

# Halton school board official charged in sex crackdown

By KAREN SMITH  
The Champion

A senior Halton Board of Education official was among 20 men arrested in a police crackdown on illegal sexual activity in a Hamilton park.

Graeme John Barrett, the board's superintendent of education services, was charged earlier

this month with sexual assault in a Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police undercover operation.

Mr. Barrett, 53, of Burlington and 11 other men were charged with sexual assault in Operation Rosebud, aimed at tackling illegal sexual activity in the park and parking areas adjacent to York Boulevard from Dundurn Street to Plains Road in Hamilton.

Eight other men were charged with committing an indecent act.

The daytime police crackdown came in response to complaints from citizens about illegal sexual activity in the city's west-end parks, said Hamilton-Wentworth police spokesman Sgt. Dennis Waddle.

Mr. Barrett went on sick leave last Friday, the same day the Halton Board of Education learned

of the charge, said director of education Bob Williams.

"I think it's a very unfortunate situation," he said. "Graeme is one of the finest people I've ever worked with."

School trustees will look into the situation to determine what, if any, disciplinary action will be taken, Mr. Williams said.

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Lockout goes on

# Hydro bosses rebuff union's plea to meet

By KAREN SMITH  
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Locked out hydro workers are upset with hydro commissioners for refusing to meet with them to discuss their ongoing labour dispute.

After the Milton Hydro-Electric Commission declined the workers' verbal and written requests for a face-to-face conference, employees showed up at a hydro commission meeting Monday morning.

However, the commission refused to discuss any issues it wasn't notified about 48 hours prior to the agenda being drawn up.

"Anything not on the agenda, we will not be dealing with today," said Commissioner Murray Inglis told nine unionized employees who came to the meeting.

Mr. Inglis stepped in as acting chairman to address the labour-related issue after commission Chair Jack Robertson, a unionized employee with Mississauga Hydro, declared a conflict of interest.

Mr. Robertson told *The Champion* after the meeting it's not the elected commission's place to discuss labour disputes with employees. That's left to the commission's negotiating committee, made up of Milton Hydro management.

"I don't believe that's our job," Mr. Robertson said. "We represent ratepayers, not employees."

Mr. Inglis said the employees' concerns should be passed along to them through the company's negotiating team.

But unionized employee Jay Norland said he believes the commission has a responsibility to get involved in the labour dispute and wants to know where they stand on issues.

"We feel the commission has to be accountable," he said.

The hydro workers, members of the Power Workers' Union, were locked out Friday afternoon after the commission gave employees an ultimatum.

Milton Hydro told employees they would be locked out at 4:30 p.m. Friday if the union turned down the latest contract proposal.

The union had been in a strike position since May 30. No talks have been scheduled.

### NEWSLINES

#### Hire a student week barbecue

The Canada Employment Centre for Students is celebrating "Hire A Student Week" with a barbecue on Friday (June 21) from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The student employment centre is located at 310 Main Street East and is open for business from 9 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. and can be reached at 878-8418 ext. 27. The centre will have a booth set up Saturday, June 22 at the Milton Farmers' Market.

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Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

The Milton Hydro Electric Commission held a behind-closed-doors meeting at Town Hall Monday moments before its controversial public meeting was about to begin in the council chamber. Here, Don Thorne, Milton Hydro general manager, makes a point.



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