

Vrooman chosen to lead new public school board

By Dominik Kurek
METROLAND WEST MEDIA GROUP

Two Oakville trustees were elected as the chair and vice-chair of the Halton District School Board Wednesday night.

Don Vrooman, now in his second term, was elected as chair of the board over Milton's Wards 2, 3, 4 and 5 Trustee Donna Danielli.

Joining Vrooman at the head of the table is Kelly Amos, who served as trustee for two terms between 2000 and 2006, plus for one year before that. She beat out Burlington Trustee Amy Collard for the vice-chair position.

"The outgoing board was unrelenting in its pursuit of excellence over its term," Vrooman said in his inaugural address as chair.

He said the previous board created a strategic plan at the start of its term and went after pursuing it.

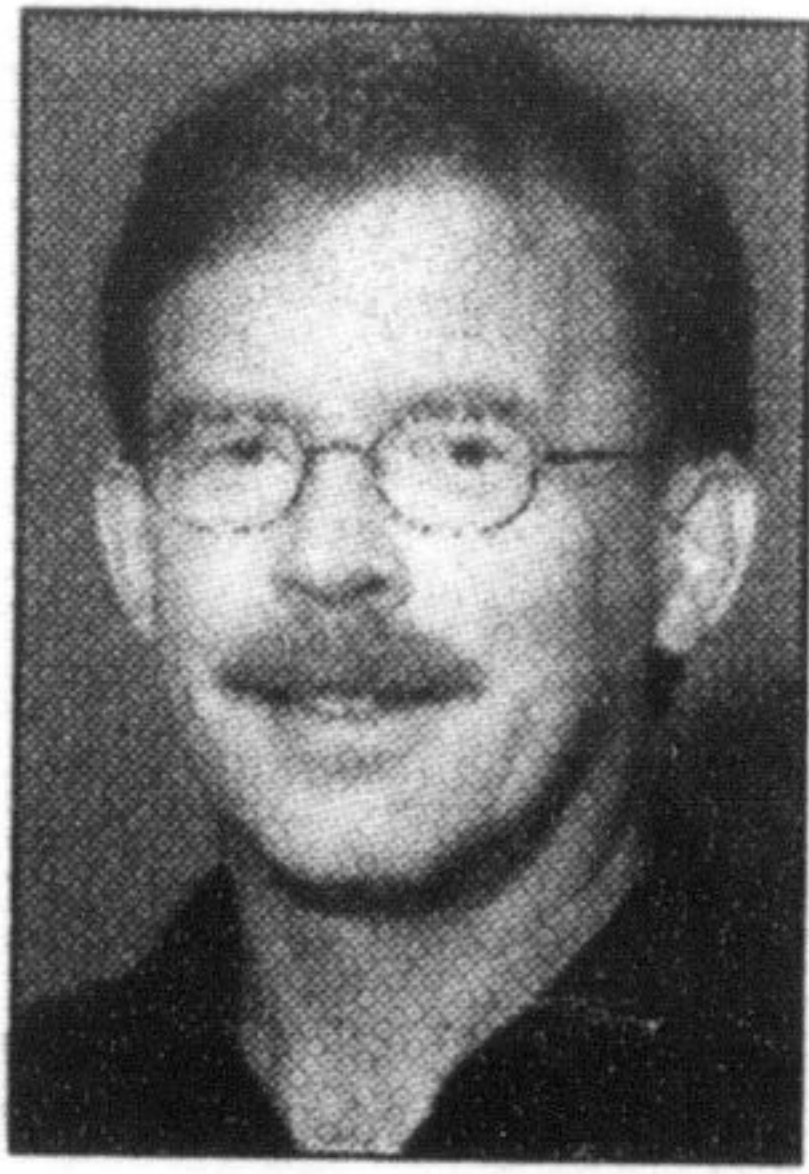
"For the present board, our first task over the next few months will be to renew this covenant."

He spoke about rapid changes in Ontario due to the recession and forcing a leaner economy.

He said school boards are tasked to compete more aggressively with private education institutions and produce students who

are better prepared for life outside of school.

"We are asked for greater efficiency and in the same breath we are asked to do more," he said. "These are our challenges. It never looked good for us, but we are resourceful. We can turn challenges into opportunities, deficiencies into effectiveness."



Don Vrooman

"We will compete and we will produce students better prepared for the 21st century regardless of cultural or economic background and regardless of special needs."

He said these are exciting and invigorating times for the board.

