

School board candidates meet with the public

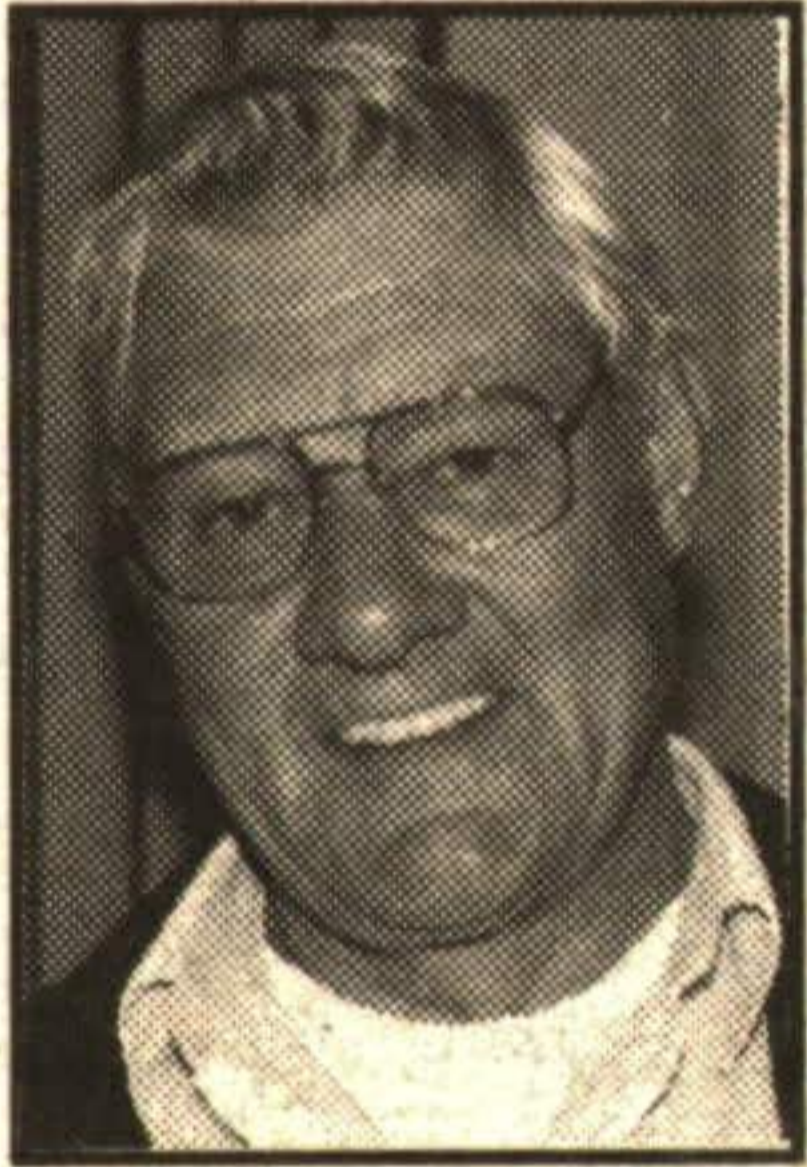
By JANET BAINE
Staff writer



GARY CROSBIE



ETHEL GARDINER



JAKE KUIKEN



SUSAN McPHAIL JOB

All eight Ward 1 and 2 school board candidates put their best foot forward Wednesday night as they took to the podium at what may well be the only all-candidates meeting of the election campaign.

More than 100 people attended the Chamber of Commerce-sponsored meeting held at Acton High School, where each candidate had an opportunity to make opening remarks, answer about a dozen questions and then make closing comments.

No single issue ignited the candidates or the audience.

Politeness and agreement among the candidates was the order of the evening. For the most part candidates agreed with each other and took the safe route of saying they'd wait and see before choosing where programs can be cut. They all want to pay close attention to the bottom line and recognize the need for cuts because of dwindling funding from the province.

Three candidates have school-age children: Elly Tuitman has two daughters at Acton High School, Susan McPhail Job has two children starting school this year, one in JK and one in Kindergarten, and Gary

Crosbie is home-schooling his two sons at the elementary level. Other candidates have adult children.

