

# Gardiner declares for trustee job

Ethel Gardiner, who has served as Halton Hills' Halton District School Board trustee for the past eight-and-a-half years, is seeking another term.

Gardiner, board chair for the past six years, filed her nomination papers last Wednesday and is currently the only person running for the Halton Hills job.

The retired teacher said she decided to seek re-election because she is "so passionate" about public education.

"I just find the work very, very exciting because you're working very hard to provide education, programs and services for the kids of Halton," said Gardiner. She added that she particularly enjoys advocating for parents, schools and students in north Halton.

Gardiner said the past few years have been challenging for school boards.

"Whatever government gets in, needs to re-examine education policy and the funding formula so they work for kids," she said.

# Mike Davis eyes Ward 3 local council seat

The Ward 3 local council race has heated up with the addition of another candidate.

That brings the total number of candidates vying for two posts in that ward to four. The other candidates are Moya Johnson (incumbent) and newcomers Dawn Falls and Stephen Grasby.

Mike Davis, who ran unsuccessfully for the position in the last election, filed his nomination papers on Friday. Davis, owner of a small local engineering firm, served the Ward as its hydro commissioner from 1997 to 2000.

He believes his "enthusiasm and drive" will

be an asset to council and the taxpayers of Halton Hills.

He said he is opposed to lake-based water for the town's drinking water and will vote against Big Pipe studies, and will defend the town's official plan.

"Halton Hills cannot be transformed into another Brampton or Mississauga or to become joined with them as a sea of suburbia pavement down to the (Hwy.) 401."

"All of us must have enough town recreational opportunities especially for our children," he said.

He is also opposed to tax increases he said.

# Businessman seeks fairness in smoking bylaw

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George Markou, owner of the McGibbon Hotel agreed. Speaking as a delegation, Markou said the whole bylaw should be reconsidered due to the more lenient bylaws in neighbouring communities.

"We are losing business to other municipalities and I feel we are being placed in a position that is detrimental to our commercial business.

"If council is looking at putting loopholes in the legislation, I think you've really got to

be careful. You're handing a two-handed sword to somebody ...some people have the regulation, other people do not have it and others flaunt it," he told councillors.

Gastle argued that the legions were private clubs, but Markou answered, "Doesn't that open the door to everybody having a private club? ... It's not a level playing field."

The decision must be formally approved at the Oct. 6 council meeting.

—Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

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