

Political rookie hopes to win Regional chair

Lisa Cooper believes she can be the next Halton regional chair despite no political experience.

"I'm not a politician, but I think I have a realistic chance," she said. "I've had lots of encouragement from friends, co-workers, neighbours and associates."

The 37-year-old Burlington mother of two entered the race to unseat Joyce Savoline just prior to the close of nominations October 13. She works as a food and beverage server at Campbellville's Mohawk Racetrack.

Ms Cooper cheerfully admits to having no campaign budget and she stands in stark contrast to Ms Savoline — who hired a public relations firm to help her prepare election materials and a press conference when she announced her candidacy.

"I'll just have a grassroots campaign," said Ms Cooper, who plans to become better known through media attention and attending all-candidates meetings leading up to November 13.

Her husband, Luke McEachern, has also entered the race against Burlington Ward 3 councillor John Taylor. Both said they wanted to create competition and eliminate acclamations.

In one of their press releases, they criticize Halton Region for not using a "cathodic" protective treatment to extend the life of cast iron water mains, available from a local firm, which they say would save taxpayers millions of dollars in replacement costs.

Ms Cooper also thinks Halton could be doing a more economical job of financing

its debt charges, despite its recent AAA rating from Moody's Bond Rating Service.

She lists traffic congestion as another of her concerns, and thinks Halton must work with other levels of government to expand lanes on the 403/QEW highways.

"Have you seen Guelph Line lately? It's horrendous," she stated. Ms Cooper has studied at the University of Havana and has had contract work as a flight attendant with the national airline in Saudi Arabia.

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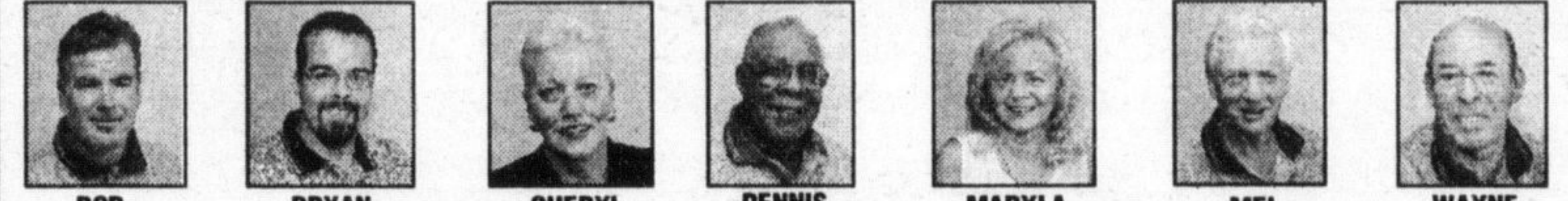
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