

## Coté Terrace aids hurricane victims

Residents at Coté Terrace in Georgetown recently held a concert in their lounge with all proceeds being donated to Hurricane Katrina Relief, through the local Salvation Army. The concert featured the singing talents of Al McQueen and Edith Klee, and building superintendent Dave Foley was master of ceremonies. On hand to present the cheque for \$1,000 were (from left) Frita Keller, Barbara McQueen, Dot Sweeney, Al McQueen, Edith Klee, Teresa Diamond, Capt. Carolyn Simpson of the Salvation Army, Charles Colero, Iva waters, Dave Foley and Jean Long.

Photo by Ted Brown



## New chair Joudrie wants united board

The new top educator at the Halton District School Board says one of his initial goals is to bring together trustees who have been at loggerheads over a number of issues in the last year.

Officially taking part in his first public board meeting as the education director, Wayne Joudrie delivered a speech to his new colleagues in which he explained four immediate goals he will address over the next while.

Among them is to ease tensions among trustees.

Joudrie, a two-year education director for the Grand Erie school board, was selected unanimously by the 11 trustees in late August to take on the position vacated by Dusty Papke at the end of June.

Papke was education director for eight years and left with a controversial severance of more than \$600,000. His departure, announced at a stormy board meeting in May, left the board divided and a handful of trustees, including Halton Hills' Ethel Gardiner, upset that a quality educator had left their board.

"My challenge will be to create more opportunities for this board to show unity and to take advantage of the fresh start," Joudrie said.

The other three goals Joudrie has include accommodation, in which he noted Halton has "experienced and continues to experience incredible growth"; hiring a superintendent of special education, a position that has sat empty since Brenda Kearney left the board at the end of June; and addressing the 2004-05 budget, which he said is "tracking toward a deficit."

He said he hadn't seen the final numbers but indicated any deficit will have to be made up in this year's budget.

The director said he planned to consult the board and public to get a sense of what they would like to see happen in education. This process will include one-on-one interviews with trustees and discussions with staff and school councils.

He said a survey for public feedback will be posted on the board's web site and he will host public forums in the region's four municipalities.

As for smoothing over trustee tensions, Tate said the issue for him is more about respecting each other's ideas.

"Unity, from my perspective, is a difficult concept," he said. "I think some dissension isn't bad. I think the open discussion of ideas is what a board is about. I get the sense that from time to time, trustees make personal attacks at this table and that's not appropriate."

Oakville trustee Mary Chapin— who felt muscled out as the returning board chair last December when Tate was elected by a 6-5 vote— wasn't optimistic Joudrie could unite the board.

"I think he may find he might want to moderate his expectations in that regard ... that there is no way this board can ever really work as a unit."

—By Jason Misner, special

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