All candidates said their children were educated in the public school system, with the exception of Crosbie, and Jake Kuiken whose children attended Georgetown Christian School (where he was on the school board).

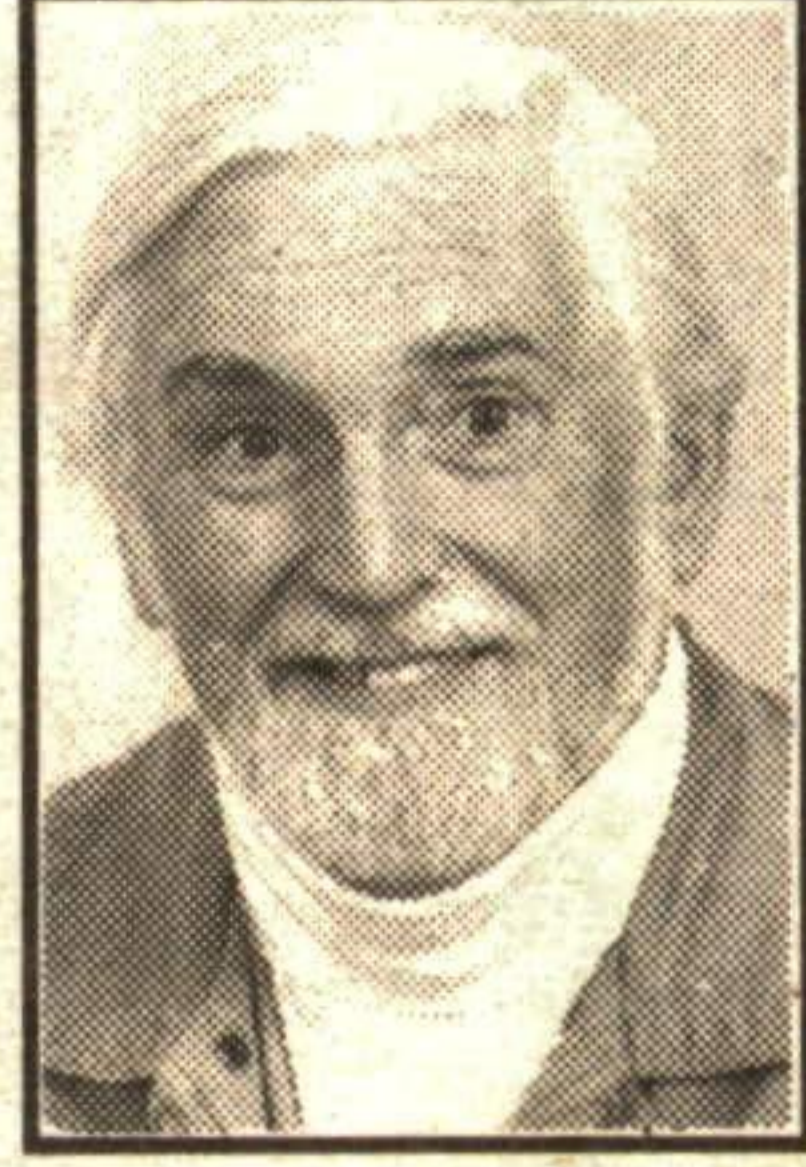
Three candidates have teaching experience; Ethel Gardiner and Ron Nelson, both who recently retired from long careers with the Halton Board and Ria Wilson, who taught for six years.

"There is a high caliber of concerned citizens running and I think it speaks very highly of our community," said Jennifer Alton of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce. These comments were echoed by the moderator for the evening, former *Independent/Free Press* editor Hartley Coles.

