

NSH wants to meet trustees Parent group pushing for new schools

Parents who want new schools are doing their own campaigning during the provincial election.

A new group, called New Schools for Halton (NSH), presented a petition to the provincial government earlier this week, and has invited public school trustees to meet its members Sunday.

Parents in Burlington, Oakville and Halton Hills have joined the group, member Valerie Pakkala, of Georgetown, told a Halton District School Board meeting.

"We need new schools in Millcroft, Georgetown, River Oaks and West Oak Trails. This issue will not go away," said Pakkala. She was one of two representatives from the new school group appearing as a delegation.

The public board recently voted against closing three elementary schools — Fairfield and Champlain in Burlington and Oakwood in Oakville.

Staff had proposed the closures to help eliminate the board's accommodation surplus and obtain provincial funding for new schools. The closures were to trigger new schools for the four growth areas mentioned by Pakkala. But, without the closures and subsequent provincial funding, she predicted new elementary schools are at least four years away.

"Our children will be in portables for years to come," said Pakkala. "I'm stunned any responsible group of people would keep a school going at 28 per cent capacity, while other schools are running at 128 per cent."

She said the board must consider the issue on a Halton-wide basis.

Pakkala criticized the board for not paying enough attention to parents' arguments for new schools.

"We're going to start lobbying the provincial government," she said. "I hope we can work with the board, but this is doubtful."

In addition to presenting its petition, the NSH invited trustees to an information meeting in Oakville Sunday from 3-5 p.m.

Parents will meet at Site O9, southwest of Hwy. 5 and Sixth Line, planned site of a new elementary school in River Oaks.

"Parents want to know why no new schools are being built by 2000," said Jeff Collins, another member of the new group. "We want to bring parents together because they want to hear when a new school will be built in River Oaks."

He said accommodation in schools is reaching new crisis levels in River Oaks and Georgetown.

"In River Oaks, we have more kindergarten students than some areas have in students," said Collins. "Families in our area are going to private or Catholic schools or they're moving out."

He blamed the province for failing to deal with school accommodation problems.

More information about NSH is available by calling Collins at 257-8787.

In another school accommodation matter, trustees learned the board can probably renew its Education Development Charges (EDC) bylaw. These are charges levied to developers to help build schools.

