

# Water issue continuing

• from CHUDLEIGH on page 3

"However, we are unique. Toronto has to get their water from the lake, water which must be treated. We have an option. Our groundwater supplies are clean."

She also explained that in some jurisdictions ozone treatment, while more expensive, is used because the water gets no chemical additives and is therefore cleaner. Increased use of ozone is making the process cheaper, she said.

Mr. Chudleigh said that at some levels Milton is seen as the battleground on chlorine.

He said a chance meeting with a senior federal health official led the bureaucrat to identify Mr. Chudleigh as a Milton resident as soon as he brought up the issue of chlorine in drinking water.

## Top web nod

Halton's business development website won the 1997 Superior Website Award from the American Economic Development Council.

The site, at [www.haltonbusiness.com](http://www.haltonbusiness.com) was one of 95 economic development sites competing for the prize.

# All-French language program on shaky ground

By TIM WHITNELL  
Special to The Champion

If she could afford to, Pat Picknell said she'd take the Halton Board of Education to court over what she termed the unfair treatment of students seeking French-first language instruction.

Ms Picknell, chair of the board's French Language Advisory Committee, (FLAC) is not happy with the decision by trustees not to provide space in an Oakville school for all-French instruction.

The decision essentially leaves those students who have registered for an all-French program in 1997-98 without a school and in limbo until the newly-mandated French Language School Boards come into existence in 1998.

"If I had somebody willing to put up the money to back our case, I would be willing to take the board to court," Ms Picknell said after the board voted 14-4 to reject Gladys Speers Public School

as a French-school site in September.

Ms Picknell said neither she nor the other two members of the FLAC could bankroll a court challenge, unlike the board.

There are legal decisions on the books with regard to the touchy French-first language issue.

Canada's Supreme Court ruled in Prince Edward Island that 15 students was enough to begin such a school, but it also said there is an expectation of a reasonable busing distance.

Ms Picknell said the onus is now on her group to take the next step. Earlier this year, school board trustees passed a recommendation to provide French-first language instruction, but only where student numbers warrant it.

The numbers game, and the financial implications, were the chief concern of the 18 trustees, especially after board superintendent Bob Williams told them the number of confirmed French-first language registrants had plummeted in the last few weeks.

### Bill up in the air

One trustee is getting a little anxious about a not-so-little legal bill hanging over her head, as well as over the heads of some colleagues.

Board Chair Linda Glover expressed some disappointment fellow trustee Tim Kingsbury's recommendation, concerning the legal costs incurred by her and four other trustees, was not addressed at a recent board meeting.

Ms Glover, Milton's Flo Belford, Joe Pavelka, Penny Siebert and Ethel Gardiner each have a lawyer's bill for \$6,919.25.

It represents the cost to them for defence against conflict of interest charges related to board budget voting in 1996.

The allegation was levelled in civil court earlier this year by Dave Houston, a member of the Taxpayers Coalition Burlington. The case ended by mutual consent of both sides.

"I'd like to get on and know where I stand financially," said Ms Glover.

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