.

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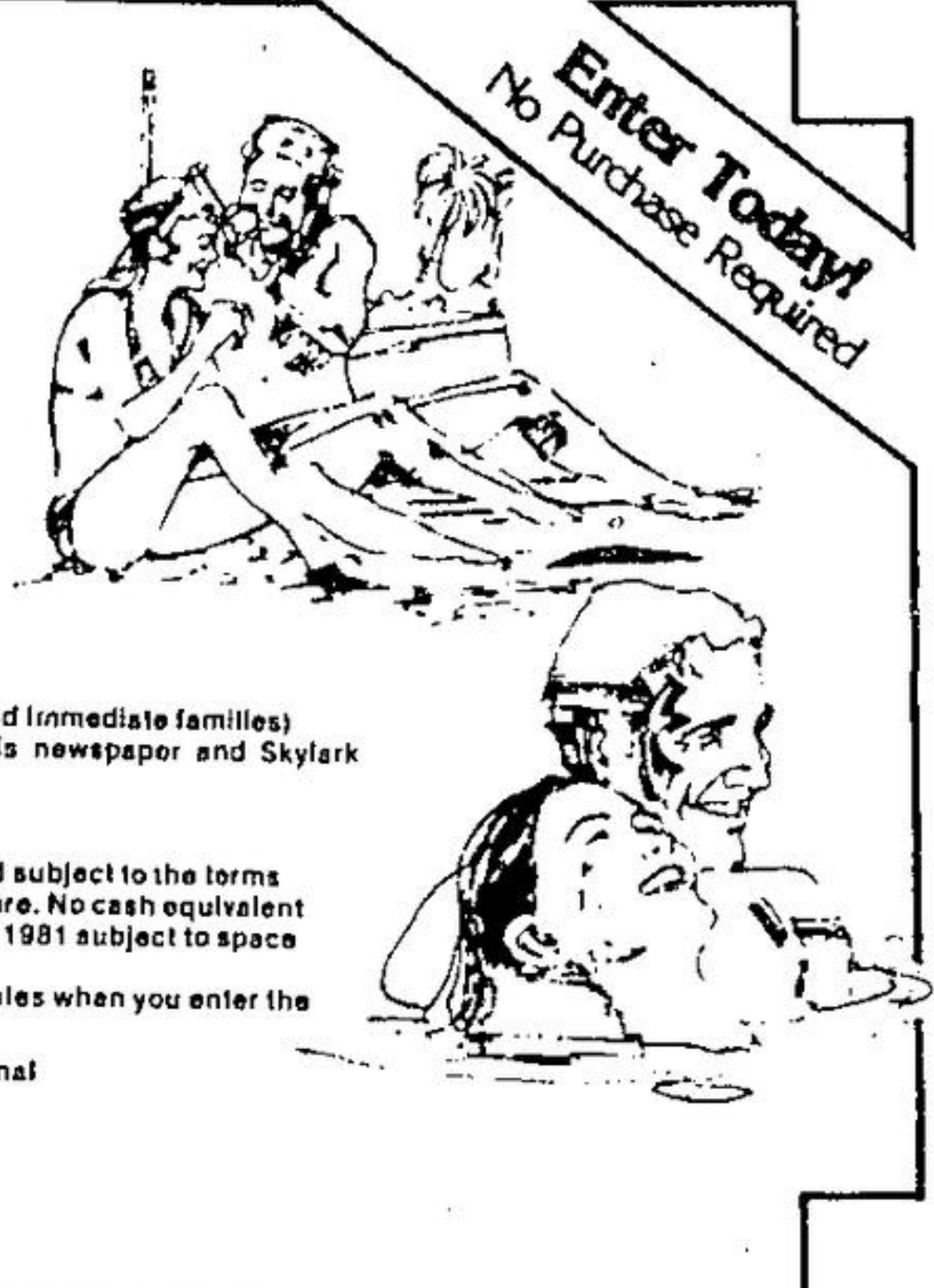
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## Barry Shepherd

Continued from page B1

we still have alcohol and drugs in the schools and everybody knows it, but what can we do about it?"

"We're working towards more realistic high school education, preparing students for employment, but I don't think you'll see the results in two years. That's another source of frustration—it takes so long to do things."

Mr. Shepherd said employment problems are visible now, but the board is having difficulty getting support from the ministry of education "and we can't react quickly enough to fulfill the needs."

Mr. Shepherd said he thinks the board is satisfied with the impending legislation from the ministry on special education, at least at the elementary level.

"We're seeing the results of providing special education for different kids with a wide range of needs, with problems arising such as the George Kennedy School 'isolation booth,'" he said. "It shows the public that the board is handling the problems of kids who would once have been placed in an institution."

Mr. Shepherd said he hopes to become involved with community service in some aspect in the future when business pressures have abated sufficiently, but not with the board of education.

"I will be looking in a couple of years at other municipal involvement," he said. "It's a matter of getting involved in recreation and the development of the community."

"Georgetown is at a turning point, and as soon as things like the sewage capacity are decided, the community will change."

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