

Board chairs worry about the looming challenge

By **HERB GARBUTT**
Special to *The Champion*

When voters go to the polls in November they will be electing far fewer trustees. Overall the Halton Board of Education will decrease from 18 trustees to 10 while the Halton Roman Catholic School Board will go from 18 to eight.

Don Schrenk, the Catholic board chair, said the decrease will impact how the board is able to serve the community. "It's a substantial cutback. We have a growing system but fewer trustees," he said. "I think the people who will suffer the most will be the parents, the students and the ratepayers. They won't get the depth of representation they deserve and need."

Linda Glover, the public board chair, said it is difficult to determine what effect the reduction will have until the province clearly defines the trustees' new duties. "That would depend on the roles and responsibilities," said Ms Glover, "If they stay the same it will have a significant impact. Not having the representation we had previously will make it more difficult (for parents) to get questions answered."

Mr. Schrenk said without a defined role, it will be hard for anyone running for a trustee position to know what to expect. "I think it will be frustrating for a newcomer and even those returning," he said.

French-language voters will also be asked to elect one trustee for French-language schools. The Catholic board currently has three French-language trustees for Halton but now will only have one to serve on a board that will cover an area from Peterborough to Niagara Falls. The board has three French-language schools.

Mr. Schrenk said the large board could create logistical problems. "Even traveling to a meeting is going to be difficult," he said. "To arrive at consensus, with all the various local disparities, needs and wants, is going to be difficult."

The public school board will have one French-language trustee to serve Halton, Waterloo and Wellington. The public board currently does not have a French-language school because of low demand.

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LINDA GLOVER



Saturday the police blitzed cars

Halton Regional Police handed 37 motorists seat belt tickets during Operation Impact Saturday.

The one-day blitz to enforce the seat belt law also resulted in six impaired driving charges.

A total of 3,182 cars were stopped by regional police in Halton, said service spokesman Sgt. Frank Phillips.

"The Halton Regional Police Service wishes to thank the public for their co-operation and support in this program," Sgt. Phillips said.

The event runs annually.

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