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36 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## A real traffic stopper

Outdoor education studies students from E.C. Drury High School stop traffic on Ontario Street last week as they portage from the school to the Mill Pond, where they honed their canoeing skills for upcoming field trips to Algonquin Park. One group visited the scenic provincial park this past holiday weekend, while two more are slated to go later this month and in early June.

## Director resigns from school board

By JASON MISNER  
Special to The Champion

In a stunning announcement, Dusty Papke said he's retiring as the director of education for the Halton District School Board.

Near the end of a lengthy public school board meeting late Wednesday night, Mr. Papke, in a prepared statement, told staff and trustees he's resigning effective June 30. He didn't give specific reasons why he has decided to leave eight years after taking the helm as education director, and he couldn't be reached for additional comment yesterday.

However, Mr. Papke's announcement followed a fractious and heated debate that ended up seeing the board passing a motion, put forward by Chair



Dusty Papke

and Milton Trustee Paul Tate, that limits the education director's power over deciding operating procedures of the board. Called policy governance, it was introduced to the board four years ago.

Following the board meeting, Mr. Tate said the changes bolster the decision-making power for trustees, and allow a more hands-on approach in determining issues such as school boundary changes and placement of principals and vice-principals in schools.

"This board has always done what's in the best interest of students," he said. "In fact, this will get

the public more engaged in what goes on at the board because they will have more access to board policy and board decision-making that they haven't had under policy governance.

"The public had made demands of me on issues around board policy such as moving (school) boundaries. The way it happens now we are informed, but not asked to judge. We need to be able to judge."

Trustees also passed a motion that alters how they can amend bylaws. That means a simple majority — or six votes — is only required, which is a change from the previous policy that mandated a two-thirds majority or eight votes.

Some trustees wept and some of the roughly three dozen people sitting in the public gallery expressed shock when Mr. Papke, 54, announced

• see PAPKE on page 2

### Inside

Comment .....	6
Business .....	11,15
Champion Country ..	22-26
Classified .....	29-32
Dateline .....	33,35

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