

# Keep 13, says new director

By Steve Arnold

Parental involvement, special needs, local autonomy and keeping Grade 13 are among the top goals to be pursued by Halton's new director of education.

Walter Beevor, who takes over the top staff position in the Halton Board of Education hierarchy Jan. 1, was unveiled to reporters at a special press conference last week.

In the coming years, he said, the major challenges to be faced will include the provision of a five-year plan for special services, as required by provincial legislation.

Many other changes may be forced on the local education scene, he said, possibly as a result of the recently completed provincial Secondary Educa-

tion Review Project, which recommended among other things the abolition of Grade 13.

Mr. Beevor, formerly director of education for the Lakehead Board of Education in Thunder Bay, said he supported the retention of the fifth high school year rather than compressing another year of learning into the four other grades.

"I'm in favor of not compressing the curriculum," he said. "I come out in favor of maintaining flexibility in the system for the children who may be having trouble."

He added, however, that some of the problems between secondary and post secondary education can be solved through greater efforts to "mesh" the two levels.

"We need a lot of discussion there. We need a lot

of interface," he said.

On the topic of community involvement, Mr. Beevor said he favored a close relationship between the school system and the community.

"I really believe that schools are important to the community and that our greatest support system is the parents we work with. We have to involve the community in activities that affect their children. We have to break down the barriers that exist and make people feel welcome in the schools," he said.

Under his direction, the Lakehead Board of Education had developed several programs with the local municipal government to share the funding of some school facilities and increase the integration of such facilities with the community, he said.

Mr. Beevor also noted that more and more personal issues are being brought to the attention of teachers by their students "and we have to be willing and able to sit down and discuss the problems that people are having."

"The important thing," he said, "is to show that the organization cares about people. I think that can go a long way toward helping to solve problems."

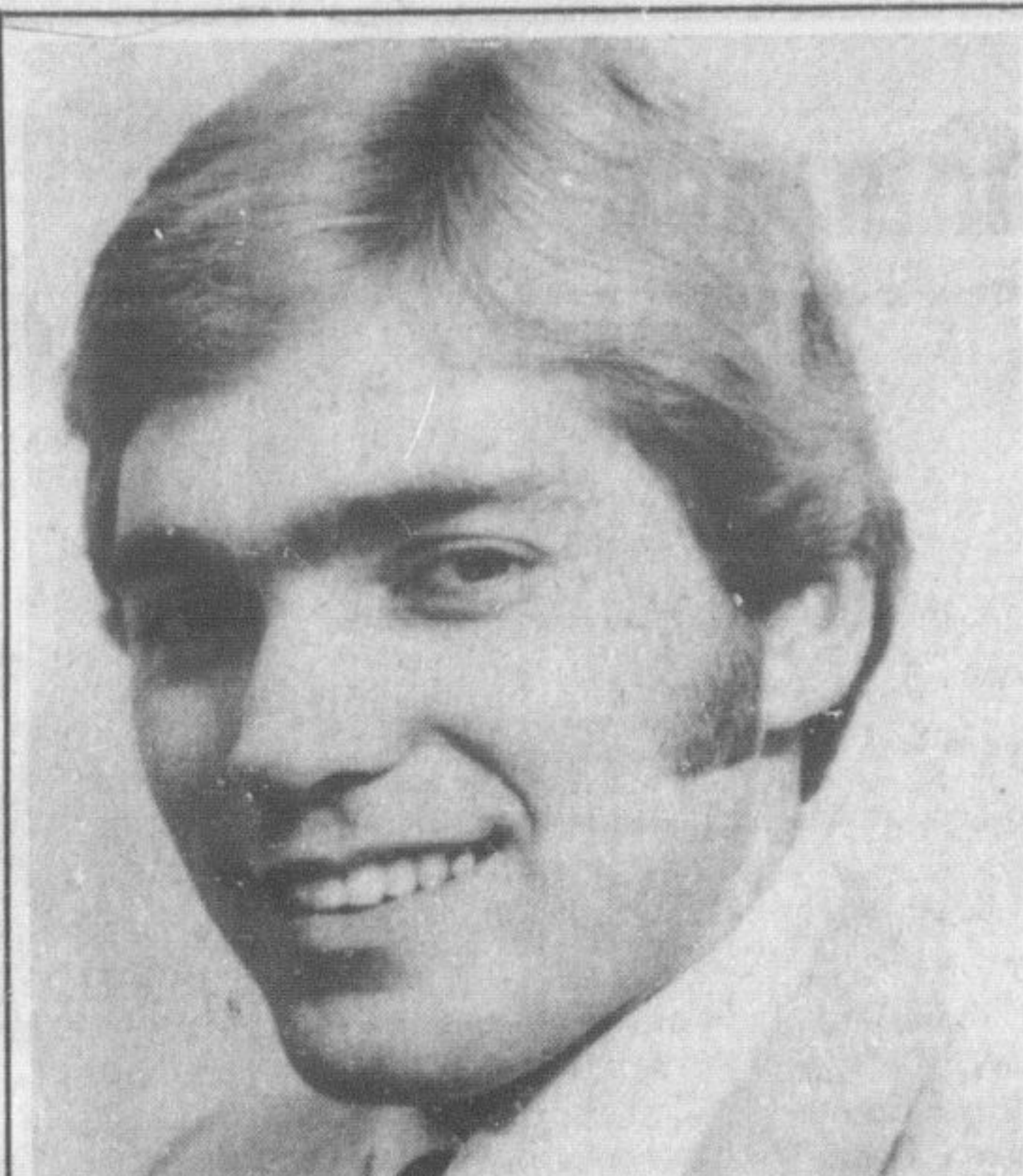
Another of the major problems facing school systems across the province, he noted, is the erosion of local authority and autonomy by other levels of government.

