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A Metroland Community Newspaper

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## Parents vent anger at meeting

By **KIM ARNOTT**

Special to *The Champion*

Provincial officials have refused to be dragged into the middle of an ongoing labour dispute between the Halton Catholic District School Board and its high school teachers.

With negotiations between teachers and the board deadlocked, board Chair Jim Sherlock and director of education Fred Sweeney met with the chair of the provincial Education Relations Commission (ERC) earlier this week.

The commission, which studies school board labor disputes, has the power to recommend back-to-work legislation if it believes students are in jeopardy of losing their school year.

The board argued that time is running out for students to make up classes missed in September and October, when teachers refused to instruct an extra scheduled class, as well as lessons lost to student protests and a shortage of supply teachers.

• see **STALEMATE** on page 18



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Happy holidays, Holly

Holly Gordon, 3, checks out some of the colourful Christmas poinsettias currently on display at Crawford Country Gardens.

### NEWSLINES

#### Woman, 79, robbed

An elderly Ontario Street woman was the victim of a thief who stole her money-filled Christmas cards as she sat signing them at Milton Mall.

The 79-year-old woman placed \$100 bills in two cards and put them beside her on a bench she was sitting on outside Zellers last Friday at 3:20 p.m., said Det. Sgt. Jackie Gordon of Halton Regional Police.

After signing other cards, she went to collect the two she left beside her, but they were gone.

Anyone with information can contact police at 878-5511, ext. 2444.

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## Group credibility questioned, councillor, Kelly trade barbs

By **KAREN SMITH**

*The Champion*

A local councillor questions the credibility of the three-year-old Milton Ratepayers' Association, saying he doesn't believe the organization really represents Milton taxpayers.

In a three-page letter to the community newspaper, Councillor John Challinor said hard questions need to be asked about executive member Pat Kelly and the "so-called Milton Ratepayers' Association."

At the same time, two executive members of the association who disagree with most of the criticism question the appropriateness of the long-time public official's suggestion, through a letter to a *Champion*

reporter, that the newspaper probe the group.

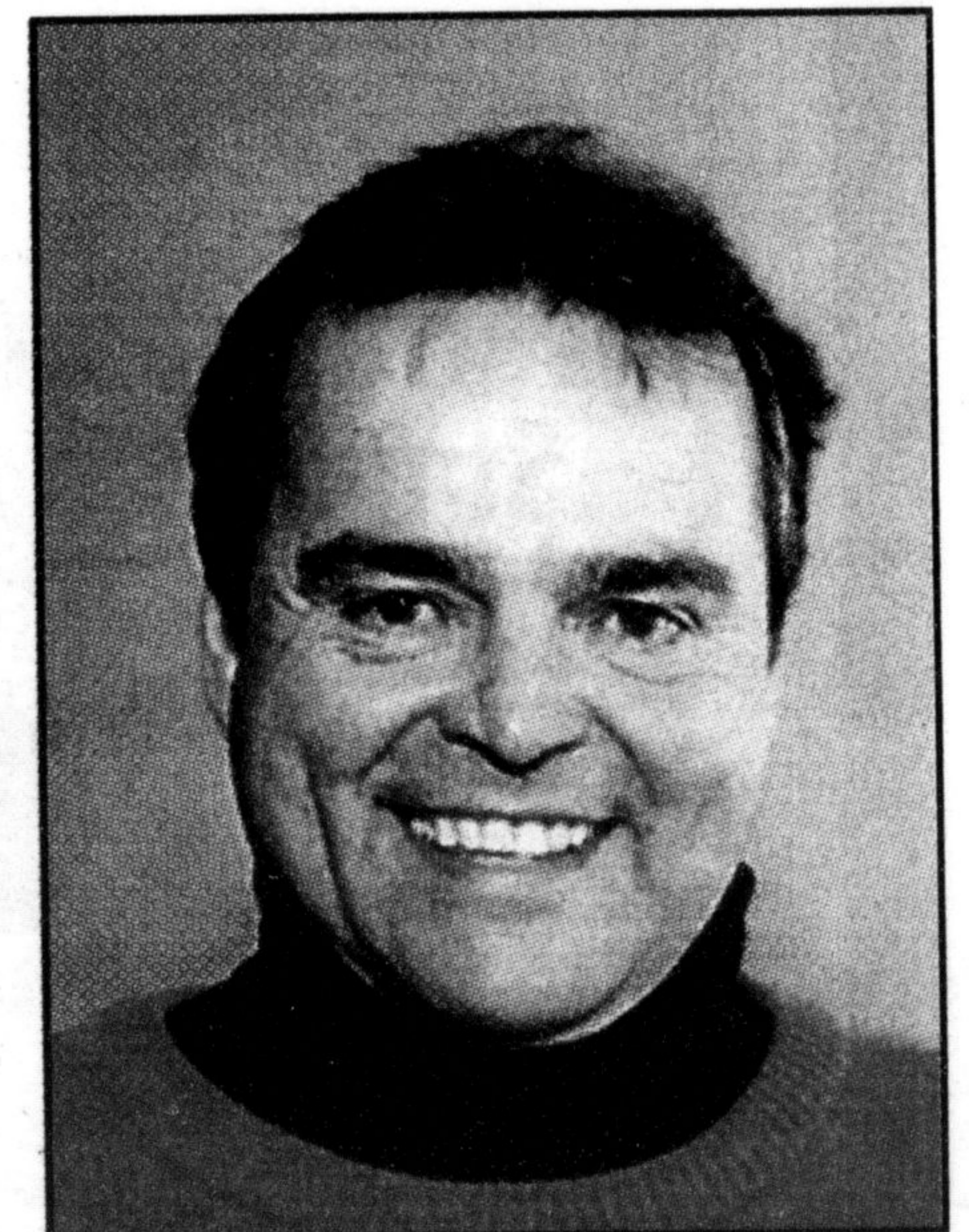
"It's inappropriate that he doesn't have the courtesy to address me personally on the subject," Mr. Kelly said. "If he's got something to ask, why doesn't he ask it himself?"

