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**Hot,
hot,
hot**

Andrew Martin, 16, tries to cool off with a battery-operated fan while taking in a horse show at Halton Place Sunday afternoon. The stifling heat and humidity have made this summer one of the hottest in recent memory, and prompted the Halton Region Health Department to issue another heat alert for the area yesterday.

Photo by
GRAHAM PAINE

Questions about former school board director's severance arise at meeting

By **JASON MISNER**
Special to *The Champion*

With a six-year-old daughter enrolled in the Halton District School Board and a little boy entering his first year in September, Milton parent Ellen Whitehouse says she wants to make sure money is spent where it should be.

That includes wanting answers as to where money for a severance package paid to the board's former director of education, Dusty Papke, will come from.

Ms Whitehouse was among approximately 10

members of the public who attended a session in Milton Wednesday night in which the public heard details about the balanced budget plan for 2005-06. They were also able to ask questions.

One of the pressing questions Ms Whitehouse wanted answered was how the board plans to pay for the \$600,000 severance that *The Champion* recently reported had been negotiated with Mr. Papke, who officially left his position after eight years June 30.

Board Chair Paul Tate said he wasn't at liberty to discuss a settlement, but that the former director had a retirement gratuity owed to him. Specifics weren't provided.

"I'm not in a position at all to discuss what his settlement was," Mr. Tate told the public.

Carla Kisko, the board's outgoing superintendent of business services, told the public that a severance would have to be absorbed in the current budget year of 2004-05.

"It is definitely a pressure," she said.

The *Champion* reported recently that Mr. Papke had negotiated a settlement to leave the board as its director of education after learning a lawyer had been hired by two trustees to look at removing him. His contract had stipulated he be given six months' notice for termination, without just cause, • see **BUDGET** on page A11

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