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## THE NEW Tanner

Your Hometown Newspaper

Volume 1 No. 48 Tuesday, December 22, 1998



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### What's Inside



Students at Robert Little school delighted audiences with their Christmas concert. See photo on page 3



Rockwood annual Parade of Lights drew more than last year's 7,000 people to watch this year's parade. See photo page 13.



Harold and Doris Townsley celebrated 50 years of married life Friday with an open house at the Legion. See photo page 7.



Acton High School's annual commencement last Friday honored 92 students who received their diplomas. See story page 11.

Next week's New Tanner will be published Tuesday, Dec. 29.

## Labour dispute still dogs Board

### Gardner re-elected

Former veteran Robert Little school teacher Ethel Gardiner has retained her position as chair of the Halton District School Board after being forced to draw lots for the job following a tie vote in last Wednesday's election by trustees.

At the end of balloting Gardiner, first elected chair at the end of 1997, was tied with the other nominee, Burlington trustee Sheila Flook whom Gardiner defeated last year.

As required by the Education Act and bylaws of the Halton board the tie vote resulted in drawing, which Gardiner won.

Trustee Debbie Marklew was named as vice-chair of the board, again after drawing lots following a tie vote with trustee Lynn Roberts.

In a press release Gardiner said that the coming year will continue to present challenges.

"As stated in the Road Ahead II - the EIC document outlining roles and responsibilities of Boards and trustees - we are hear to operate within specific parameters" Gardiner said.

"We are in this role not to deal with the day-to-day operations, but to act as visionaries, decision-makers and policy-setters in creating an exemplary, exciting school system which will well serve our students.

"We must continue to work co-operatively and collaboratively," Gardner said.



**ANNUAL TRADITION:** Wednesday evening many Acton residents were treated to Christmas carols when The Acton Citizens' Band played around the town. - Angela Tyler photo

### Solution eludes trustees

Unhappy with the increasingly bitter labour dispute some parents of Catholic high school students in Halton have asked the board and union to sit down with students, school councils and local MPPs to try to end the impasse.

After 11 months of talks and 29 negotiating sessions there's no settlement in sight and students have been left without extra-curricular activities and after-school academic help.

Parents are concerned about how their children will make up the 30 hours of class time lost this fall when the teachers held a partial strike and refused to teach a disputed extra class.

The Ministry of Education ordered the board to make up at least 23 of those hours before the semester ends late next month. In an effort to help the dispute several parent groups offered to review other settlements to see if they could work in Halton. Initially trustees didn't want to be part of that committee but changed their minds. Now the union refuses to participate saying the committee would only delay negotiations further and it won't participate.

As the stalemate continues, students vowed their protests would also continue after Christmas.

## CUPE votes on contract

Town staff members of CUPE (Canadian Union of Public Employees) Local 73 will vote Tuesday on a new contract offer from the Town of Halton Hills.

Union president Steve McKnight said the bargaining committee will recommend acceptance of the offer

but he has no idea whether members will support their recommendation.

The tentative three-year agreement was reached with the help of a conciliator in a day-long session last week.

If accepted, the new agreement would apply to more than 40 employees in

the Town Outside Works and Recreation and Park departments.

They have been without a contract since March and voted overwhelmingly in favour of strike several weeks ago when negotiations bogged down.

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