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Trustee wants policy to stress being 'Canadian'

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
Special to The Champion

In developing a race and ethnocultural equity policy one public school trustee wants administrators to stress the importance of "being Canadian first."

"When the time comes that we as white people will be a minority, I hope at that time that everybody will want to be a Canadian first," said Milton trustee Bob Clarke at a recent Halton Board of Education meeting.

Stating that before he got labeled "Bob the bigot", Clarke said he wanted to find out what the board was doing in connection to equity, multi-cultural and citizenship issues. Pointing to the United States, Mr. Clarke said people need a common bond from which to start.

"Over the years we've never developed a common bond. Being a Canadian first is very, very important, in my opinion," said Mr. Clarke.

Mr. Clarke also noted the board's development of a multi-faith calendar and warned it might be dangerous taking religion back into the public schools on a multi-faith level.

In recent years, the Ministry of Education sent a directive to public

school boards upholding a court ruling that saw the Lord's Prayer become one of many prayers and readings included in daily school opening exercises instead of any having primacy.

"It's no secret the province and the board have downplayed or taken away some of the traditional Christian values," said Mr. Clarke.

Policy and planning superintendent Rae Stoness said he was confident neither Christian nor Jewish values were being downgraded at the board when they've been so "inherent" in the building of the public school system.

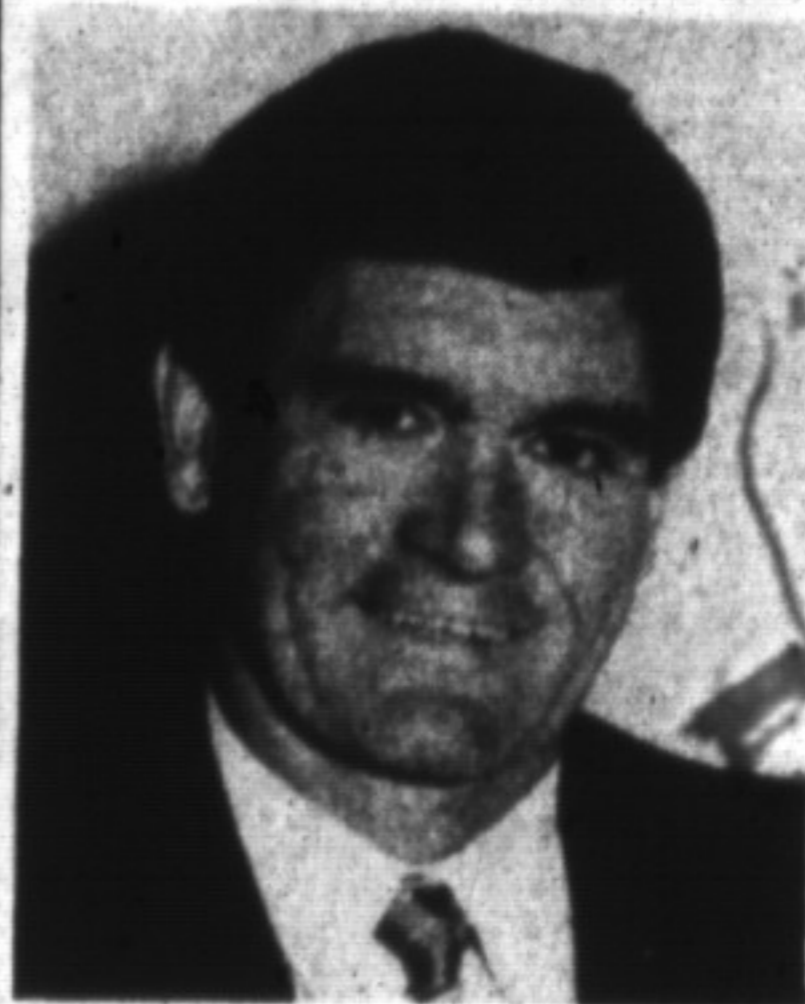
The discussion at last week's board meeting began with an update on the board's two-year-old race and ethnocultural equity policy.

Mr. Stoness pointed to "significant steps forward" that have happened on several fronts with the assistance of outside agencies like the Halton Children's Aid Society, the Halton Regional Police Service and multi-cultural groups.

Among the accomplishments to date were the development of a multi-faith calendar, guidelines for the recognition of religious holidays in the schools, compilation of a resource list of translators and inter-

see CLARKE on page 23

THE PLACE TO BE...



