

OPINION

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Catholic board coup?

What started out as a difference of opinion regarding Halton Catholic District School Board policy has quickly escalated to an all-out power struggle among the board's nine school trustees.

Last night (Thursday) a special meeting of the board was to decide whether or not veteran trustees Al Bailey (Burlington) and Alice Anne LeMay (Oakville) should resign their respective positions of chair and vice-chair of the board (they would still sit as voting members).

A motion tabled by first-term Oakville trustee Anthony Danko, calling for the pair to resign, states: "... the majority of the trustees of the Halton Catholic District School Board no longer believe that the current chair and vice-chair of the board effectively speak on behalf of the majority of trustees."

Halton Hills' rookie trustee Rosanna Palmieri is among those supporting the motion.

We strongly suspect Burlington's Bob Van de Vrande had a hand in drafting the motion. He and Bailey have recently been at opposite ends of some very public verbal jousting matches regarding board policy.

While opposing views are a part of any healthy democracy, it's unusual to see the leader of a group of elected officials asked to step down simply because others don't share his opinion.

While Bailey has been excessively tenacious in ensuring that trustees are following board policy, isn't that one of the primary duties of the chair of any board?

Bailey's contention that a recent decision by trustees—related to a pilot school uniform project—may have violated the board's own policies has undoubtedly been unpopular among some fellow trustees—and most especially Van de Vrande. However, that isn't sufficient cause to demand the resignations of the board's chair and vice-chair.

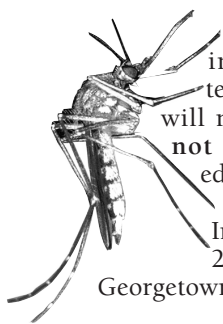
Catholic education stakeholders in Halton deserve to know what else has changed in the four months since this newly-elected board returned Bailey to the chair's position for a third consecutive term and chose LeMay to serve as its vice-chair for 2006-07.

On multiple occasions Van de Vrande has publicly expressed his frustration regarding Bailey's insistence that the board revisit its own rules. With trustee support appearing to favour Van de Vrande by the slimmest of margins (5-4), could it be that he has decided unseating Bailey is the only way to silence him? Perhaps.

In a schoolyard, this tactic might be interpreted as an act of bullying. But no matter what happens next, we think these trustees could benefit from a remedial course in conflict resolution.

Something bugging you?

Send us a letter!



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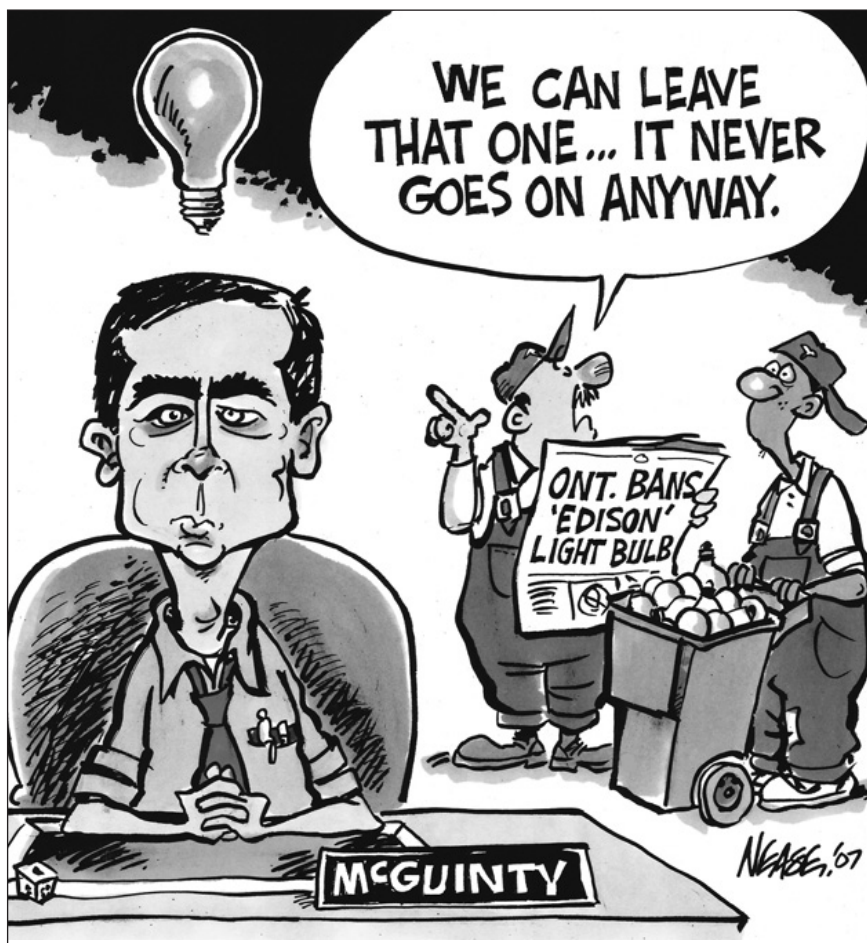
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Steve Nease



