

# Photocopying not student volunteer work: ministry

By **TIM WHITNELL**  
Special to *The Champion*

High school students photocopying papers for teachers as part of their mandatory community service in order to graduate violates the spirit of the provincial legislation, says a Ministry of Education spokesperson.

Dave Ross, senior media relations co-ordinator for the ministry, said he doesn't believe photocopying is the kind of activity the Ontario government had in mind when it passed a regulation three years ago requiring high school students to perform a minimum 40 hours of volunteer work as a prerequisite to graduating.

Current grade 12s in Ontario are the first wave of students who must have at least 40 hours community service to graduate.

"Community involvement is a very specific responsibility. They provide expanded opportunities for learning. It (photocopying) doesn't follow the spirit of the intent," he said.

The ministry employee was reacting to news that some students at at least one Halton high school — Nelson in Burlington — are gaining credit for photocopying papers for teachers.

A passage on the Ministry of Education's Web site states: "The purpose of the community involvement requirement is to encourage students to develop awareness and understanding of civic responsibility and of the role they can play and the contributions they can make in supporting and strengthening their communities."

Mr. Ross did note though that "boards and principals have the ultimate authority" in terms

of deciding what's an appropriate community service task.

David Waugh, a Grade 11 student at Nelson and one of two student trustees with the Halton public school board, said he knows some students at his school are being allowed to photocopy for teachers and getting volunteer credit for it.

"They are photocopying for the teachers and the teachers are signing them (student volunteer passports)."

The education ministry has a list of 13 circumstances on its Web site that are considered ineligible volunteer activities, but photocopying isn't specifically mentioned.

The Halton board's superintendent of education (programs), Barry Finlay, said he wasn't in

agreement with students photocopying as a community service, but, like Mr. Ross, he also deferred the final decision to principals.

Nelson principal Bev Miller said she's aware of the photocopying by some of her students and believes it's a legitimate volunteer service.

"One of our teachers, about a year ago, realized that with the new (provincial) curriculum there was a large volume of paperwork so she proposed a group of students use the photocopying room in order to help out the students with their (volunteer) hours and help teachers at the same time," said Ms Miller.

"The students don't do it on class time. The majority of our students are doing things like teaching Sunday School and helping out at retirement homes."

## Religious Service Directory

What an immense pleasure it is to work in downtown Milton! I began working at Grace Anglican Church on September 1 of this year. Before that, to me, Milton was nothing more than an exit on the 401! But since September I have experienced the joy and beauty of this lovely town.

My first experience was in the church where I work. Have you ever been inside Grace Church, the grey stone church on the hill at Main and Millside? It was renovated in the late 90's and is truly lovely inside. It has beautiful carved wood, stained glass windows, and rich red carpet. It also has beautiful people.

After finding my way around the church, I began to look at more carefully at my surroundings in the town of Milton. I was delighted to discover the mill pond and the path along the creek! In early September there were beautiful flowers blooming in the park and the shade of the trees along the path was a welcome respite from the heat of the day. By October, the leaves had turned and I was

captivated by the reflection of their colour in the water of the pond. Walking along the path, the light of the sun coming through the golden leaves was so beautiful it took my breath away. I stopped walking and stood still on the path, pausing to take in the feel of the moment. I felt the sun and the gentle breeze on my skin. I smelled that distinctive Canadian smell of fallen leaves drying in the sun. "Surely" I thought "God is in this place, right here, right now." Now it's December and the trees have settled for their winter rest, branches bare. I find beauty on the path, even in winter. The bones of the trees are exposed, showing us a different shape than when they are clothed in leaves. And we can see the interesting nests made by birds, squirrels and wasps that are hidden from us in summer. I can hardly wait to walk the path in spring. When I do, I'll look for hints of new life - buds on the trees, first blades of grass, tiny woodland spring flowers and, of course, dandelions.

Then, just recently, there was the Milton Santa Claus

parade! I was impressed! Such a big parade for a small town! And so many people lining the streets - the whole population of Milton must have come out to watch! It was fun to ride on our float and see the excitement in the faces of young and old as we passed by. The energy of the people marching, walking and dancing in the parade was inspiring. The floats were wonderful ~ a great variety of theme ideas and delights for the eye. I was pleased to see four floats which reminded us all of the reason for the season - the birth of Jesus Christ and the beginning of his ministry to the people of God. As I stood on the float with my new friends from Grace Church I thought, "Surely God is in this place, right here, right now."

I thank God for calling me to serve God's people right here in Milton. I look forward to discovering many more wonderful things about the town and to meeting many more of its wonderful people.

Submitted by Reverend Amy Cousineau



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Meeting @ Milton District High School  
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11:00 AM Worship Service  
*A New Church for a New Generation*  
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(905) 876-3586

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Invites you to our weekly Sabbath services at **Hugh Foster Hall, 43 Brown St. Milton**  
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170 Main St. E., Milton 878-6066  
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**10:30 a.m.**  
Youth Class Grades 7-12  
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*"Called to Serve the Lord"*  
Wheelchair access and washrooms provided so that all may come and worship.  
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Pastor of Youth Ministries: **Jack Ninaber**  
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\*\* For more info on our regular weekly ministries, please call the church office.

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Prayer and Bible Study  
And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, as of the only of the Father. John 1.14

**BAHA'I FAITH**  
Multifaith Devotions & Breakfast: 10 - 12 am, Dec. 8, *Prophesy: Return of God's Messenger in World Religion Prophecies*.  
Learn of The Baha'i Faith and Its Teachings 8 pm. Wed., Dec 4, 11, 18. Informal Discussion  
**Baha'i Vision TV:** Rural Education: A System of the future. Monday, Dec. 2, 12:30 and 10:30 pm, Ch. 37  
For local information: 905-875-2923  
Recording 1-800-433-3284 www.bahai.org

**9 am - Early Worship Service**  
**9:30 am - Sunday School for All Ages**  
**10:45 am - Second Worship Service**  
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Tel. 878-2411 Fax 878-3005  
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**Rev. Dr. Mark McDermott**  
**Rev. Amy Cousineau**  
**SUNDAY SERVICES**  
8:00 am - Holy Communion  
10:00 am - Sung Eucharist  
Church School & Coffee Hour  
**THURSDAY**  
10:00 am Holy Communion  
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We welcome you to...  
**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**  
123 Main St. E., Milton  
Fri. Nov. 29, 4:45, 6, 7:15 p.m. - Turkey Supper  
Sun. Dec 1  
**9 a.m. ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP**  
**10:30 a.m. ADVENT 1 WORSHIP**  
Heaven's Gate Church School at 10:30 a.m.  
Theme: *Jesse's Tree*, Baby & Toddler Nursery  
**7 p.m. Carols By Candlelight** by St. Paul's Choir  
Tues. Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m. Vesper Service-All Welcome!  
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Church office: (905) 878-8895  
www.stpaulsmilton.org

**GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
103 Martin Street  
905-878-1629  
Pastor Walter H. Isaak  
9:50 a.m. - Family Bible Hour  
11:00 a.m. - Morning Service  
6:00 p.m. - Evening Service  
**Thursday**  
7:00 p.m. Bible Study & Prayer  
*"You'll always find a friend at Graceway"*

**CC** CAPTIONING PROVIDED FOR DEAF/HARD OF HEARING EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:45 AM

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