

Two way race evolves for board of education chair

By KATHY YANCHUS
Special to The Champion

Maintaining continuity from the previous board to the incoming one is a major factor in Halton Hills trustee Dave Whiting's decision to seek re-election as Halton Board of Education Chair.

The election was slated for last

night. Results were not available at press time.

"And it's important to have someone working closely with senior management," said Mr. Whiting. "I believe I've shown I have the ability to do this."

Facing the board in the future are issues related to social contract, salary negotiations and the Royal

Commission on Learning, all of which will involve close association with administration.

Leblovic opponent

"I think I have the respect of the teaching staff and of senior management," said Mr. Whiting.

Running against Mr. Whiting is Burlington trustee Diane Leblovic,

who couldn't be reached for comment at press time.

Seeking the position of Board vice-chair are Burlington trustee Linda Schreiber and Oakville trustee Penny Siebert.

Ms Siebert, who has been vice-chair and chair of the board's finance committee, feels the role of vice-chair is the next logical step.

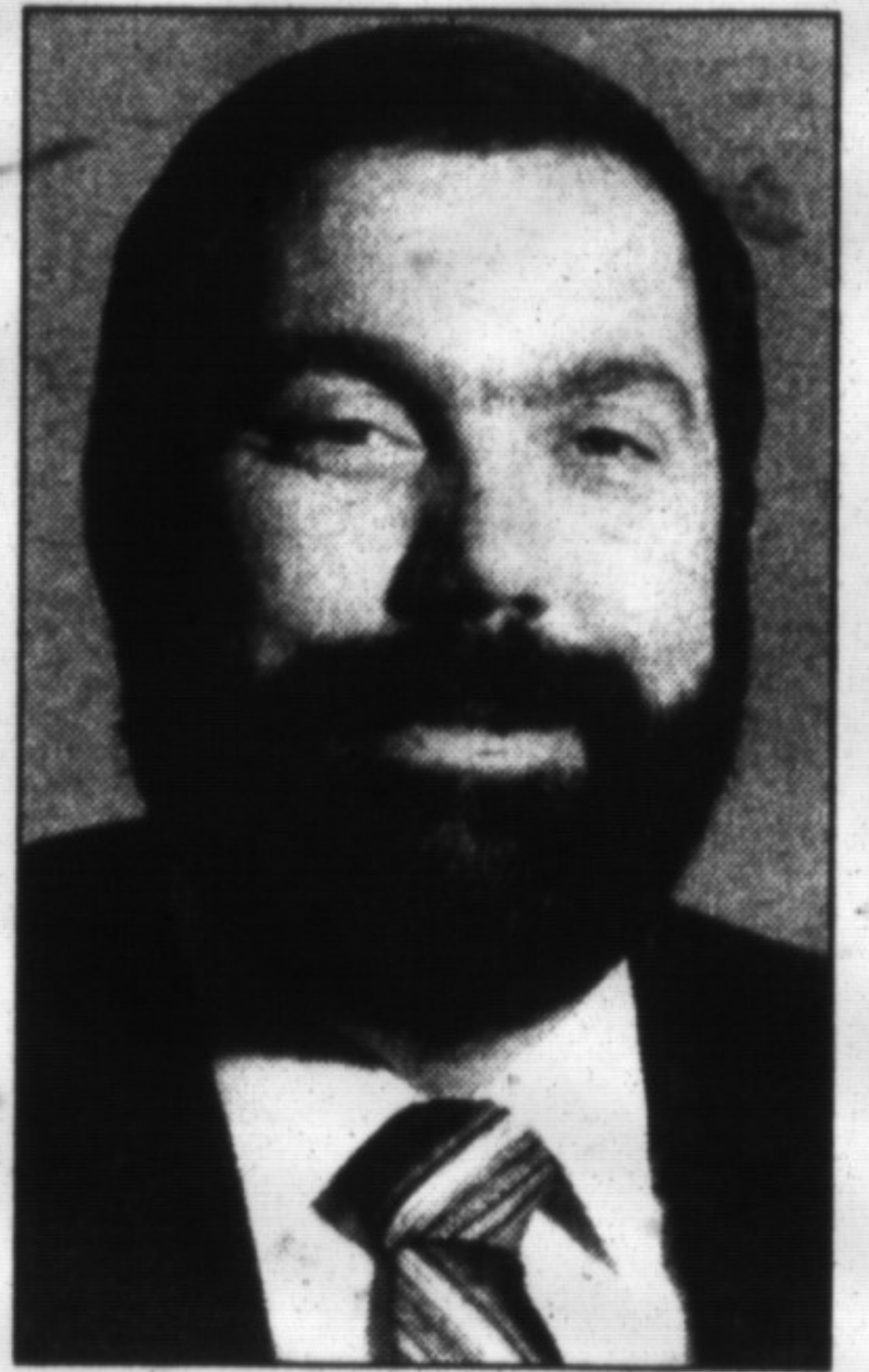
"I feel like I've been through the preparation process," said Ms. Siebert. "As chair of the finance committee, I found I really enjoyed the issue of process, making sure the meeting is run fairly for all trustees and ensuring the work gets through, protecting the integrity of what we're doing as a process."

More open

Ms Siebert said the board has been moving towards a process more open to the public "and I'd like to continue in that direction."

"I'm one of those people who is interested in collaboration, as opposed to confrontation and I'd like to see that kind of tone at the board," said Ms Siebert in citing another reason for her decision to run.

Ms Schreiber, who is entering her second term as a trustee, feels the



Dave Whiting

time is right for her both professionally and personally, having chaired many committees both on a professional and volunteer basis.

"I have found that over the years many of the difficulties have encountered at the board table are related to process," explained Ms Schreiber.

Being vice-chair would automatically entitle her to executive committee membership and "give me more of a say in advance" to perhaps "reduce" some of those difficulties.

Part of the role of vice-chair is to chair the committee-of-the-whole meetings and Ms Schreiber believes the role of this ensemble is changing and becoming more public.

"I think we've got to keep opening up the board in every way we can," she said, adding that she would also like to have a say in what goes in-camera at committee-of-the-whole meetings and what goes public.

"There's a lot of talent on the board ... when I look around at the board I like the quality of people. I think it's going to be an interesting three years," she noted.

Child find help wanted

Child Find Ontario is looking for volunteers to help in locating and recovering missing children.

Volunteers are needed to help out with child fingerprinting, public speaking, poster distribution, mall displays and fundraising events.

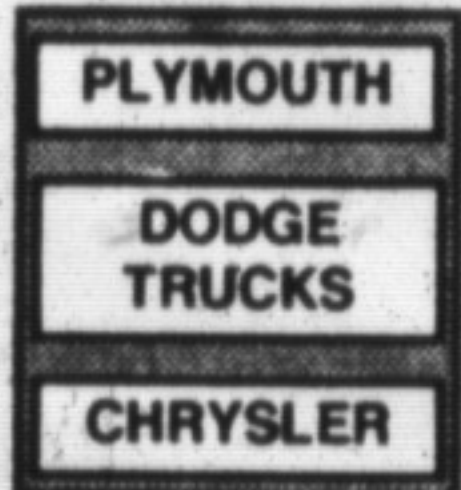
All volunteers must undergo security checks.

In 1993 there were more than 55,000 listings of missing children in Canada. Of that number, 19,400 were in Ontario.

Child Find's headquarters are in Oakville. Those interested in helping out should contact Sandy at (905) 842-5353.

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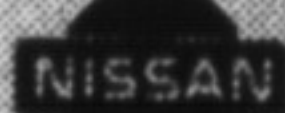


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