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Resident fears loss of home to hydro project

(This letter was originally sent to Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette. A copy was made available for publication.)

Dear Mayor,

I am writing this letter to you to bring to your attention an issue with the proposed Hydro One tower twinning that you have overlooked. I realize that the Town will lose a portion of their much-vaunted gateway industrial lands with this plan but I am going to lose my entire home and eight-acre property in Limehouse.

Perhaps if you were to take a drive along any of the sideroads (5, 10, 15, 17, 22) between the Fourth and Fifth Lines where the current hydro corridor meets the roads it will become apparent to you also that I am not the only resident looking at the same fate.

My neighbour across the road, his neighbour behind, and a resident along 15 Sideroad all appear to be in trouble of losing their property. As it stands now, if the corridor is widened 175-200 feet, it will cut my frontage in half and put the wires directly over my house. Hydro One, although it has not directly contacted me, states "where the corridor directly impacts a home or building, Hydro One will likely choose to purchase (or expropriate) the entire property at market value."

Let me be perfectly clear. I do not want to move. I run my own landscaping business and 95 per cent of my work is in town. I am not inter-

ested in their compensation package regardless of what it is.

Laugh if you want, but my home was only built in late 2003. Prior to that, my wife and I had lived in Georgetown since 1993. Our children were born here. We decided to move to the country so we could enjoy some privacy and space. After two years of looking, we were able to settle in Limehouse and build our dream home. Since that time my boys have settled nicely into the schools and sports teams while my wife and I have donated time personally and through my business to Scouts and many community projects like the Stewarttown Middle School sand volleyball court construction last fall.

I realize the tower twinning may be their only option but I would like to know which bean counter decided that the east side was the most favorable. While I have not traveled the

entire length to the Bruce power complex, the east side anywhere inside the Halton boundary not only means the loss of the homes mentioned, but a fair chunk of forest as well. The more I investigate this east side decision, the more it appears to be a typical Hydro One make-work project. Had Hydro One chosen to put the new tower on the west side, I would have no objection.

Now that this issue with the towers has been brought to your attention, I would expect you to investigate Hydro One's proposed destruction of homes in our community.

You can drop by my residence at 10417 22 Sideroad any time that is convenient to view my concerns. I expect you to be as diligent with this as you seem to be with the compensation you are demanding on behalf of the town.

David Clifford,
Limehouse

Bennett Centre fundraiser exceeded goal

Dear editor,

We recently raised \$3,046 at the Murder Mystery fundraiser for the Bennett Centre. Our goal was \$2,000 to \$2,500, so we are very pleased with the outcome.

I would like to thank all the local businesses that donated gifts to us for this event and everyone who attended this event supporting our seniors.

Also, thank you to all our volun-

teers who helped out: Ron Nelson, the chef; Clay Downes, the host; Matt Sykes and Ole Chrysler, the bartenders; Bernard Lelliott, the photographer, Brenna and Brianne Cole and our five volunteer organizers Jenn Ferris, Ashly Maywood, Teresa Pollitt, Katie Downes, and Barb McCaw.

Also congratulations to Ken Bartlette for solving the murder.

Katie Downes, Georgetown

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