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7:00 - 9:00

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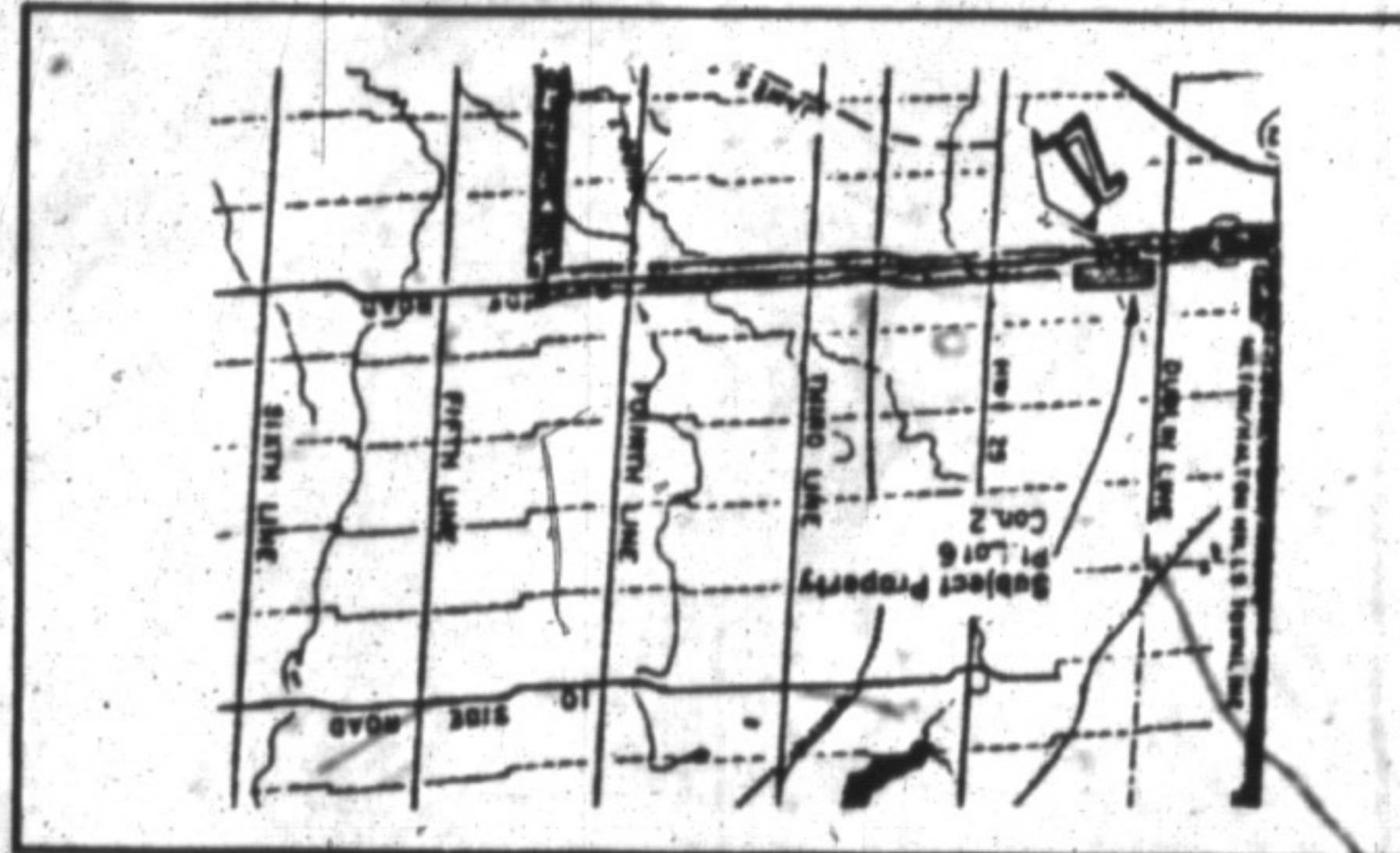
Presented by the committee to elect Bruce Hood



THE CORPORATION OF
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

1 Halton Hills Drive - P.O. Box 128
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873-2600

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING WARD 2 / DUBLIN LINE / NO. 5 SIDEROAD



Council for the Town of Halton Hills will conduct a Public Meeting to examine and discuss a proposed amendments to the Halton Hills Official Plan and Zoning By-law 74-51 in order to permit a plan of subdivision consisting of 16 residential lots and one (1) commercial block.

The subject property is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of No. 5 Sideroad (Regional Road No. 9) and Dublin Line (First Line), with the property being described as Part of Lot 6, Concession 2, Town of Halton Hills (Esqueewing).

Further information is available in the Planning Department.

ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE WELCOME

TIME: 7:00 P.M.
DATE: Monday, January 18, 1993
LOCATION: Council Chamber,
Halton Hills Civic Centre,
1 Halton Hills Drive (Georgetown)

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