Halton District School Board has two openings for trustees

wo temporary trustees are being sought by the Halton District School Board.

The board started advertising this weekend to fill positions vacated by David Bird of Burlington and Debbie Marklew of Oakville. An application deadline of Sept. 8 has been set.

Both retiring trustees are moving from Halton, which makes them ineligible to remain on the board.

Education director Dusty Papke said the board should try

and interview candidates on Sept. 13 and make the appointments by Sept. 20.

"As long as people are qualified, we should attempt to interview them all," he suggested.

Whether the board replaces one or both trustees by then depends on how many candidates emerge, said Papke.

Marklew must be replaced before October and Bird's position must be filled prior to November.

Papke estimated the new trustees will serve at 3-4 meetings before the board term ends. Provincial regulations require seats to be filled even though there will be an election for trustees in November.

"As crazy as it seems, we are required to fill the vacancies before the election," said Papke.

But byelections cannot be called to replace Bird and Marklew because they resigned after April 1 during an election year.

The vacancies will be advertised throughout Halton, with any qualified resident of the

region eligible to apply.

Oakville Trustee Lynn Roberts suggested candidates for board appointments submit letters promising not to run again in the upcoming election.

"It could be perceived the person is being given a leg-up."

This type of advantage would circumvent the democratic process, said Roberts.

But trustees refused to accept Roberts' proposal.

"I do not want to deprive us of an opportunity to choose someone who can bring something to the table," said Burlington trustee David Abbott. "I have to think about the (board), not politics."

Board chair Ethel Gardiner said it's the board's responsibility to choose the best people for interim trustees. "This is a democracy. Everyone single person who comes forward to apply has every right to do so."

Anyone seeking more information about the temporary trustee positions is advised to call 335-3663.

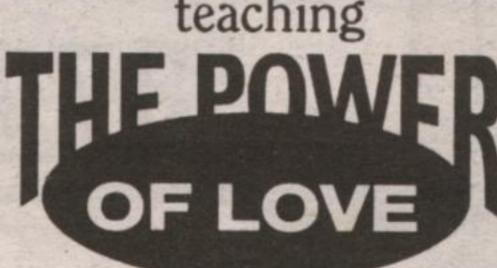
—By Dennis Smith, special





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Tuesdays and Thursdays

Fall Opening Thursday,m Sept. 14 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Halton Hills Toy Library 89 Mountainview Rd. S., Georgetown (St. Andrew's United Church) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturda

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Fall Opening

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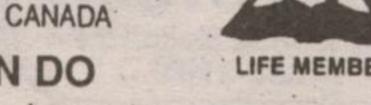
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