

# COMMENT

## School board bordered on being undemocratic

It looks like an attempt by the Halton District School Board to bring about stricter rules for delegations -- including reducing the public's speaking time to five minutes from the current 10-minute limit -- was squashed before it even got out of the starting gate.

And it's no wonder. The proposed change bordered on undemocratic.

If a member of the public has a reasonable concern, opinion or even an idea they wish to share, they should be encouraged, not discouraged, to appear before the board.

We understand, perhaps, the need to stop people from continually showing up at the board and repeating the same speech. However, we suspect it is only a few individuals who fall into this category.

The board needs to be seen as a receptive body -- a group that's willing to listen to the people it's elected to serve.

We're satisfied that it appears the board has seen the light and has backed off this oppressive proposal.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### Enough is enough, developers

Dear Editor:

It was refreshing to read the letter 'Many residents don't want growth' by Jakob Cornelis in the January 11 issue.

Once again, Town Hall becomes the focus of the conflict between protecting escarpment lands and developers who seek profits from populating these lands, changing the zoning from rural to urban.

The 'Milton West Special Study Area' at issue includes the farmland and woodlot bounded by Main Street West, Tremaine Road to the CNR track, Bronte Street north and Steeles Avenue. If this buffer zone is allowed to develop,

the escarpment landscape will disappear under a dense covering of suburbia with its shopping areas and housing grids, just like so many others.

On January 25 hearings began again at Council Chambers to be followed by sessions February 14 (11 a.m.) and February 23 (7 p.m.).

By speaking at or simply attending any of these hearings, citizens can influence the outcome of these vital issues. Let's have a big turnout and tell these developers that enough is enough.

**Shirley O'Reilly**  
Concerned Citizens Coalition

### Halton community really came through

Dear Editor:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Halton community so much for their generous donations to our Christmas Drive.

In particular, I would like to mention Cheryl Sullivan, employees of Hoogovens Technical Services and the congregations of Munn's United and Trafalgar Presbyterian churches.

I would like to recognize Vanessa Stacey, employees of CIBC at Hopedale Mall, Kevin Fitzpatrick, employees of Syl Apps Youth Centre and the patrons of Hopedale Mall who contributed to Hopedale's Toy Drive.

I would like to thank CMD Insurance, Donna-Lee Brown, patrons of Rainbow Expressions and last but definitely not least, community members Mary Hamilton, Carla Joller, Sarah Jones, Sana Makhoul, Grace Stewart and Donna Zachariah.

We were able to distribute more than \$500 in food vouchers and

\$500 in gift certificates as well as toys, clothing and other items.

Many of the women who come to our centre aren't financially comfortable, a lack that's felt more keenly at Christmas time. Their donations have helped make a brighter Christmas for 30 Halton families this year -- more than 100 people.

This was only possible because of their generosity.

The Halton Rape Crisis Centre provides a number of invaluable services to Halton. Nine staff members, numerous volunteers and students support the centre.

Our centre is currently involved in various educational programs teaching about violence against women and children and sexual harassment in the workplace. We hold support groups for survivors of violence.

Our outreach workers contact many women from all cultural backgrounds and coordinate our annual Christmas Drive, and the

crisis line is a very active service provided by the centre.

These are only a few of the services the centre provides to women from all walks of life.

Once again, we thank you, the Halton community, for your support.

We look forward to working with you in the coming year.

**Kerry Samuels, Bev LeFrancois, and Jacquelyn Schlatman**  
Halton Rape Crisis Centre

### Letters welcome

Letters must be signed and the address and the telephone number of the writer included.

Fax letters to 878-4943 or leave them at our office, 191 Main St. E.

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### Pud



by Steve Nease