

Donations flowing into board

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Rewbotham said. "It appeared the board was not doing anything to recognize their gesture."

Local president of the Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation, Bill Barrett, agreed.

"The perception was they had the million and they chose not to use it for jobs."

To date, 2,000 teachers have made the voluntary contribution representing \$500,000. Education director Bob Williams said that they have sent a letter out to staff thanking them for their support and extending the deadline to March 31 for those who still may want to contribute.

Williams said there still are many donations coming into the board and they will be tallied on April 1.

Staff representatives were concerned that the extra million dollars was so quickly given to the taxpayer by the trustees without considering the potential of layoffs.

If approved, the new motion put forth by Whiting may ease the ten-

sion among staff and administration.

These incentives would result in voluntary early retirements which would be a friendlier way to cut staff accounts, Williams said.

This motion has met with enthusiasm by local teacher federations. "This allows staff and the board in partnership to protect people's jobs with a subsequent payoff for the taxpayers," Rewbotham said. "It's absolutely important for the morale of the system."

The deadline for staff to declare early retirements is May 31 of this year, Barrett said, adding that a combined committee of staff groups and administration has already set up the groundwork for early retirement.

"So hopefully, when (the motion) comes for action in two weeks, they'll have a plan that they can implement as soon as possible," Barrett said. "This notice of motion makes me feel much better. I'm confident that it will pass and I think it's a step in the right direc-

tion because they need to take some long range looks."

Before the budget vote, Whiting outlined the trustees reasons for putting the added million onto the mill rate. They were only acting consistently, he said. In the 1992 budget process, an unexpected provincial funding shortfall was passed onto the taxpayers and it is only fair that an unexpected funding from the ministry be given to the taxpayers in 1993.

The budget stands at \$291,305,111 which is a 2 per cent increase in spending - the lowest in the board's history. It was also the first time the board invited public participation.

Now that the 1993 budget is put out to pasture, the board is making plans to begin deliberations early for the 1994 budget.

"It's been quite a bit more stressful than it has been in the past," Williams said. "I think the fact is that we've got real tough problems to deal with and there are some tough decisions that have to be made."

Hearing findings welcomed

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"We are particularly pleased the hearing officers accepted our experts' evidence that the Commission had failed in its monitoring role," Lois McClure, a Halton Hills resident and co-chair of the NELC, said last week.

In a press release last Friday, the landowners' group stated, "(we) welcome the findings of the hearing officers that the Commission had not adequately applied the principles of sustainable development to their activities (and) had failed to take into account economic and social factors" when proposing restrictive changes to policies within the NEP.

"Many small businesses and farmers who work near the escarpment have been frustrated by the one-dimensional view which the

Commission has taken, Francis Benson of Flamborough said in reaction to the hearing officers' findings. Benson, a small horse farm operator, also serves as co-chair of the NELC.

The Coalition also welcomed procedural recommendations of the hearing officers which they feel will "lead to a new sense of fairness in controlling land use in the areas near the escarpment." The hearing officers recommended future reviews of the NEP be conducted by an independent body and not by officers appointed by the NEC to review the Commission's decisions.

The introduction of impartial and objective review processes was an essential part of the Coalition's presentation to the hearing, the press release stated.

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Wednesday April 7

6:45 a.m. Holy Communion with Breakfast
8:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Tenebrae

Maundy Thursday April 8

8:00 p.m. Holy Communion with Footwashing Liturgy

Good Friday April 9

10:00 a.m. The celebration of our Lord's Passion,
Family Service
12:00 noon The celebration of our Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday April 10

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