

# Foxfire opponents stage mass mail campaign

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
Special to The Champion

Now backed by a citizen's group called PACT (Parents Against Corrupt Teaching), a Campbellville man has intensified his efforts to remove a novel from the Halton Board of Education curriculum.

Jack Huisman is leading a group of parents in opposition to *Foxfire: Confessions of a Girl Gang* being read in grade 12 English classes at Milton District High School.

According to Mr. Huisman, the Joyce Carol Oates novel is "pure filth" which glorifies violence and male bashing, depicts scenes of sexually explicit behavior and uses coarse language throughout.

"Ms Oates writes to the dark side of America, she even says so on her book jackets," said Mr. Huisman. "I don't know why this is being taught in our classes. The language is too much, it's seen on almost every page in the book."

Mr. Huisman's campaign to have the book removed from the classroom began in the fall of 1994, when it was first introduced at Milton District High School. Upon learning that his 17-year-old son was studying it, and reading through it himself, he immediately requested a meeting with vice-principal Barb Singleton.

"At first she agreed to a meeting between just the two of us, but two hours later she called back and said two so-called experts would attend the meeting as well.

One of them was Kit Rankin, now our superintendent of educational services. They were just going to try and brainwash me into thinking their way, so I refused the meeting.

"Ms Rankin says it's my fault the book is still in the classroom because I haven't gone through proper channels," he added.

Ms Singleton said *Foxfire* is in fact optional reading material in the grade 12 classrooms. "It falls under small group or individual reading. Students have a choice between *The Great Gatsby*, *Kamouraska* or *Foxfire*," explained Ms Singleton, who added Milton District High School has the support of its school council in teaching *Foxfire*.

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"I've had only one call from Mr. Huisman, that came late one Sunday night, and it was the most bizarre conversation I've ever had."

TRUSTEE  
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—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, October 9, 1996

## Provincial minister to speak here

Milton residents can learn more about Ontario's economic future during a special breakfast meeting at the Bayrischer-Hof Restaurant next Thursday, (Oct. 17), the first of two information sessions sponsored by the Milton Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting, from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., will feature Bill Saunderson, Ontario's Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism. Appointed to the position in June, Mr. Saunderson will focus on pushing for an attractive business climate in the province.

The second meeting in the series will be held Tuesday, Oct. 29 at the Muddy Duck Restaurant. Stephen Kaiser, president of the Urban Development Institute (UDI) will talk about recent revisions and concerns regarding the Development Charges Act.

The chamber welcomes all residents, members and non-members, to these breakfast meetings. General manager Sandy Martin encourages those interested in attending next Thursday's meeting to pre-register by Tuesday, calling 878-0581.



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