

Huisman rankled over petition letter

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

Foxfire activist Jack Huisman is angry with Halton Board of Education Trustee Tim Kingsbury, who has claimed only seven Milton residents signed a petition calling for removal of the controversial novel from the public school curriculum.

Foxfire, by Joyce Carole Oates, has been the subject of an 18 month battle centred around a senior English class at Milton District High School. Mr. Huisman ignited the controversy when he called for the board to remove the book after he read sections of it. It was brought home by his son.

The book has since been taken out of the classroom but remains on the curriculum as a novel

which could be assigned to students for individual study.

Mr. Huisman collected signatures for a petition and often claimed to have 2,000 names asking that the book be withdrawn. Mr. Kingsbury said in a letter printed in *The Canadian Champion* on January 8, the petition filed with the board has only 888 signatures, with the vast majority coming from Scarborough, Toronto, Hamilton and a smattering of smaller communities. Only seven come from Milton, he said in the letter.

Mr. Huisman said Mr. Kingsbury is "comparing apples to oranges" in that an additional petition with a further 819 names from Halton, as well as additional signatures, was shown to board members when the book was reviewed at the school level.

Mr. Huisman said his claim of 2,000 signatures

includes both petitions. He added the board refused the additional petition when it was offered during the review committee process.

"In his letter he's putting in front of the people of Milton that only seven people from Milton signed and that's the wrong information," said Mr. Huisman.

Mr. Huisman said the second petition, which still has, includes 251 signatures from Milton, 346 from Burlington, 169 from Oakville and 53 from Georgetown-Acton.

Mr. Kingsbury said in an interview he was unaware of any petition in support of Mr. Huisman's position save the one filed with the board.

He said the board also has a second petition which supports keeping *Foxfire* on the approved reading list.



Gord Krantz

What will survey say?

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A survey has been sent to households in Milton about possible changes to municipal ward boundaries.

They could be put in place prior to the next municipal election slated for November. The survey is also available at Town Hall.

"I really encourage individuals to come in and get one and fill it out," said Mayor Gord Krantz. "The issues will be debated at the council meeting on (Monday) January 27."

Currently Milton is divided into three wards: Urban Milton, the southern rural area and Nassagaweya. The mayor sits on Halton regional council, as does one representative from the rural area and one from urban Milton. Each of these representatives also sit on Milton council and they are joined by four more councillors from the urban area and an additional four councillors, divided two-and-two between the dual rural areas. This produces Milton's current system of 10 councillors plus a mayor.

Urban Milton has a population of 22,404 according to the 1991 census. Southern rural Ward 1 contains 2,988 people and Nassagaweya (Ward 3) an additional 4,746.

The survey asks if changes should be made, how many councillors are necessary and why. It also asks if ward boundaries should change, and the benefits of any proposals.

The survey also raises a key question regarding changes to external boundaries of the Town of Milton and again asks for a brief outline of the benefits of any proposed change.

According to Milton's chief administrative officer David Hipgrave some surveys have already been received.

People are encouraged to have their completed surveys in as soon as possible in order for them to be tabulated and included in the report to council which will be presented at the Monday, Jan. 27 meeting.



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