

# ON NOW AT THE BRICK!



## SAVING YOU MORE

For more details shop instore or online at [thebrick.com](http://thebrick.com)

## legal matters | Court System

We work for you.



**David J. Ashbee**

**Helsons LLP is a firm of 10 Lawyers.**

**We trace our firm back to 1885 in Georgetown, Ontario**

Frederick A. Helson (1921-2018)  
Allan W. Kogon (retired)  
David J. Ashbee  
John E. Schaljo  
Mark T. Rush  
Steven D. Kogon  
Caley E. Power  
Jessica A. Krause  
Jasmine M. Spudic  
Nicole E. Kucherenko  
Fiona A. Japaul  
Alex G. Walsh  
Nancy L. Carnwath (retired)

**HALTON HILLS**  
Chamber of Commerce  
2018 Large Business of the Year



The advice offered in this column is intended for informational purposes only. Use of this column is not intended to replace or substitute any professional, financial, medical, legal, or other professional advice.

**ASK THE PROFESSIONAL**

**Q**

**Has the court system broken down for family law matters?**

**A**

It is a sad state of affairs that I as a lawyer have to advise my clients that going to court is almost never a good way to solve your legal issues in a family law matter. More mature lawyers remember when a case came in, you prepare your application, with affidavits pick out a motion date where a judge after argument ruled on the case. Many cases did not take longer than a month to completely sort out. Many people felt this was rough justice so legislators in their wisdom decided to change the system to push settlement and avoid Judges quick judgment. Sounds good so far but reality gets in the way. Now you start with an application and book a case conference (3 to 6 months later) where the judge asks if he or she can make any consent orders and makes no rulings. Then you book a Settlement Conference (another 3 to 6 months later) where the judge will tell you what you should do to settle the matter but does not make any rulings. Then you book a Trial Management Conference (3 to 6 months later) where the stage is set for a trial. Then the trial date to set (3 to 12 months later) where you actually have a judge rule on all the issues of your file. We have moved from quick justice to justice years down the road with legal costs going through the roof.

Helsons LLP  
Barristers and Solicitors  
132 Mill Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 2C6  
Tel: (905) 877-5200  
35 Mill Street East, Acton, Ontario L7J 1H1  
Tel: (519) 929-9333  
Email: [info@helsons.ca](mailto:info@helsons.ca)  
Web: [www.helsons.ca](http://www.helsons.ca)

## NEWS



Graham Paine/Metroland

The Halton Catholic District School Board is conducting a study that will look at bringing universal washrooms to all of its schools.

# CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD TAKES FIRST STEPS TO INSTALLING UNIVERSAL WASHROOMS

ROLAND CILLIERS  
[rcilliers@metroland.com](mailto:rcilliers@metroland.com)

It's the first step to what could be a significant change for local schools.

The Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) recently passed a motion that directs staff to conduct a feasibility study on creating universal washrooms for every school at the board.

Burlington trustee Brenda Agnew said adding these facilities would benefit many people in the school community.

"Universal washrooms can provide privacy and dignity for people of all abilities, including people with disabilities who may need the assistance of an attendant," she said. "Universal washrooms can also benefit families with small children, individuals with medical needs, and really anyone who is not comfortable using a gender-defined washroom."

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) mandates the installation of universal washrooms in public buildings. The goal is to make Ontario more user-friendly and inclusive for people with disabilities.

A universal washroom is defined within the Ontario building code and includes several requirements including being large enough for a wheelchair to turn, have a power-operated door and include an

**"The dignity of all students should always be at the forefront,"**

— Nancy Guzzo

emergency call button.

"The dignity of all students should always be at the forefront and the ability to go to the washroom when you need to in a place that's comfortable for everybody, should be at the forefront. So, I think that this is a good start in ensuring that we have it," said Oakville trustee Nancy Guzzo.

Out of the 55 schools at the HCDSB, currently only 11 have universal washrooms.

The board's superintendent of Facility Management Services said it's unclear what the cost of installing all the universal washrooms would be without first conducting a more comprehensive study. He did indicate that it presents a significant design challenge.

Tim O'Brien, Patrick Murphy, Peter De-Rosa, Nancy Guzzo, Janet O'Hearn-Czarnota and Brenda Agnew voted in favour of the motion. Helena Karabela voted against it.

The report on feasibility is set to return to the board table on January 17, 2023.