Trustees to get home fax machines and phones

BY TIM WHITNELL Special

alton District School Board trustees who want them can now get a separate phone line and fax machine installed in their home for business purposes.

A suggestion by Burlington trustee David Bird to make the communication equipment available to all trustees was passed by an 8-1 vote at Wednesday's full board meeting.

Only Burlington's Mike Ellis was against the idea.

Bird and most other trustees said increasing demands to be available to speak to the public,

subsequent infringements on personal phone use, makes the added equipment necessary.

"I, like many people, have one phone in my house and it's in constant use. I believe I have missed a number of

important calls," said Bird. "We are trustees of a multi-million dollar corporation and we should conduct ourselves as such. It is not an expenditure as much as it is an investment. It's cost-effective."

machine will enable board administrators to send out

"At this point, I don't know where that money is coming from. It definitely won't come from classrooms."

-Education director **Dusty Papke**



changes to committee or board agendas or other notices quickly and avoid courier costs.

Trustee Sheila Flook gave the board, and the public, an example of her phone use.

"Since last Tuesday, I've Bird said access to a fax received 53 incoming calls, lasting anywhere from five minutes to one hour," she said.

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Oakville trustee Peter Petrusich said he gets so many calls on his family's phone line that he joked, "My wife probably knows some of my constituents on a firstname basis. I think what we are asking for is toward the

bottom end of the scale," he said.

Bird detailed the rental costs of a business phone line with call display and call answer features and a fax machine plus supplies for all 10 trustees. The first year, including initial installation, would cost \$10,893 with an annual cost thereafter of \$8,224.

