



COMMENT



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Paul Martin holds parallel caucus meeting...



Infighting is last thing board needs right now

The timing and venue for Tuesday's bombshell call for the replacement of Education Director Dusty Papke by Halton District School Board Trustee Peggy Russell is puzzling.

It's too early to tell if the next elected board of trustees will back Russell's desire to see both Papke gone and a full reversal of the board's policy governance model.

We will have to wait and see who holds the elected school board seats after November 10 before we can get an accurate barometer of where fellow trustees stand.

With ally Drew Currah aspiring to a seat on Oakville's town council next month and Trustee Mike Ellis long departed after his own challenge of board policy, Russell could find herself the last trustee standing in defiance of Papke's leadership.

Had she been facing a public challenge for her trustee seat, we may have questioned if Russell's sudden public outburst wasn't more of a campaign ploy.

However, with an acclamation in her pocket, Russell's impromptu press confer-

ence — just a month before an election to decide who her contemporaries will be — seems ill-timed.

With Dalton McGuinty's election promises of a brighter future for education, the last thing the Halton District School Board needs now is infighting among its trustees and staff.

While it's not unusual for elected officials to find themselves at an impasse with senior staff on specific issues, a public call for the dismissal of the education director outside the context of a scheduled board meeting seems intentionally defiant.

While Russell appears confident that nothing she said in public violated the confidentiality of in-camera discussions, school board Chair Ethel Gardiner questioned her fellow trustee's conduct and said a thorough review of Russell's actions will be conducted.

If the people responsible for helping shape the quality of education in Halton can't work together, we question how effective they're likely to be in making really tough decisions.



OUR READERS WRITE

Malboeuf's e-mail to mayor sleazy, says Furik

Dear Editor:

I don't get angry very often with my fellow council members. In fact, I pride myself on being a team player in order to get the job done.

However, the front page story in the October 10 Champion has made me angry indeed.

After working alongside Mayor Gord Krantz for 12 years, I found it appalling to read the vague allegations and between the lines accusations that were hurled at one of the longest-serving civil servants in Canada.

Mr. Krantz has earned the admiration and respect from friend and foe alike throughout the province. Frankly, he deserves much better than to be treated with sleazy political accusations.

Surely the citizens of Milton will not believe the nonsense in Councillor Rick Malboeuf's e-mail, which he sent to the mayor.

Surely the citizens of Milton will not believe that he's trying to protect Olive Krantz by asking her husband to pull out of the mayoral race. Surely the voters of Milton won't believe that Mr. Malboeuf has the best interests of the Krantz family at heart.

Surely the citizens of Milton will show their disgust at this brand of electioneering. I know that the other members of council are indeed disgusted at the approach taken by Mr. Malboeuf.

I would sincerely hope that the other candidates running for office in this campaign will not stoop to

this low. Mr. Krantz certainly doesn't need Ron Furik to defend him. However, as a member of council — who even Mr. Malboeuf will admit has never belonged to any perceived 'Old Boys Club' — I feel I must strenuously object to dragging political opponents through the mud.

This type of campaigning doesn't belong in Milton.

Mr. Krantz was born and raised in Milton, and has served this community with integrity for 30 years. In fact, Mr. Krantz is Milton. As for the Furik family, we don't believe in a 'New Mayor for a New Milton'. We believe in Gord — a 'Better Mayor for a Better Milton'.

Ron Furik
Ward 4 Councillor

Lost ring just one of many 'surprises' at wedding

I have a new hero.

I've never met her before, and there's no reason I ever will.

But any bride or bride-to-be (like myself) will understand what I mean by the end of this column.

Sorry guys, on the heels of my column last month — which talked in great detail about my upcoming wedding at Country Heritage Park — I know we're developing a bit of a matrimonial theme here. But when I heard about this story, I just couldn't pass it up.

Let's call this the wedding from Hades.

It all started a few weeks ago when I received a phone call from Sandy French, whom many would recognize as a camera person for Cogeco 14.

The day before, he had been part of his little sister Robyn's wedding at Country Heritage

Park. Unfortunately, sometime between grabbing a bite to eat and the ceremony, the best man inadvertently re-located the ring. Okay, he lost it — plain and simple.

The groomsmen searched at Wendy's with no success, and now, almost two weeks later, the ring — a two-toned gold wedding band — is still missing. If anyone has seen it or located it, they can call Sandy at (905) 878-9306.

But that's not the only unfortunate incident of the day.

There were no hair stylists due to a planning problem, and someone else had to fill in.

To make matters worse, the minister was involved in a car accident on the way to the ceremony and her husband — also a minister — had to take her place before rushing off to the hospital.

There's more. One of the bridesmaids appar-



Around town

with STEPHANIE THIESSEN

ently wasn't clear on where the wedding party was meeting, and caused some panic when she wasn't found until five minutes before the start of the ceremony.

It's a good thing Robyn isn't superstitious, because she surely would have seen these events as bad omens.

Instead, Robyn remained calm and took each

incident as it came.

That's why she's my hero.

As Sandy said, "She just kept thinking about the hot tub that would be in the hotel. It was the hot tub that got her through."

Fortunately, Sandy pointed out, many people commented on the excellent emcee of the day. Of course, it was none other than Sandy himself. Also, he said, the photos and reception went just fine. Whew. At least something went as expected.

In my opinion, this bride is a gem. Bill, I hope you realize what a unique woman you've married. A woman who can withstand the pressure of a wedding-gone-wrong is bound to be able to handle anything with ease and grace.

The fact that this bride took all the mishaps of the day in stride is a reminder that a wedding ceremony really is just one day. It's the life-long marriage that gives cause for celebration.