

Drunk driver can get his driver's licence back

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was too angered to publicly comment much about the ruling, which was opposed by the Crown.

He did say he isn't pleased with the situation and believes overturning the original sentencing in such a manner sends the wrong message and actually encourages drunk driving.

Mr. Lake pleaded guilty to two charges of impaired driving causing death, three counts of impaired driving causing bodily harm, two counts of criminal negligence causing death, three of criminal negligence causing bodily harm and one of driving with over the legal limit of alcohol in his blood.

The crash injured the Nissan's driver and front-seat passenger as well as the driver of a Toyota, which Mr. Lake's car also struck.

Court has heard Mr. Lake told police after the accident that he only had consumed a couple of beers. However, witnesses testified he drank about a dozen before driving.

He was sentenced in 1990 to six years in prison. He served 14 months before being granted parole and sent to a halfway house for a year. He was also banned from driving for life.

However, the Court of Appeal took into account that the 44-year-old Burlington resident has shown great remorse and has begun a crusade of volunteering his time to speak to groups about the tragic results of drinking and driving.

Halton Regional Police Det. Kim Duncan said Mr. Lake, who no longer drinks, appears to be "totally remorseful" for his actions.

Det. Duncan got to know Mr. Lake through public education initiatives by Halton police's regional traffic bureau, which investigates accidents involving death and serious injury.

"He's the only one in 80 fatalities I've had who has been remorseful," Det. Duncan said.

Mr. Lake spoke to students and other community groups on behalf of the bureau and now often visits schools through Metropolitan Toronto Police.

To date, the former Oakville resident has stood before thousands of young people as far away as Alberta and Saskatchewan telling them his story.

Mrs. Gregory questioned how in good conscience Mr. Lake could have launched his sentence appeal, knowing the tragedy that resulted from his getting behind the wheel.

"Everyone's making him out to be a saint," she said.

Mr. Lake, who spoke to *The Champion* in a rare media interview yesterday, said he doesn't know if he will ever be able to drive again.

The appeal was launched on his lawyer's advice 30 days after the sentencing, he said. He initially told his lawyer not to file the appeal because he didn't think he could get behind the wheel of a car.

However, his lawyer advised him he might feel differently in 10 years, and by then the appeal opportunity would have lapsed.

Mr. Lake added that not a day goes by when he doesn't think about the crash and the ensuing tragedy.

Through his speaking engagements, he said, he has chosen to "be part of the solution" to impaired driving.

Although he understands people's con-

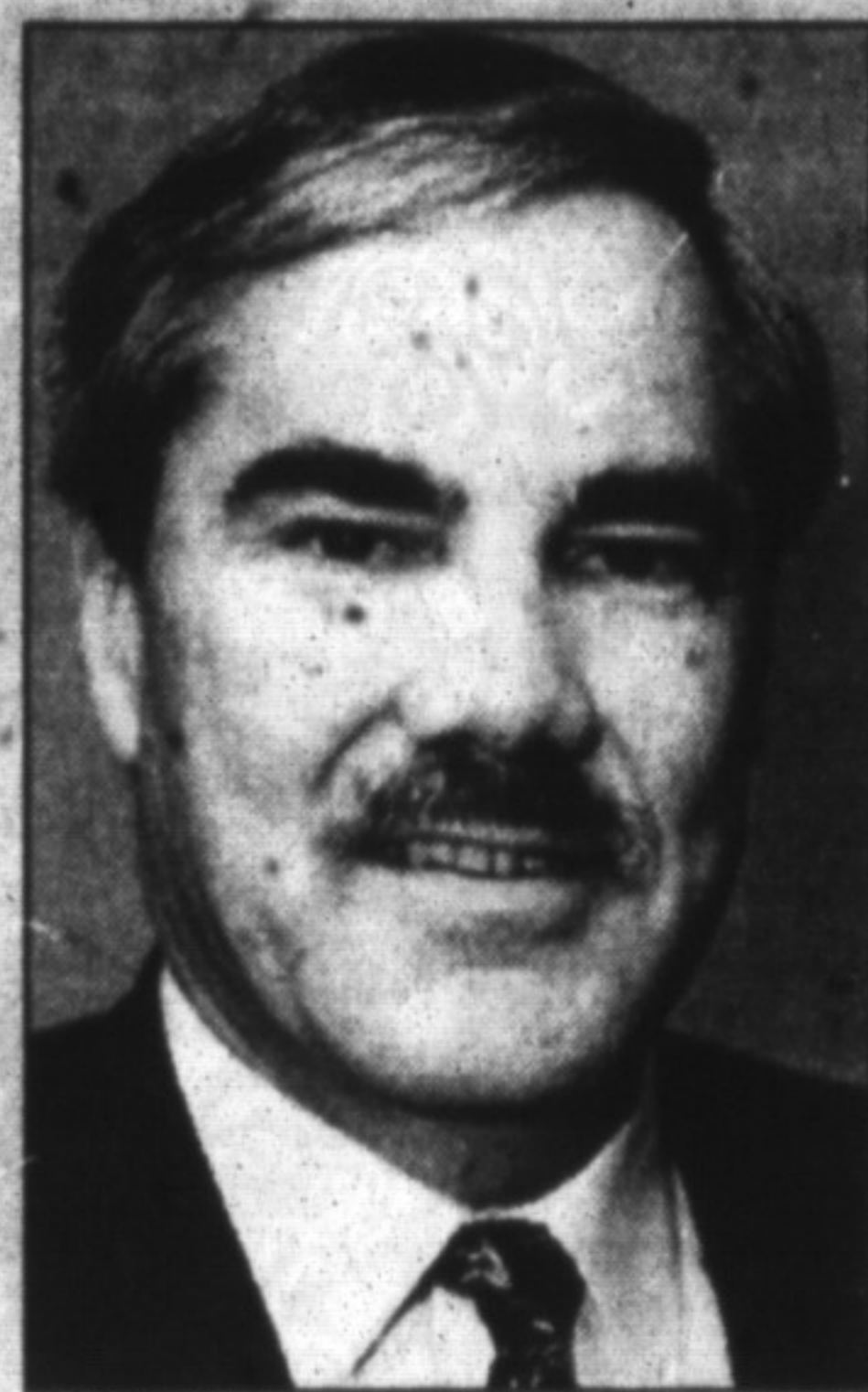
cerns about him driving, he doesn't believe he's a risk to society.

"I don't lead the same life at all anymore," he said. "I haven't had a drink since the day of the crash."

He said he prefers to keep a low profile so publicity doesn't disturb the family of the crash victims.

He also doesn't want controversy to curtail his efforts in speaking to young people, who, he believes, benefit greatly from his efforts.

"They're stunned by what they hear," he said.



Fred Sweeney

Could be some leeway in RC council issue

By KIM ARNOTT
Special to *The Champion*

A controversial policy banning non-Catholics from sitting on school councils is back in the laps of local separate school board trustees.

Trustees, who approved the policy last week by a vote of 7-5, will have to revisit the issue because of a procedural error made at the board table.

Under board bylaws, policy

decisions must be approved by two-thirds of present and voting trustees.

Last week's decision doesn't satisfy that condition, so trustees have sent the proposed policy back to the English-language section.

The issue will be discussed at next month's meeting, and even Director of Education Fred Sweeney is open to speculation that the policy could look quite

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5—The Canadian Champion, Friday, May 31, 1996

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