

Ellis says he knew he would become the bad guy: audit

 from PUBLIC on page 1 that will permanently alienate him from the majority of this board for the remainder of his term of office," she said.

Ms Downs said Mr. Ellis was involved in the previous board's legacies of school closures, policy governance and junior kindergarten.

She said, since running unsuccessfully for chair last January, Mr. Ellis hasn't served on one committee nor significantly participated in board dialogue. He only participated in one-and-a-half hours of weekend policy governance workshops, she added.

"From his seat, he has seen fit to criticize the board committees and staff committees that have done all the work," she said. "I believe he is working harder at selling newspapers than at being a trustee for this school board."

Mr. Ellis said he'll meet the auditor next week and is still awaiting response from the Ministry of Education about his concerns.

"I assume they'll let the external investigation do the job, which will be fine with me," he said. The trustee plans to detail his concerns then.

Mr. Ellis said he has thought about the situation for months.

"I've raised concerns in private session and said they couldn't do this, but it fell on deaf ears," said Mr. Ellis. In Avelry of Toronto.

knew a couple of bylaws were being broken."

He said a bylaw violation concerning the director's contract was the last straw. But he doesn't want to reveal further details of private sessions.

Mr. Ellis said he had hoped there would be no personal attacks and said Ms Downs doesn't know what she's talking about.

"I knew I'd become the bad guy. The best defence is a good offence," he said. "They've made me a loose cannon and are turning this around."

Mr. Ellis wondered how trustees can call his accusations petty if they don't know all the details.

As for his record, Mr. Ellis said he has sat on the negotiation and provincial labour relations committees, plus the Ontario Public School Boards Association.

He said one trustee left a policy governance session in tears and there was a close-minded attitude about it. "Basically it was, 'You do it our way."

Mr. Ellis said if the investigation finds absolutely no wrongdoing, he's willing to resign.

But if there's wrongdoing and Ms Downs is involved in it, she should consider resigning, he said.

The external investigation will be undertaken by forensic auditors Kroll, Lindquist and

Giant steps

Pat George with help from son Andrew, 5, manage to carry all their picnic supplies down the giant stairs to the beach at Kelso Conservation Area. With the hot, humid weather, the beach is a popular destination for many.

> Photo by GRAHAM PAINE



