

# McCauley declares candidacy

By LISA TALLYN  
Staff writer

Irene McCauley, chair of the Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board, has announced her candidacy for school board trustee in the upcoming election.

McCauley, who has lived in Georgetown for 23 years, has held the position for 14 years and was appointed board chair in 1990.

She says she decided to run for the trustee's position again because she loves her job as trustee, and particularly as board chair.

"I absolutely love this job," said McCauley. "I love being part of the student/parent community."

"These are very exciting times in light of the changing face of education," said McCauley. "We will be taking students through now to the next millennium."

McCauley said in order to meet that challenge the board has

devised a strategic plan through the year 2000.

She said one of the objectives set out in the plan is for the board to offer more technological programs, to ensure students graduate with an education that is relevant to today's job market.



IRENE MCCAULEY

If elected to the school trustee post McCauley said she will continue to be as accessible to parents as she has been in the past.

"I am very approachable and very interested in the students," said McCauley. She added she is always eager to help parents solve any problems they may have with the school board.

"I have found that parents are very concerned and interested in their children's education," said McCauley.

She is looking forward to the construction of a new elementary school in Georgetown south. The name St. Brigid's has already been selected for the school. She added by 2000 she hopes there will be a new Catholic high school built to service the Halton Hills area.

In the near future both St. Francis of Assisi and Holy Cross schools will be renovated.

McCauley said the board has set a mandate to try and keep taxes as low as possible.

In an effort to save money the Halton Board of Education and the Catholic board have established a liaison committee to look at cost sharing opportunities between the two boards. McCauley said that direction will continue in the coming years.

## New school named St. Brigid

St. Brigid will be the name of the new Catholic elementary school in south Georgetown.

The name approved by council, June 14, also received the support of Bishop Tonnos, of the Diocese of Hamilton.

Funding approval for the new school was recently announced by MPP Noel Duignan, as part of the provincial government's \$620 million capital funding for school boards through jobsOntario for the 1996-97 and 1997-98 fiscal years. This project, which includes a child care centre, will be located in south Georgetown, on Miller Drive, just northwest of the board's Ecole Sacré Coeur.

This new school was the board's number one priority on the "A" list of the Capital Expenditure Forecast (CEF) process. It is expected that the provincial government will make an announcement in October with regards to the projects on the "B" list of the CEF.

Irene McCauley, chair of the board and trustee for Georgetown, said, "The naming of this school holds special significance for retiring Director of Education Cliff Byrnes, who has always hoped that one of the board's schools would be named St. Brigid. Cliff has dedicated himself over his 23 years as director of this board to producing schools in the system which are the very finest in Catholic education in his time. That has been his aim, his goal and his achievements and therefore, the name of this school is

especially appropriate and relevant."

St. Brigid, Abbess of Kildare, was born in 525 A.D. at Faughart, near Dundalk. She was one of the most highly venerated of the saints, whose virtues lent glory to Ireland, and helped, at least, indirectly to Christianize Europe. St. Brigid consecrated herself to God at an early age and is renowned for her establishment of the nunnery at Kildare. Her memory has been identified with an extraordinary spirit of charity. She was known for her compassionate response to some appeal which had moved her pity or roused her sense of justice.

In addition to being the

patroness of Ireland, St. Brigid was a teaching authority and referred to as a patroness of students and schools. She founded a school in the early 6th Century, which was famous, among other things, for its printing. In fact, there are manuscripts of the scriptures of the Bible, which were done at Kildare, which are reputed to have been the very finest in the world at the time.

In early times, St. Brigid was also much honored in Scotland and those parts of England which were more directly in contact with Celtic influences. Many churches have been dedicated to St. Brigid — the most famous is St. Brides in London.

## Catholic board buys public school lands

Southeast portions of the former Howard Wrigglesworth Public School and Georgetown District High School sites have been sold to the Halton Roman Catholic School Board.

The land will be used to provide space for a new entrance and additional parking at Holy Cross School. It is expected that traffic congestion and safety concerns will be alleviated.

The public school board received \$100,000 for the land,

which "in view of the size, location and usage of the parcel, this is fair value..." according to a board report.

The land is used occasionally for physical education activities such as golf and cross country skiing.

Howard Wrigglesworth School is currently leased to the Catholic School Board to contain a student overflow from Holy Cross School. It is known as the Holy Cross East campus.

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