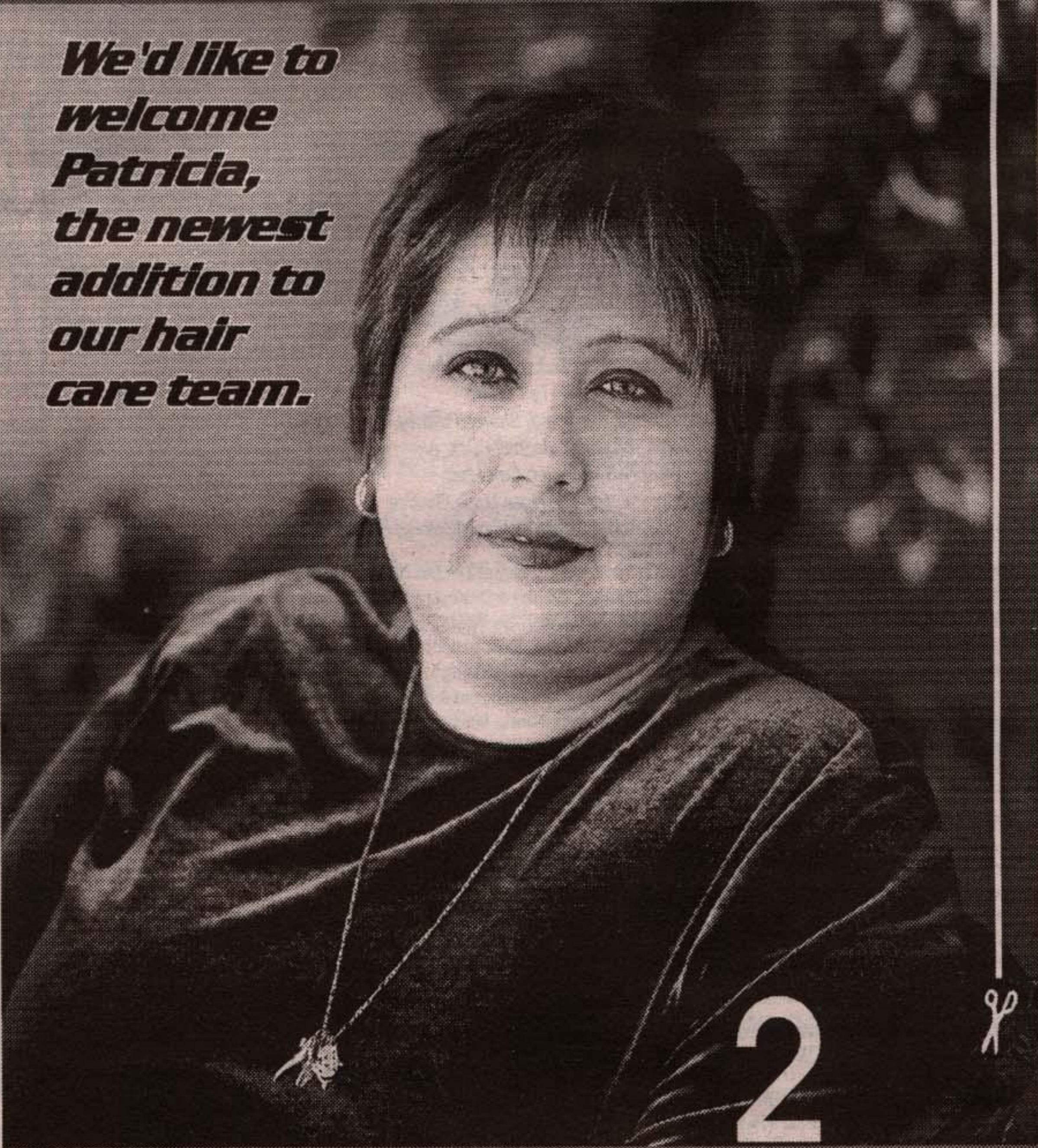
"We've received correspondence from C.N. Watson (the board's consultant) that we'd probably be eligible for EDCs based on enrolments projected," he said.

Greyson suggested finalizing the new bylaw by Aug. 19.

—By Dennis Smith, special

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Tooth Chatter



by
ALEX TRENTON
DENTURIST

"DENTURE MISHAPS"

I just couldn't leave out one of the most popular ways to lose your dentures. Whether they've indulged the night before with too many alcoholic beverages, or they just plain catch a flu bug and the old stomach just can't take it anymore, those poor plates end up in the toilets! That's right, the toilet!

People desperately grabbing for them as the suction of the water swiftly hurls them into the sewer. So that's why those Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles have such perfect smiles!

I must warn all you dentures wearers now: Denture breakage, or loss, almost always happens at the most inopportune times, such as the Christmas holidays. So if you're travelling, don't pack them in your luggage; if the luggage gets lost so do your dentures! And if they fall out in your soup, very discreetly fish them out! Or while hitting those high notes while singing those Christmas carols, and you find your denture in your song book, just hope the others have had one too many eggnogs and didn't notice! And if Aunt Emma's turkey just isn't as tender as it used to be, prevent breakage; soak your meat in gravy! And remember, even Old Saint Nick himself has mishaps with dentures now and again. If his dentures break, then "Santa Claus is gumming to town!"

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Guide to the Outdoors

Julie Pomeroy

For outdoor enthusiasts, RIVER-FEST, in Norval this Saturday is shaping up to be the event of the year in Halton Hills. From 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Just follow the yellow canoes. There will be fly fishing, fly tying, live Bird of Prey, snakes, amphibians, chainsaw carving, bushwhacking display, a real tipi and voyageur canoe, garden tours, kids activities, kite making, barbecue, picnic lunches, live jazz & dinner and there will be experts from many outdoor clubs and organizations to answer questions about local activities.

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