

**In wake of terrorist attacks**

**Board to hire diversity officer**

In a blunt assessment of the deficiencies of the Halton District School Board in the areas of cultural, religious and ethnic sensitivity, the board's education director has announced the immediate need for a diversity officer.

Using the recent terrorist backlash against some minority groups around North America and within the board's confines as his focal point, Papke told trustees and the public assembled at Wednesday's board meeting that a cultural diversity officer will be hired as soon as possible.

"Last Tuesday (Sept. 11) our world changed, especially for our students," Papke began his impassioned analysis of world-wide reactions to the terrorist attacks on American civilians.

"When people start looking at people of different colour or ethnic background with suspicion or contempt we need to deal with that, but we really lack the means currently to deliver effective socio-cultural advice at the school level in Halton," said Papke.

"We are posting immediately a position for a cultural diversity officer. It is desperately needed. We need to look at race, religion, cultural diversity and violence," he said.

The education director said the individual would likely be hired within two weeks on a part-time, contract basis this year with an eye to a full-time role in the near future.

Papke said his belief in the need for such an employee is not based

on any despicable deeds perpetrated by any Halton public students against visible minorities.

"As a result of (Sept. 11) our schools and communities suffered some incidents but nothing overt," he told those assembled.

Papke vehemently denied a Toronto radio station report on Sept. 11 that indicated Muslim students at an Oakville school were singled out on the public address system and told to go to the office for their safety.

Although no specific serious incidents were reported, he maintains, there is a general feeling that it is time for change at the board.

"We only need to look around this table to see our shortcoming," said the director, alluding to the fact there are no visible minorities among trustees or high-ranking administrative staff.

The board has done the best it can to allay students' fears and answer their multitude of questions relating to the terrorist attacks, said Papke.

Papke's counterpart at the region's Catholic school board said he's received no reports of race-related problems since Sept. 11.

"We checked last week and this week for incidents related to the U.S. and we haven't had any," said Lou Piovesan, the new director of education for Halton's Catholic board.

The Catholic board does not have a cultural diversity officer and Piovesan says he does not see the need for one at present.

—By Tim Whitnell, special

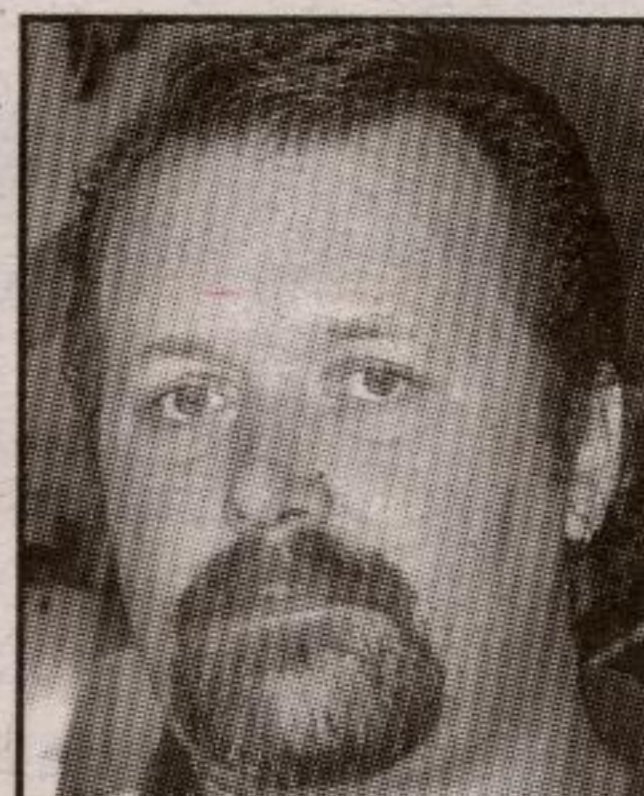
**What You Said**

*"How involved should Canada be in the 'war on terrorism'?"*



**Doris Burfind**  
Georgetown  
at-home mom

"I think we should do everything within our means to help fight terrorism."



**Dale Weaver**  
Acton  
factory worker

"We're behind them (the U.S.) 100 per cent. Whatever it takes to beat them (terrorists) we should be doing."



**Robert Moulton**  
Georgetown  
welding inspector

"100 per cent—military, economic—the whole deal."



**Kim Elliott**  
Glen Williams  
sales assistant

"I think we should back the United States in whatever way we can."

**Police seeking suspects in theft of ATV**

Halton Regional Police are investigating a theft which occurred in Limehouse between 10:30 p.m. and 9:30 a.m. August 21-22.

The suspect(s) stole a 1996 red Honda Forman 400 all-terrain vehicle (ATV) which was parked at the rear of the owner's premises.

The ATV's left rear tail light is cracked and one of the seats is ripped. The licence plate was not on the ATV at the time of the



theft although the keys were in the vehicle.

If you have any information that leads to an arrest in this or any other matter, you may be eligible for a cash reward. You need not give your name when you supply your information and you will remain anonymous.

Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to the telephone call display feature. Please 1-800-222-TIPS or 825-TIPS (825-8477) or visit the Web site at [www.linkstohalton.com](http://www.linkstohalton.com).

**Debora's  
Chocolate Shop**

is leaving Crawford's after 17 years.

But don't despair we have 2  
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100 Main St., 90 Broadway St.

Erin Orangeville

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We are still creating our hand made chocolates using fine Belgian chocolate and scrumptious ingredients.

Please drop by if you're in  
the neighbourhood!

Think of us for the special  
seasons coming up, and watch for the  
opening of our 3rd location

Thank you so much  
Debora Ellis

**Springfield Preparatory  
and Nursery School**  
est 1974  
**Comes to Georgetown**

Springfield is a private elementary and pre-school located in Mississauga.

First established as an educational pre-school centre in 1974, Springfield has built its reputation as a family oriented school with high academic, personal and social standards. At Springfield "school" is a good place to be; a place where individuals are respected, behaviour standards are clearly stated and social interactions are warm, friendly and supportive.

In September 2001 Springfield is opening its first classes in Georgetown. Pre-school and Junior Kindergarten classes for all children born in '97 and '98 will operate 3 days/week.  
Monday/Wednesday/Friday  
mornings 9 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. afternoons 1 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.  
Classes will operate at **PlayJunction Inc.**

In view of the individualized nature of our programs classes will be strictly limited and staffed by experienced Early Childhood educators. Daily activities include a range of age appropriate child and teacher directed activities, fine and gross motor development and early reading, writing and math programs. A clearly outlined curriculum for the year is designed to stimulate language and cognitive development and excite our young students.

Whether you plan to educate your child in the public, separate, private or home school system, Springfield offers an excellent start, establishes a positive approach to school and nurtures the young child's natural urge to learn.

**Registrations are now being accepted.**

For More Information Call  
905-873-4166

**Play Junction Inc. - New Hours Effective Sept. 4th**

Drop-in Play: Tuesdays 9:30 - noon & 1 - 3:30 pm Drop-off: Tuesday & Thursday 1 - 3:30  
Thursday 1 - 3:30 Saturday 8:30 - noon  
Saturday 8:30 - noon

Fat 'n Fit and Playgroup: Tuesday and Thursday mornings 8:30 - 9:30 am  
Toddler Time: Thursdays 9:30 - 11:30 am for children 12 - 36 months  
Supper Club: Fridays 5:30 - 8 pm. Please call for reservations  
Parties: Afternoons, Evenings and Weekends