"Fellow trustees, by accepting our ideas and focusing on issues we will make good decisions and do

good work for Halton students, staff and community."

The trustees voted on the chair and vice-chair position by ballot box. Results weren't disclosed.

The vice-chair didn't give a speech after her election, but in her pre-vote address to the board, Amos talked about trustees being in a position of trust and are tasked to look after the school board.

Amos said she has the qualities to be a good trustee and will make good decisions for the students.

She added with more dialogue, people will have a better understanding of the functions of the board.



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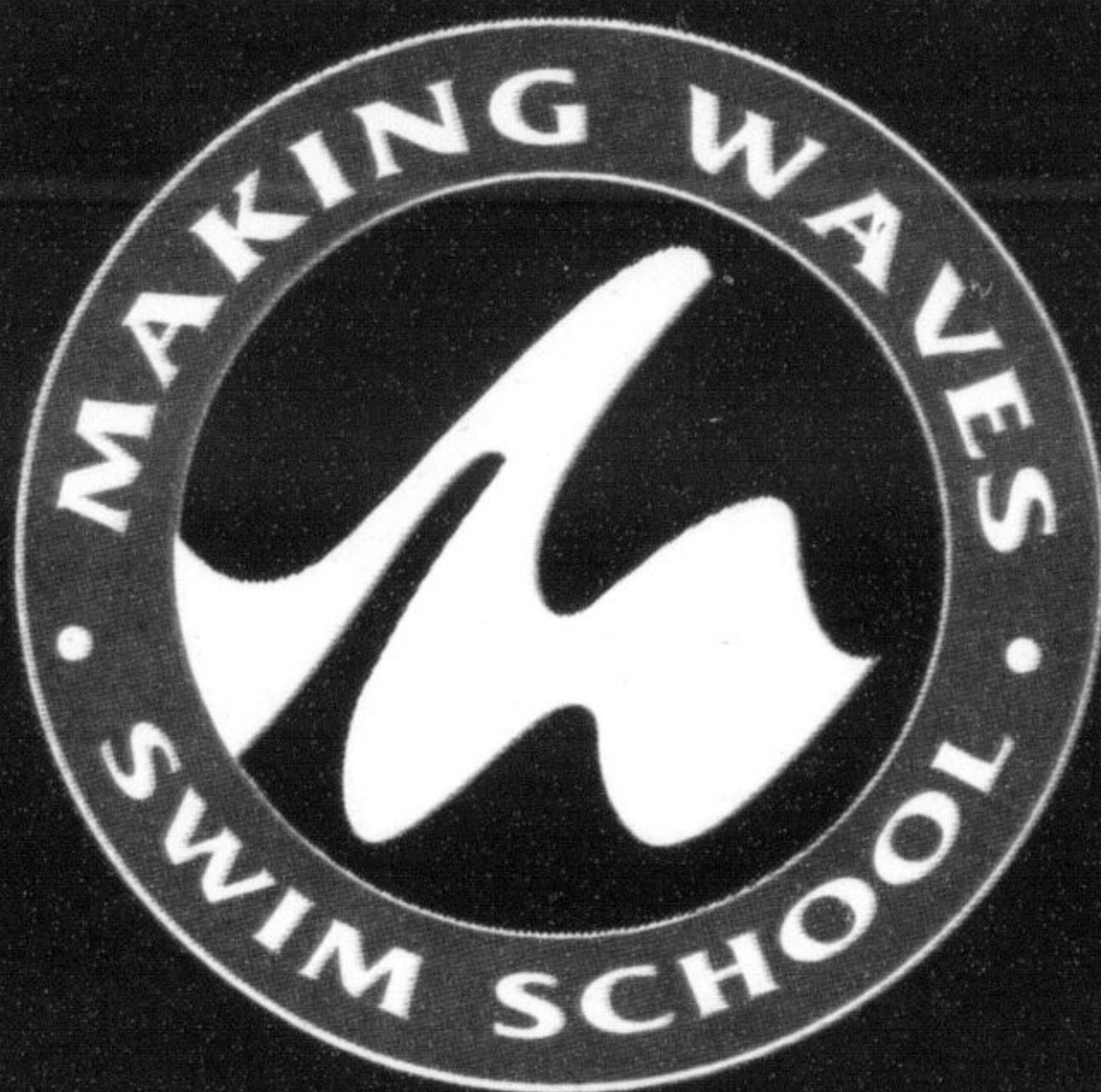
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