



*"I've been trying to find out from the chair why I was removed. Whether I decide to appeal or not I don't know."*  
— Joe Deoni

# Deoni ousted from committee over conflict woes

By **TIM WHITNELL**  
Special to *The Champion*

January was a rocky month for a couple of Halton public and Catholic school board trustees.

One member from each of those boards is no longer on their respective salary committee, in a year in which collective bargaining with various teaching and non-teaching unions will be a big issue.

On January 25 Burlington Trustee Joe Pavelka resigned from the Halton Board of

Education's salary negotiating committee. The 10-member panel had been confirmed by a 12-6 vote. However, the vocal minority balked at Mr. Pavelka's inclusion due to a perceived conflict of interest.

Then, at last week's regular meeting of the Halton Roman Catholic School Board, a terse one-sentence letter from Alice Anne LeMay, chair of the board, was included on the agenda. It informed Joe Deoni, Milton's Wards 1 and 3 trustee, that she had removed him from the board's salary committee.

There was much discussion at the meeting, some of it raucous, about who should be on the three-person salary committee, which deals with teacher contracts. Very little, however, was said about Mr. Deoni's abrupt removal.

The board had received a letter from Robert Boyle, principal of Oakville's St. Luke's school. It suggested Mr. Deoni, then chair of the salary committee, had a conflict of interest because his son is a member of the Ontario Catholic Teachers Association bargaining unit.

Mr. Deoni made it clear to the board he expected the letter be accepted as information only, and not as an item on which the board should act. He said the law provides — and Ms LeMay agreed — that only a ratepayer, not the board or a teacher's union, can try to remove a trustee under these circumstances.

After the meeting Mr. Deoni, a seven-year member of the board's salary committee, was initially upset about being ousted, but later turned philosophical about the situation.

"Most trustees work around these conflicts," he stated. "(So) I've been trying to find out from the chair why I was removed. I don't have any idea. Whether I decide to appeal or not I don't know."

Softening his position somewhat, Mr. Deoni added, "I've known Bob Boyle for years. I don't think there was anything vindictive about this."

"I could be altruistic and say he was looking after my best interests," he added with a laugh.

Ms LeMay said, "The reason you may take someone off a committee is for the good of the whole board. I don't have to give an official reason (but you can't get tied up in (conflicts of) personalities."

Oakville Trustee Kevin O'Connor convinced the board the salary committee is, in fact, an ad hoc entity, not a standing one. Therefore, its members and chair should be appointed by the board chair, not elected by trustees, as has been past

practice. As a result of the change, Ms LeMay will select three trustees from a list of submitted names and appoint a salary committee chair in time for the next full board meeting, slated for Feb. 27.

The teacher salary committee will be an important one in 1996 for the Halton Catholic board because the elementary and secondary school teachers' contracts expire Aug. 31.

## Old glasses help others

An old pair of glasses could mean improved sight for visually impaired people in developing countries.

A program sponsored by Lenscrafters and Lions Club International aims to give the gift of sight to those in need.

An ongoing program, Give the Gift of Sight collects, cleans, classifies and prescribes used eye glasses and parts of eye glasses and sends them to developing countries.

The Halton Regional Police Service is asking the public for their assistance in furthering the success of the program. Unwanted eye glasses can be taken to any police station in the region. The Milton station is located at 155 King St. (just southeast of Town Hall).

The World Health Organization estimates that one-fifth of the world population's eyesight could be improved with eye glasses.

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**NOTICE TO CITIZENS**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**WATER CHLORINATION VARIANCE APPLICATION**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1996**

Milton Optimist Building  
311 Commercial Street  
Milton, Ontario

**7:30 p.m.**

At its November 29, 1995 meeting, Regional Council voted to apply to the Minister of Energy and Environment for a variance from the requirement for continuous chlorination of the Kelso well water supply and to ask that a requirement for standby chlorination of the Kelso well water supply be imposed instead. As a part of that application, the Region is holding this public meeting to hear from the citizens of the area.

The Chairman of Halton region invites members of the public to comment on the issue of continuous chlorination of the water supply. Verbal submissions will be accepted at the meeting and comment forms will be available there to complete and return. Written submissions should be forwarded to the Office of the Clerk at the address listed below no later than Thursday, February 29, 1996.

For further information, please contact:  
Joan Eaglesham, Regional Clerk  
Regional Municipality of Halton  
Halton Regional Centre  
1151 Bronte Road  
Oakville, Ontario  
L6M 3L1  
(905) 878-8113 Ext. 7237  
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