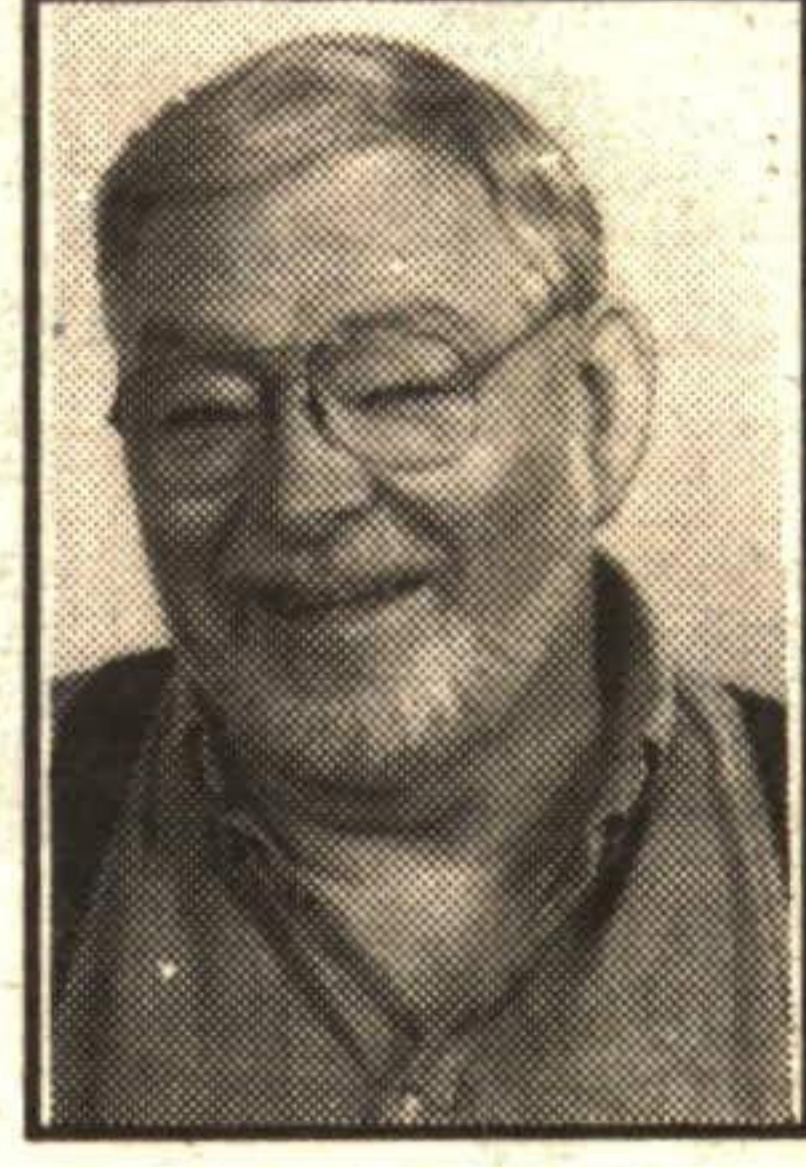
"There are so many candidates, which made the meeting a little dry. I thought they articulated very well and I'm impressed with the caliber," he said.

Two weeks remain in the election campaign before the October 23 vote takes place.

So far no organization has come forward to host another candidate meeting.



