



**B.B.Q. BASH:** A charity barbeque was part of the official opening of the new Mac's Milk and M& M Meats. Cutting the ribbon Saturday was, left to right, M&M Meats President Mac Voisin, store manager Diane Aplin, Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson, Dave Rodgers from Mac's Milk and store manager Masood Atchekzai. - Angela Tyler photo

# Three vie for seats on Halton's school boards

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

Long hours, low pay, cranky constituents, more responsibility, less authority — just who wants to be a school board trustee?

So far in Halton Hills, three candidates are in the race for a single Town-wide trustee seat on the public and separate school boards.

Last election, both public board trustee Ethel Gardiner and Catholic school board trustee Irene McCauley, were acclaimed to office. So far, Gardiner, who represents approximately 25,800 public school supporters in Halton Hills, is unchallenged and McCauley, representing approximately 5,046 separate school supporters, faces newcomer Paul McDougall.

Both Gardiner, who is also the board chair, and McCauley, the Catholic board's first female vice-chair and chair, admit the job of trustee has its drawbacks, but it's a job they love.

"I have work yet to do," McCauley, first elected as a trustee 20 years ago, said on Friday, adding the biggest challenge will be to "make sure Catholic education stays in Ontario."

"The challenge is that people wish to have one system and other religions and other people wish to have their own schools, but we want our rate-payers to be able to continue to designate their property taxes to the separate school board," McCauley said.

With a steadily increasing enrolment, McCauley said the Catholic school system in Halton is "flourishing," pointing to the major expansion at St. Joseph's elementary school in Acton, and plans to open two schools in Georgetown, an elementary school next year and a secondary school in 2002.

Her challenger, McDougall is a computer consultant with four children in the separate school system that chaired the school council at Bishop Reding High School for four years. He's making his first run for office

to offer a "fresh" perspective."

"We've gone through, two years ago, a rather acrimonious labour situation with the local board and we've gone through four years of pretty massive changes provincially, and I think I've developed a certain sense of what needs to be done to enhance the learning experience that our children can have," McDougall said.

Halton District School Board incumbent trustee Ethel Gardiner, was elected to the board in a 1995 by-election and while the job is sometimes "thankless" she "keeps working away" because she's a great believer of public education.

"We have a positive, exciting future in Halton and it's our hope our new strategic

plan will allow us to do the best we can for the students," Gardiner said, adding the new board will be asked to buy into a "policy governance" style of operation with the trustees "meddling" less in the operation of the board.

"Trustees will be responsible for writing policy and holding the director (of education) accountable for implementing those policies," Gardiner said, adding she hopes the new board — two trustees from the south have resigned opening up two seats — will be much more collaborative, with less conflict.

Ontario school board trustees earn an honorarium of \$5,000 annually, one-third tax-free. Public school supporters elect 11 trustees; separate school supporters elect eight.

## Letters

### Need gates

To the editor,

How many more lives is it going to take before the local politicians and the railroad install barrier arms on the Fourth Line?

Three lives were lost this past month.

It is approximately a year ago a young man lost his life at this same crossing and nothing has been done yet.

Mayor Serjeantson appeared on the CTV News September 28 stating that the gates will be installed.

A little late for the three Acton boys but hopefully they are up before it happens again.

David Parker

### Saddened

Dear editor,

I as well as many are saddened by the loss of three young men of our town.

The morning of the news on the radio, my heart sank; and I thanked God it was not one of mine. At the same time, I cannot begin to imagine how the parents and their families of the lost ones felt.

My heart goes out to each and everyone of you.

Why does the "system" have to investigate to put up barriers? There should be no question; the road is well used. There was already one life lost; why did we have to lose three more?

To the families of those young men Rory, Travis and Mark, all I can say is "Take One Day at a Time."

A Mother

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