"I really believe in local autonomy where people are elected by parents to make decisions on their behalf because they are aware of the local needs."

"I hate things just being laid on in a unilateral, insensitive way. I don't do that myself," he said.

On the topic of parental involvement in education, Mr. Beevor said he has "always felt that parents have a right to direct the education of their children, but we have to realize that we can't do everything for everybody."

"Most of the parents that I've dealt with have been very reasonable in knowing what they can expect and cannot expect," he said.



## Challinor rejoins Champion as editor

Herb Crowther, Publisher of The Canadian Champion, is pleased to announce the appointment of John Challinor as Editor of The Canadian Champion.

Mr. Challinor, 26, rejoins The Champion after a four-year absence. During this time, the Milton native worked as a reporter for The Toronto Star, The Mississauga News and the now defunct Mississauga Times.

Most recently, Mr. Challinor was associate editor of publications for The Canadian Manufacturers' Association (CMA).

Mr. Challinor, a graduate of Milton District High School, received his journalism training at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute. He was employed at The Champion in 1977 as a student reporter while working towards a degree in journalism.

## ...home revives men

(Continued from page 1)

few and the cardinal rule of not drinking.

If a resident returns to the house after drinking he is expelled from the house.

To enter the house, a man must be "dry" for three days. Many residents are referred to the house in rural Milton by doctors or hospitals and still others from detox centres and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA).

There are some cruel facts which apply to the majority who pass through the door of the old red brick farm house. About 70 per cent of the men are unemployed and estranged from their families.

"This (Halton Recovery House) is really the bottom line," Mrs. Fineran explains.

"There is a lot of reflection on the past and that can be a destructive thing if they maintain that sort of mentality," she added.

A certain amount of background information dealing with the individual resident is necessary when setting goals. Each case is unique as the men are all functioning at various emotional, physical and intellectual levels, according to the director.

"We don't impose our wishes on a resident, it must come from the man himself," Mrs. Fineran said.

They are required to attend one mandatory meeting of AA a week and on the average men opt to attend three or four more meetings a week.

"I feel it is my responsibility to introduce them to it. AA meetings are very therapeutic, almost like group therapy. They discuss their problems and get feedback," she said.

Treatment is a word the house director does not associate with Halton Recovery House, in Generally Mrs. Fineran spends about 2 hours a week providing informal counselling for individual residents, but some who require more intensive attention get it.

Her office operates on an open door policy and she stresses that the men come first and paper work second.

It is important to impress upon the men that being sober doesn't mean they can't have fun. A lack of recreation and social opportunities or interests is a situation an alcoholic must over-

come as part of his recovery.

Mrs. Fineran realizes the importance of cultivating new interests in the residents and she would like to see recreation and vocational facilities developed for their use, but at this time it is near impossible.

Halton Recovery House is a rented facility and until a permanent home is found, ongoing projects and major capital outlays to better a facility will not be made.

Each year the fate of Halton Recovery House is reassessed as Halton Region and the provincial government reconsider grants.

Residents who are not part of the work force are subsidized by the region through a daily rate and those who are employed pay \$165 per month for room and board.

Funds for supplies, staff and other necessities are received through government grants and several contributing groups.

Like the director's office, the house also operates on an open door basis. Residents are encouraged to return not only to keep the director up to date on their progress but for the benefit of other residents for whom they serve as examples.

"They maintain contact by phone or regular visits. It helps the other residents who feel if he can do it, I can do it," one said.

One former resident has come back to stay but in a different capacity.

Bob Dalton, live-in House Manager since December 1980 said his new role makes him feel pretty good.

A member of AA for the past six years Bob offers expertise in that area but suggests other residents who return for visits have more of an impact on current residents than he does.

Although the average stay at Halton Recovery House is six months, a man may continue his stay until he is ready to face life on his own again.

With him he must take the knowledge that he cannot take that first drink, something some men find extremely hard to accept at first.

In keeping with the open door policies, an open house is being held Saturday, Nov. 28 from 1.30 to 6 p.m. The occasion will mark the fifth anniversary of the house and the public is welcome.

## Errors in story about Perras death

An obituary published in The Canadian Champion last week, contributed by another Halton newspaper, has been found to have contained a number of factual errors.

The story, which reported the untimely death of Carol Perras, wife of former Halton federal Liberal candidate Bill Perras, contained four errors of fact.

Mrs. Perras died following a lengthy battle with a form of cancer known as Hodgkins Disease, not leukemia, as was reported in the obituary.

Her age was given as 30 years when she was, in fact, 31 years old; her husband was described as a former Liberal candidate for the Oakville federal riding, when the proper name of the constituency is Halton.

Finally, the report said Mrs. Perras met her husband while he was studying law at Cornell University. Mr. Perras took his legal training at the University of Ottawa and graduated from Cornell before proceeding to law school.

The Champion apologizes for any pain these errors may have caused the Perras family.

## Jaycee survey to be unveiled

The results of a community attitude survey covering more than 200 Milton residents will be presented by Milton Jaycees on Halton Cable TV Channel 4, Friday at 6 p.m.

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