

OPINION

Rift widening

Failure to attain a quorum for a recent special meeting is the latest indication of a widening rift among elected trustees of the Halton Catholic District School Board.

While the hastily called March 27 meeting was short on agenda details, all nine school board trustees were sent notice of the meeting at least four days in advance.

The special meeting was called by board Chair Al Bailey (Burlington), who wanted fellow trustees to receive a legal review of their roles and responsibilities.

Bailey believes a recent board decision regarding the controversial pilot school uniform project may have violated the board's own policies.

Four of the other five absent trustees — Oakville's Anthony Danko and Pauline Houlahan, Burlington's Joanne Matters and Halton Hills' Rosanna Palmieri — told the *Champion* they had prior commitments, while Milton's Rev. David Wilhelm never returned a reporter's calls.

Regardless of their differing points of view, trustees owe it to students, parents and fellow trustees to attend meetings — if only to uphold their position.

Considering the board's perfect record of 25 years without failing to meet quorum, the sudden absence of two-thirds of the board's elected officials seems suspicious.



ReadersWrite

E-mail your letters to miltone@haltonsearch.com.

Escarpment now threatened

(The following letter was addressed to Niagara Escarpment Commission manager Ken Whitbread, and a copy was filed with the *Champion*.)

DEAR MR. WHITBREAD:

At 71.4 per cent over the past five years, Milton has the dubious distinction of being the fastest growing community in Canada.

This sprawl has reached the foot of the escarpment, and it would be appreciated if you would advise me what safeguards are in place to ensure protection from encroachment onto the escarpment. The wildlife, trees, vegetation and water on this special place must be protected.

We have an obligation to keep safe all its natural treasures and preserve the ecological benefits it provides. Future generations have a right to the same.

The Niagara Escarpment Commission, as the governing body and guardian of the escarpment, is no doubt keeping a watchful eye and is prepared to act should it be threatened.

I don't believe developers have a conscience, and our so-called administrators can't seem to put down their APPROVED rubber stamp, so the burden of preserving a beautiful part of Canada rests entirely on your shoulders.

Regulated growth in any community is expected, but the explosive growth Milton has suffered will have far-reaching consequences for years to come.

Our lovely little town is gone; please don't allow the escarpment to be another victim.

**ELIZABETH HARRISON
MACARTHUR DRIVE**

School's warmth was much appreciated

DEAR EDITOR:

We have lived in Milton for a few years. We moved in November and our children had to change schools and go to Martin Street School. Unfortunately we are now moving out of town and will be leaving Martin Street, but we really wanted to let Mrs. Taylor, the school's secretary, know how much we have appreciated everything she has done.

From the first day of school there she has done everything to make us feel welcome and to help our three children adjust, from remembering everyone's name to going out of her way to make sure they always had a great day.

She has also lightened the stress load

of our move tremendously by getting the kids not just registered at their new school, but setting up busing for them as well.

Our oldest son has had troubles in the past with everything from adjusting to making friends to passing his classes, but his whole attitude has changed in five months. He is making better choices in friends and his grades have improved greatly.

So we just wanted to thank all of the teachers at Martin Street, and especially Mrs. Taylor, for everything they do everyday. We will miss them a lot.

**THE DEFOREST FAMILY
FORMER MILTONIANS**

Patients' bad attitudes add to E.R. wait times

DEAR EDITOR:

I am reporting on two recent experiences with our hospital and medical system.

The first was two years ago when I had two visits to the Oakville hospital for cataract surgery. My experience on both occasions was to receive excellent care, on time and by a very pleasant and professional team of doctors and nurses.

On March 14 at 5:30 a.m., I was admitted to Milton District Hospital because I was suffering from extreme chest pain, along with pain in my shoulders and arms. I was immediately whisked into E.R., put into a robe and administered oxygen and hooked up to a blood pressure monitor and E.C.G.

At least five very polite, cheerful nurses, along with Dr. Tooming, were present for the first three hours.

During the nine hours at the hospital, I had about five E.C.G.s, two sets of x-rays and three sets of blood tests. Dr. Sawhney was the specialist on duty and attended to the diagnosis. At about 2:30 p.m., it was discovered through the second set of x-rays that I had pneumonia — fortunately not heart problems. During the day, my own doctor, Dr. Koslowski, was monitoring the results.

A special thanks goes out to everyone. I am sorry I did not get nurses and technicians' names, but they will know who they are.

I was moved to the recovery area, where monitoring continued. This is also where day surgery patients are admitted. Since I was right next to this station, I could not help but overhear and witness boorish behaviour from a number of patients, most of who caused extra work for the staff. As a result, I have little sympathy for those complaining about waiting times in E.R., when many have no respect for the added costs brought to the system by their behaviour.

**JOHN FOWLER
CAMPBELLVILLE**

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