Mr. Challinor, a former *Champion* editor, said he came to the newspaper with his concerns because he's "using the same forum they do to criticize Milton council."

His questions surround whether the ratepayers' group functions as a proper association -- by holding regular meetings -- and whether it makes decisions with the support of members.

He makes mention of significant issues, such as the

• see **BOILS** on page 5



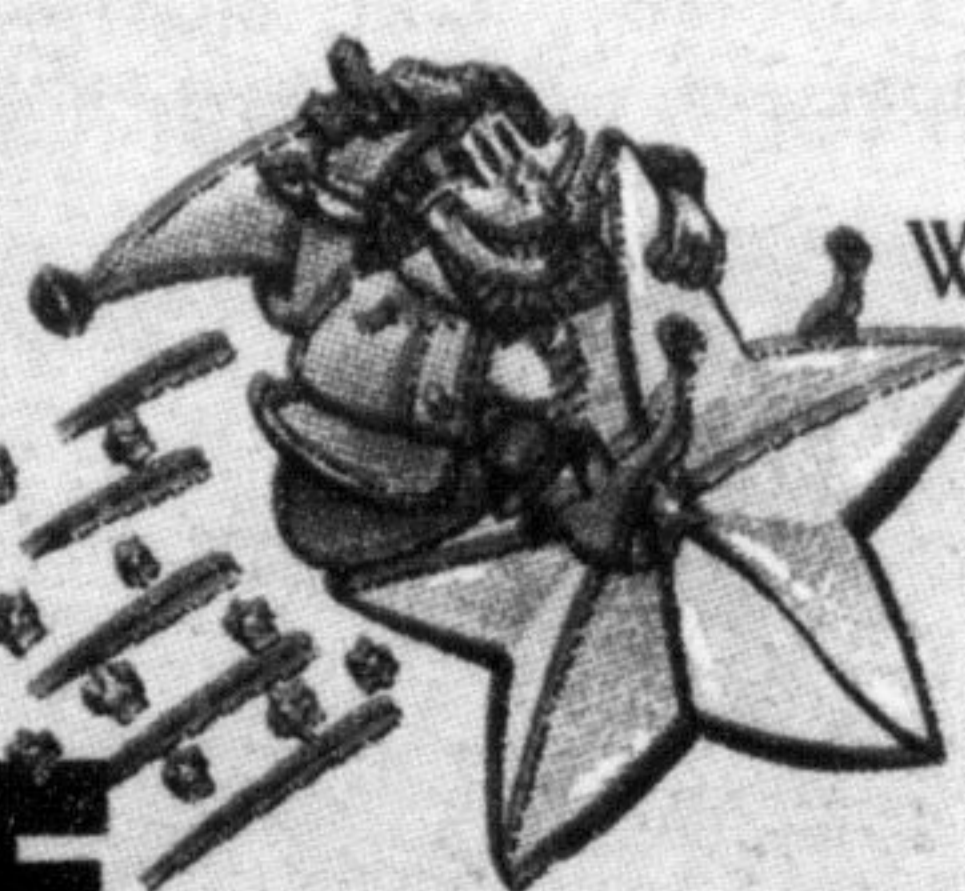
Pat Kelly

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