

Educational workshop for seniors

Accidents. Misfortunes that strike without warning.

As we age, we become more susceptible to mishaps. We gradually lose the flexibility we once had, our sense of balance decreases, and we move more slowly. Unfortunately, accidents occur most frequently in a place where we feel the safest. Our own homes.

Accident prevention and assistive devices are two of the topics on the agenda at Georgetown Hospital's

upcoming Educational Workshop for Seniors. This second in a series of free seminars will be held Tuesday, October 24 at the Georgetown District Seniors Centre, and Wednesday, October 25 at the Acton Seniors Recreation Centre. Each workshop will begin at 1:30pm.

According to Shirley Andrechek, manager of Georgetown Hospital's Ambulatory Care, "The educational workshops will

feature guest speakers from the hospital's Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Departments."

To complement her presentation, an occupational therapist will explain how seniors can adapt their homes for safety.

Seating is limited, so interested attendees are encouraged to reserve their space now by calling the Georgetown Seniors Centre at 877-6444, or the Acton Centre at 853-5951.

Questioning the candidates

Voters in Wards 1 and 2 of Halton Hills will go to the polls on Monday, October 23, to elect a new school board representative to replace Dave Whiting, who resigned to move to the east coast. Over the next few issues the *Independent/Free Press* will pose questions to the candidates and print their responses.

Question 2: JK is now an optional program. Would you vote to cancel it? Explain!

Gary Crosbie

A savings of \$2 to \$3 million could be realized by the elimination of the Junior Kindergarten program. That cut alone would greatly reduce the projected budget increase of about \$5 million.

Ethel Gardiner

JK has been implemented in schools where space is available. It will cost \$8 million to create space in other schools, not to mention operational costs at full implementation. Early childhood education has value, but realistically taxpayers can't afford new optional programs. I would reluctantly vote to cancel JK for September 1996.

Jake Kuiken

Yes, I would vote to cancel the Junior Kindergarten program. The school system should not take the parents' role in raising the kids, and should certainly not be used as a babysitter.

Susan McPhail Job

If the province cuts the funding to JK and if there is not money in the budget, I would vote no to JK. I feel we cannot fund JK at the expense of the other students or at an increase to the taxpayers. If people feel strongly about keeping JK, they should lobby their MPP for provincial funding.

John Morton

I am a committed believer in the lifetime benefits of formalized early education starting ages 4-5 years. If elected trustee, I would vote for continuance/extension under any terms for a comprehensive JK program, including associated nursery school for assistant or other staff. Charge transportation or other fees if financially necessary.

Ron Nelson

I feel JK is an important program, but not at the expense of existing educational programs. Any program mandated by the provincial government must be fully funded by the provincial government. I would vote to cancel the JK program to be effective June 1996.

Elly Tuitman

If the feeling from the Ward 1 and 2 community is to cancel Junior Kindergarten, I would vote to cancel JK. Likewise if the community feels that Junior Kindergarten should stay I will vote to keep it.

Ria Wilson

At this time I would vote to cancel JK. It is a provincially legislated program without proper funding or guidelines. To implement JK, major renovations are required to school buildings. The concept of a two year blended Kindergarten program with a pupil-teacher ratio of 25 to 1 is less than ideal. I believe we do not have the funds to support this program at this time, but I would strongly recommend the completion of this year.

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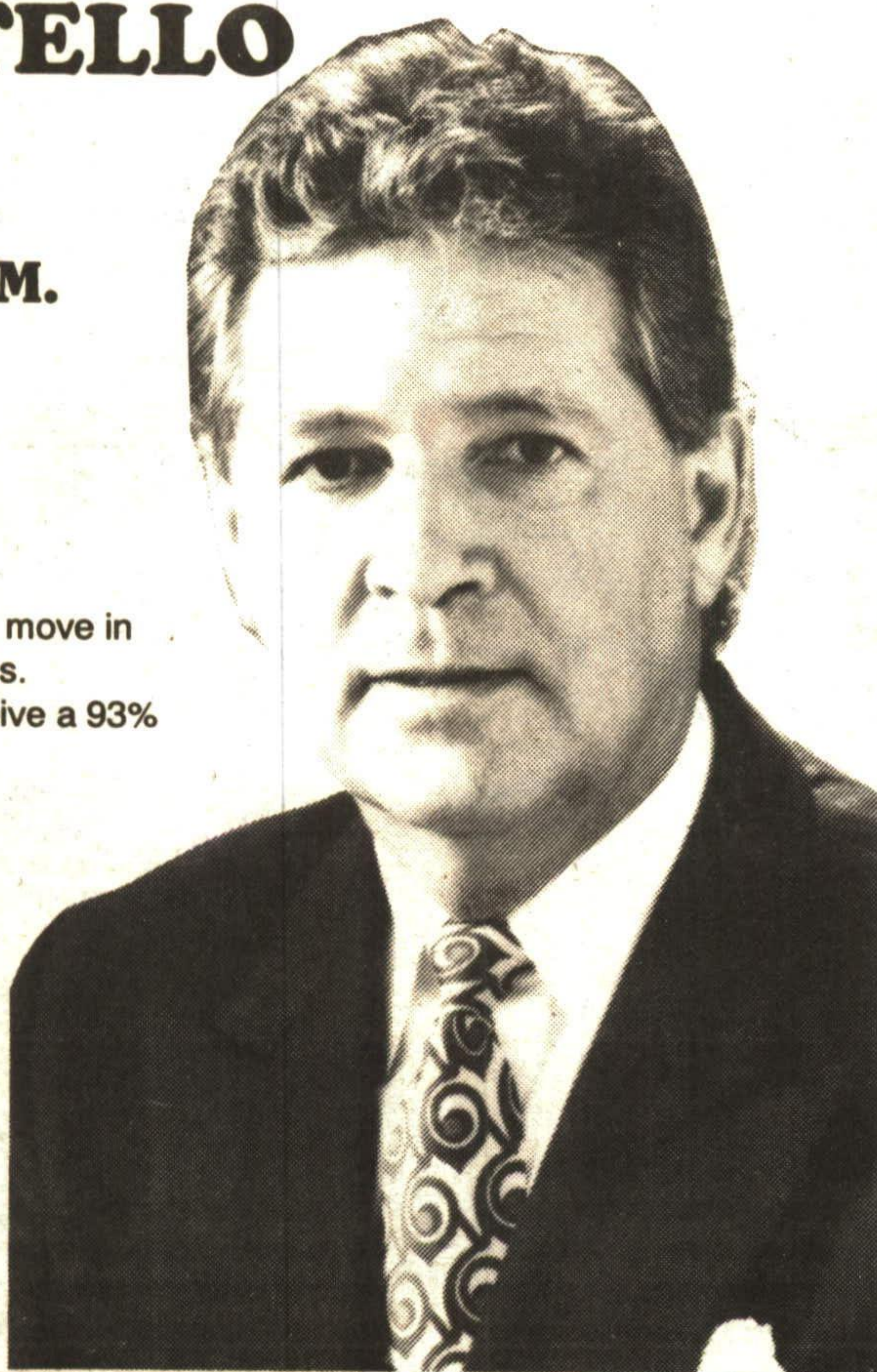
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