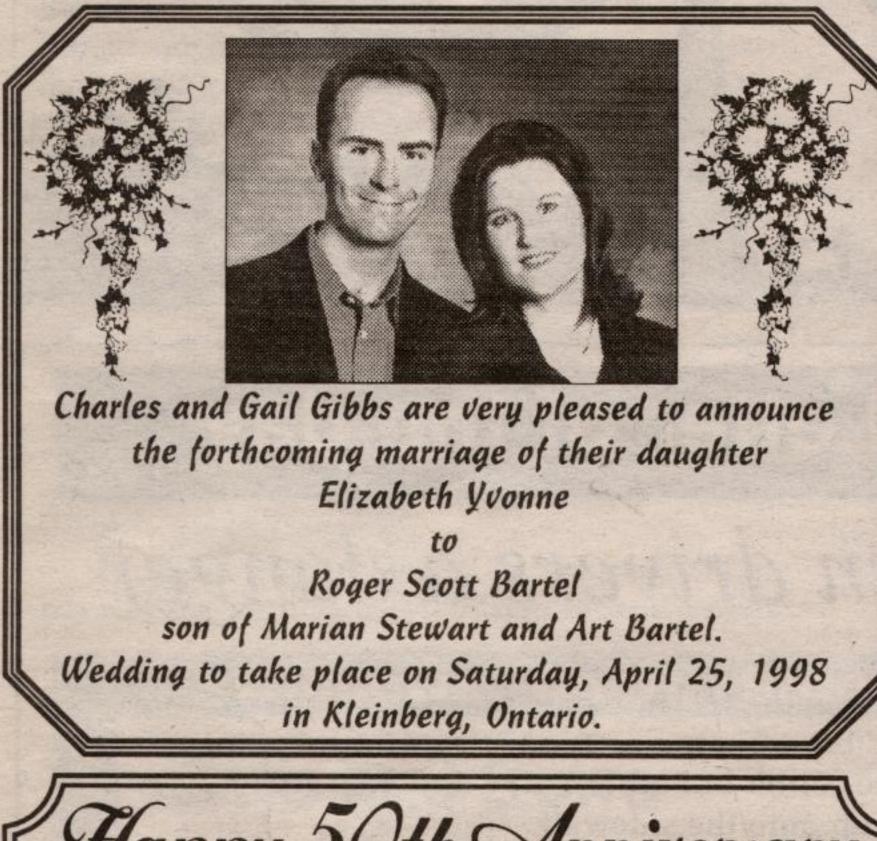
Mike Ellis, the only trustee to

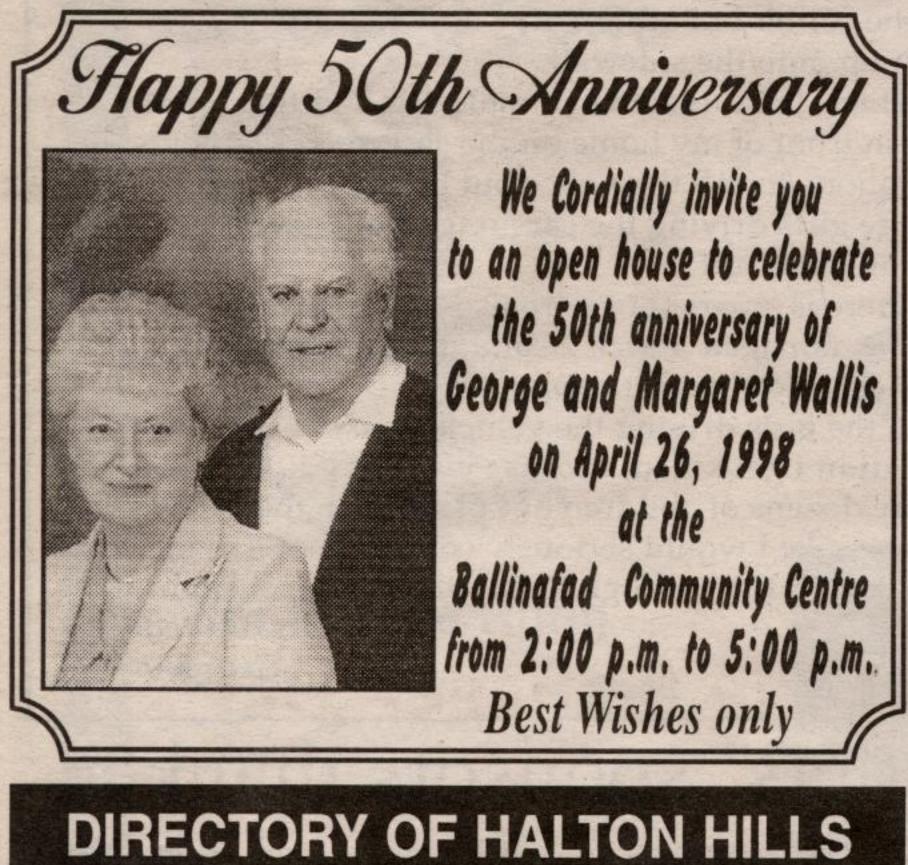
vote against the rental of the equipment, asked the board where the money would come

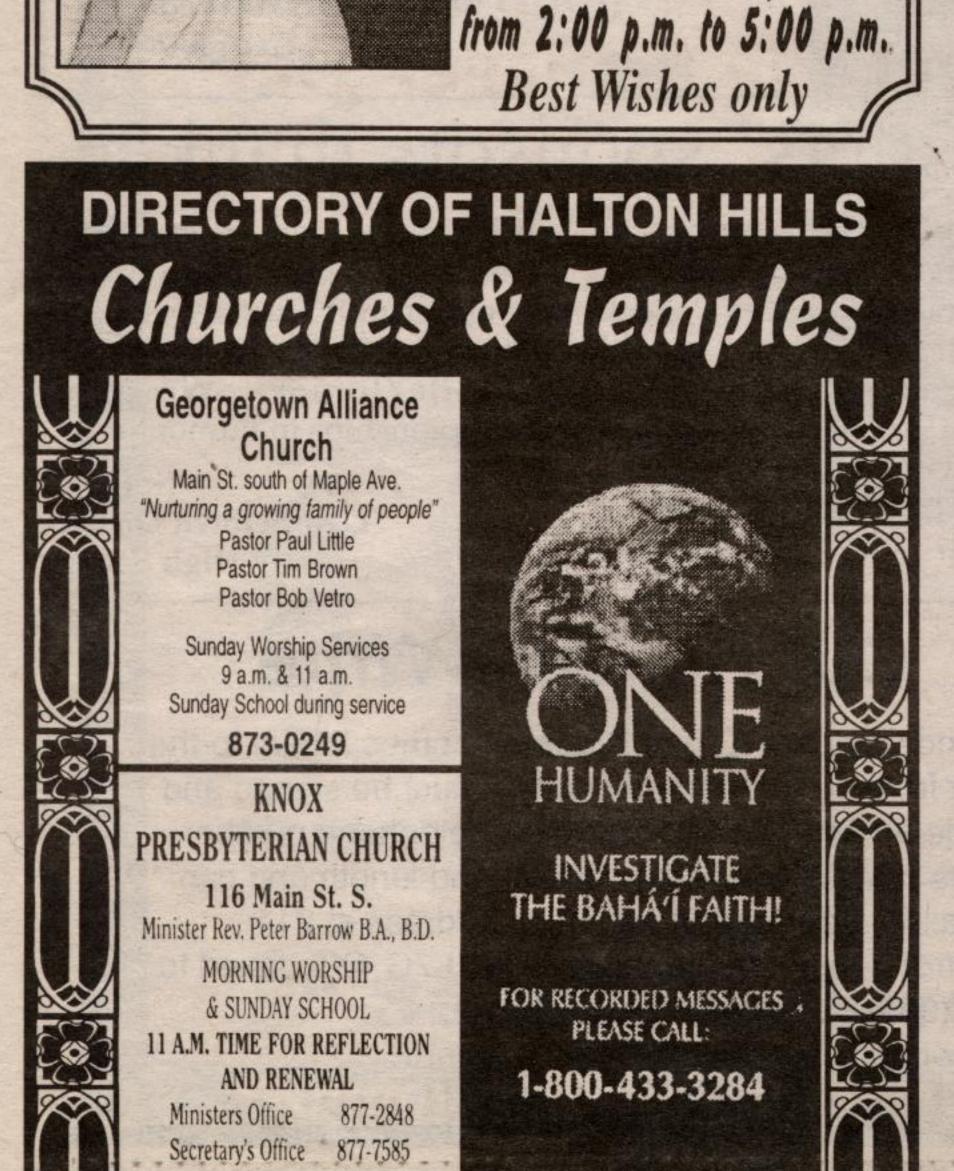
-Education director Dusty Papke said Thursday he wasn't

"At this point, I don't know where that money is coming from. It definitely won't come from classrooms. We do have a (operating) budget line for trustee expenses," he said, adding school board trustees in general don't exceed their expense budget.

Burlington trustee Sheila Flook's suggestion that trustees have their public service title listed by their name in future phone directories also received approval from the board.









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