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Kind of crafty

Charlie Gall shows two festive snowmen from her table during the annual Christmas Craft Fair and Luncheon at Milton District Hospital Saturday. The sale, a fundraiser of the Milton District Hospital Auxiliary, filled the main-floor corridors.

Photo by
GRAHAM
PAINE

McTavish asks for recount in race

By JASON MISNER
The Champion

John McTavish has officially asked for a recount after losing by 20 votes to Paul Tate in the race for Milton's public school board trustee.

"There's been a definite call from a lot of my supporters to go for that," Mr. McTavish said. "With 3,000 votes cast, 20 votes is not a big difference at all."

Unofficial results from Monday night's election show Mr. McTavish garnered 3,327 votes versus Mr. Tate's 3,347. It's expected the Town will make the voting numbers official today.

Mr. McTavish — who said he

thought the election would be extremely close — filed a request with the Halton District School Board yesterday, following the protocol under the Elections Act.

For the first time, Milton votes were counted using electronic machines, but Mr. McTavish said that doesn't make it an infallible system.

"There are different cases from the GTA where recounts have been held because of the electronic process not being 100 per cent," he said.

Town clerk Troy McHarg, noting there were no reported problems counting the ballots, said that only a tie vote carries an automatic recount.

Since that isn't the case, the public school board must pass a resolution supporting one.

The school board is scheduled to meet Wednesday, but it's not clear if it will vote at that time on whether to permit a recount.

Considering the slim margin, public school board Chair Ethel Gardiner said she would probably support a recount.

Mr. Tate said he doesn't object to Mr. McTavish's pursuit of a recount, but doesn't think a lot will change.

"I don't have an issue with it," he said. "It seems the machine count is highly accurate."

Rather than concerning himself with a recount, Mr. Tate said he's preparing as the Milton school board trustee.

He said he's already fielded between 30 and 40 phone calls about school issues.

The vote recount would be carried out by the Town and would have to be completed within 15 days of the school board passing a resolution, Mr. McHarg said.

As required by law, the recount would have to involve the re-scanning of the election ballots because that's how the ballots were counted originally, he said.

Mr. McTavish ultimately has the option of going to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice to ask for a recount.

If the request goes before the courts, a judge could rule it be done by hand, Mr. McHarg said.

Jason Misner can be reached at jmisner@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

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