School board candidates discuss issues

Three of the four separate and public school board trustee candidates participated in the All Candidates Day at John Elliott Theatre Sunday afternoon.

Both public board candidates, Gary Crosbie and Dick Howitt were on hand but Halton Hills voters had the chance to hear from only one separate school board candidate, Irene McCauley.

McCauley had a long day as she participated in each of the ward sessions. Her running mate Georgina Marko-Matthew did not attend. Tuesday morning she said she was planning to attend but could not due to a death of a close friend's mother

Ken Norman has been acclaimed to the position of Halton Hills/Milton French language trustee for the separate school board so he did not participate in the event.

In her opening remarks incumbent McCauley said over the past two years school board trustees have been focused on their seven year strategic plan and will spend the coming years implementing it.

McCauley said a key concern she has which she intends to work



IRENE McCAULEY



GEORGINA MARKO-MATTHEW

toward is equity funding for the

Halton separate board.

"For the past 14 years I have been the champion of students, staff, quality education and fiscal management,"said McCauley.

McCauley was asked if the number of school boards and trustees should be reduced.

McCauley said the possibility of amalgamation of small northern Ontario separate school boards should be looked at but she doesn't support a reduction in the number of trustees.

McCauley was also asked if she supports amalgamation of public and separate school boards.

She said she didn't and added



GARY CROSBIE



DICK HOWITT

the school boards have been cooperating in several areas.

Public school board candidates Gary Crosbie and Dick Howitt both attended the All Candidates Day.

Crosbie said there is room for change in the public education system and stressed the fact the number one priority should be the children. He also said the standards of provincial testing were low and any cuts in the future should come to the classroom last.

"We need to maintain the current teacher/student ratio," Crosbie.

Incumbent Dick Howitt said there is room for improvement in education but regardless of the standard of testing Halton students came in "number 1 no matter what standard they use."

The public board candidates were asked where their children went to school.

Howitt said his daughter is currently in her third year of university, and she went through school in the Halton public system.

Crosbie said he has been home schooling his children since September.

All school board candidates were asked for their comments on yearround schooling.

"It is popular in the U.S.," said Howitt. "It is worth looking at." He added there is often parent opposition to the concept as it can have many repercussions including summer employment and hockey

McCauley said there have not been enough studies done on yearround schooling. She added the boards would have to be better informed on how its working before introducing it here.

Crosbie said he didn't believe it would work, but parents would have to be consulted. He added the majority seem to be opposed to it.

Last chance!

The Georgetown Club of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) has announced it will sponsor a mayoralty candidates debate on November 8 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the John Elliott Theatre, Georgetown.

All eight mayoralty candidates in the race have agreed to participate in this event, which will allow them to outline their platforms and discuss issues of interest to the audience. Running for mayor are: Mike Armstrong, Robert Barlow, Colin Gibson, Craig Harrison, Johnston, Malcolmson, Slavica Ozgeylani, and Marilyn Serjeantson.

This is the second such debate hosted by the local CFUW group. The first was held last fall in conjunction with the federal election, and drew a large and interested crowd of local residents.

The forum is free, with seats available on a first come, first served basis. For more information on the debate, call 877-4607.



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