

Finlay new associate director at board

BY TIM WHITNELL

Special to The Champion

He once was a university quarterback and later a defensive back in the Canadian Football League, now Barry Finlay is backing up the key 'player' within the Halton District School Board.

Mr. Finlay, a starting defensive back with the Toronto Argonauts and Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the 1970s, was recently elevated to the new position of associate director at the board.

Currently the superintendent of education for program services, the 52-year-old will work more closely with and directly under Director Dusty Papke in his new post.

Mr. Papke has said the elevation of Mr. Finlay to the second-in-command position is not a new hiring but part of an ongoing reorganization of senior administrative staff responsibilities.

"In a sense it's an expanded director's office," said Mr. Papke, noting Mr. Finlay will be like his right-hand man, with the latter moving his office near Mr. Papke's.

If Mr. Papke isn't available to fulfill his duties as director, for whatever reason, Mr. Finlay will fill the role on a temporary basis.

The acting director's position currently rotates among several selected superintendents.

"Barry will have a key part so I can be freed up to do other things. I want to get out into the field (schools and community agencies) more," said Mr. Papke.

"Community relations and diversity will be picked up by both Barry and I through the director's office and we will both be involved in the Halton Learning Foundation (the board's charitable entity) and skill development and training."

Mr. Papke said that as a whole he thinks the board has done a good job of outlining employee skill development but more emphasis needs to be put on management supporting the follow through of established board policy and goals.

"We have so many initiatives underway that want to be successful at and are growing at such a rate (in student enrolment) we don't want to drop the ball," he said.

"I don't think we'll ever reach the point where we are perfect or satisfied. If that means restructuring again in couple of years, we'll do it."

The board's new associate director said the five superintendents of school operations will report to him about the goings on within each of their 'family' of schools, the contingent of elementary and high schools with which they liaise.

"We will focus on instruction and learning in the system. One of our goals is to increase alignment across the board in terms of system initiatives," said Mr. Finlay.

Mr. Finlay has been an educator for 28 years and a Halton public board employee since 1979. He has worked his way through six schools in this region. He became an assistant superintendent and finally a superintendent in March 2001.

Canadian football enthusiasts over the age of 40 probably know Mr. Finlay better as a starting defensive back with the Argos from 1973 to 1976 and with the Tigercats in 1977.

He graduated from McMaster University in 1973 where he was the quarterback of the Marauders' varsity team.

Demo derby entry forms available

Entry forms are now available for the Milton Fall Fair Demolition Derby, which will be held in September at the Milton Fair Grounds.

The four-cylinder category will take

place September 26 at 8 p.m., with a roll-over competition following. Eight-cylinder competition will run September 27 and 28 at 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. respectively. To enter, call (905) 878-5689.

Card players wanted

Once again, the IODE is preparing its fall schedule of euchre and bridge games.

The card games start in October and continue every first and third Monday until the end of April.

Participants don't need to be IODE members to play. If you're interested, call May Johnson at (905) 878-9898.

The Canadian Champion, Friday, July 18, 2003—17

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