JOHN MORTON



RON NELSON

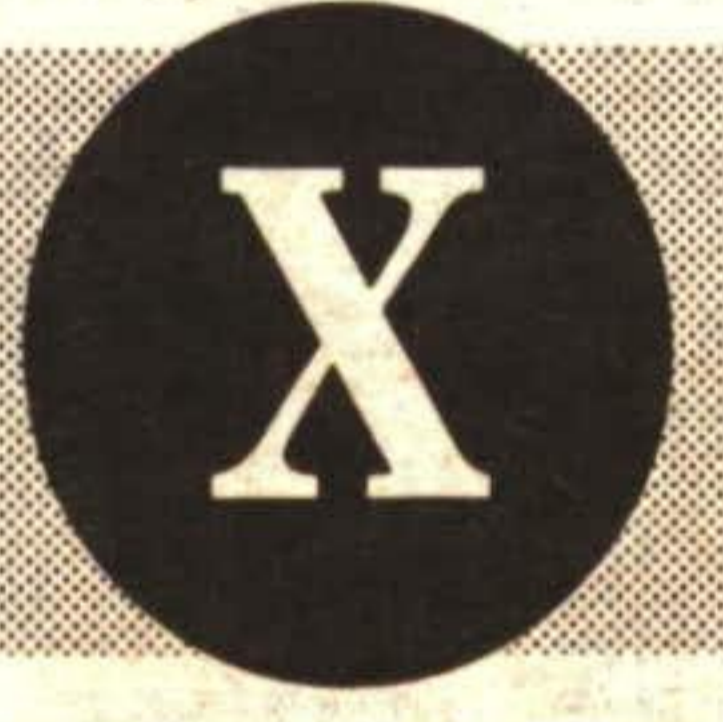


ELLY TUITMAN



RIA WILSON

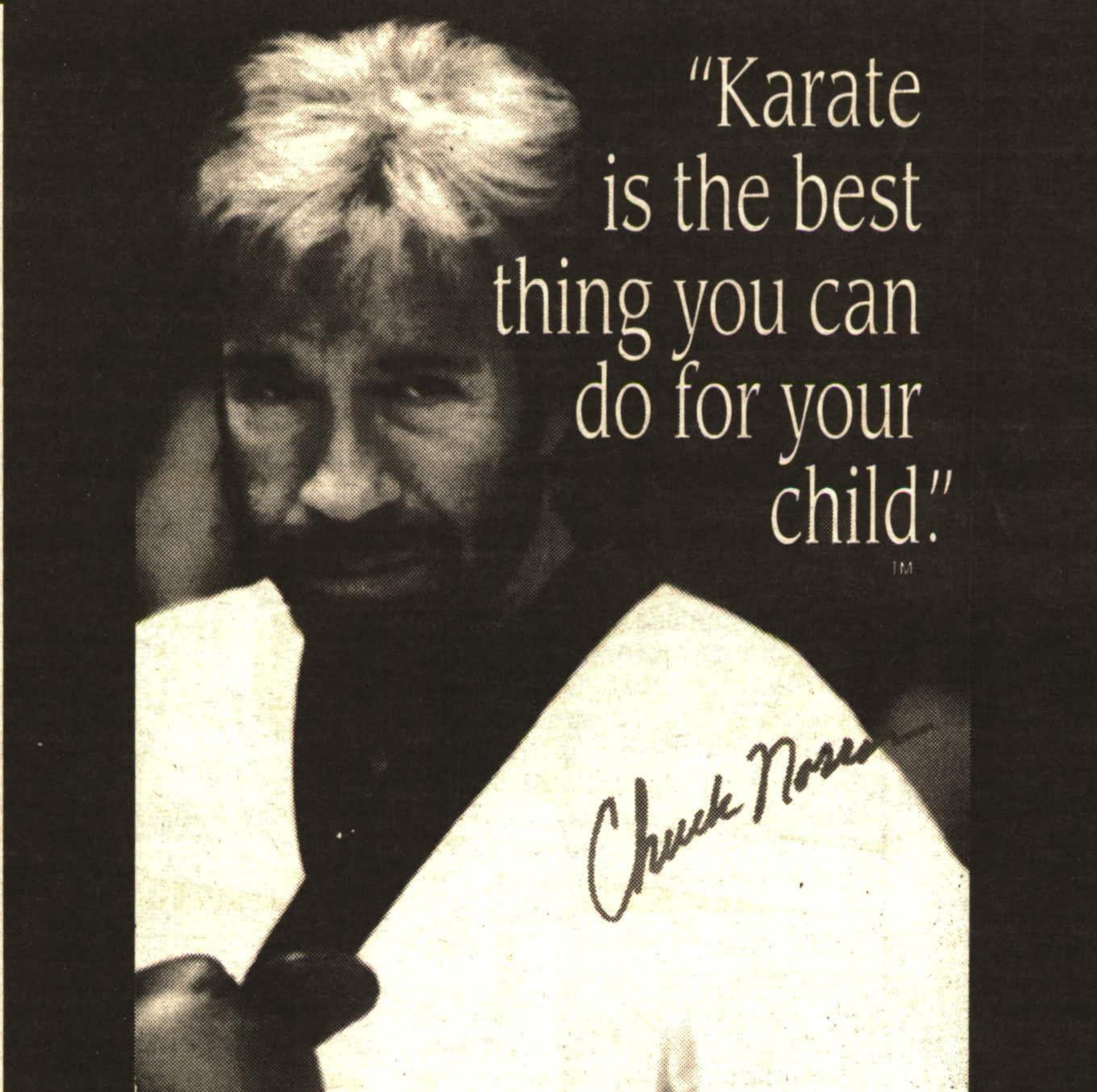
Ward 1 and 2 residents
go to the polls October 23



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