

Retirement opens battle for separate board seat

By ROB KELLY

Their battles are for smaller blocs of voters but the people running for the two school boards in Milton and the hydro-electric commission appear just as interested in getting elected.

Thursday night at E.C. Drury High School Ward 2 hydro-commission candidates, and public as well as separate school board contenders battled for attention amid municipal council candidates for the ward.

They seek the least glamorous positions at the least glamorous level of politics. But their influence on day-to-day life can be enormous. The school boards eat up more than half the regional tax assessment. On the hydro-electric commission, candidate Jack Robertson said, a quicker debt payment schedule will result in a \$6-million saving to Milton taxpayers.

One of the heavily contested races will be for the two urban ward separate school board trustees position. The retirement of Angelo Tonelli has created a vacuum after many years of service.

Four candidates are tussling for the position. They are: Mary Lou Loughlin, Vince Botticella, Rex Sutcliffe and Ray Stephenson.

Mrs. Loughlin is a newcomer to politics but she had little difficulty presenting one of the more organized speeches of the evening within the two-minute deadline.

She hit on the major points of her past accomplishments, most of which relate to volunteer work.

The candidate even came equipped with a campaign slogan, rare for a rookie: "A vote for Lou is a voice for you," both she and her pamphlets proclaimed.

Mrs. Loughlin is concerned with school programming and more input from parents, primarily. She is a director with the North Halton Association for the Mentally Handicapped, a member of two regional health committees, a six-year nursery school volunteer and an active participant in the Milton Springers Gymnastic Club.

She also has been active in local separate school issues, her brochure stated.

Vince Botticella would like to see

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kindergarten start at age four. Also, he would lobby to have the board pay insurance premium differentials for student volunteers transporting other students for school purposes.

Mr. Botticella sees the use of alcohol spirit duplicators as a health hazard within the board and will push for their removal. The devices are not used in the public board.

In a bow to a former representative, Mr. Sutcliffe said the reason he is running is because Mr. Tonelli is not. The candidate is a former supply teacher, has four children within the system, and is concerned about "the best education possible, that each student reach his potential within an environment of Catholic education."

Mr. Stephenson made several references to a business background (he is an independent businessman, the owner of a rental car franchise).

He is also involved in "consulting work" and is attending university part-time.

The candidate said his business background would serve him well in representing the financial interests of ratepayers.

It's a two-way race in the public board, with Jennifer Willoughby challenging incumbent Bill Harrison.

Mrs. Willoughby said she could be a "full-time representative" (Mr. Harrison works as a teacher). She wants to make voters "more aware of what is happening in our schools and your school board."

She advocates further drug and sex education in the system.

Mr. Harrison said his desire to serve was "not just a public one, it's a personal one" since he has children in the Halton system. He said he felt "very good" about the

way the job is being done. The incumbent noted the Halton board must push for increased funding from the province to accommodate student population growth.

Dan Scarffe moved into the race for the two hydro-commission positions with incumbents Jack Robertson and Bill Rowney.

Mr. Robertson said the reorganization in Milton Hydro means current ratepayers won't need to support the costs of any new developments in Milton.

He cited a further accomplishment as restructuring the local debt interest payments for a \$6-million saving. Finally, he said the opening of a new station near James Snow Parkway in 1989 is a saving because it will be closer to consumers.

Mr. Scarffe works as a supervisor at Ontario Hydro, is an engineer and holds an MBA degree. He alluded to that experience and his willingness to serve.

Mr. Rowney pointed to his long record of community service in various areas as proof of commitment. Mr. Rowney has also been a hydro commissioner for 30 years.



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