

Another trustee needed for Catholic School Board: trustees

By Tim Whitnell
METROLAND WEST
MEDIA GROUP

The Halton Catholic school board is

adamant it deserves another trustee but has decided to retain the status quo in terms of where they serve, at the same time lobbying the provincial government to make

changes as to how it allocates elected school board representatives. At last week's board meeting, trustees voted 6-3 in favour of a multi-pronged motion put forth by

Oakville trustee Paul Marai. Stating there is a need for more trustees in intensive growth areas of the board, like Milton, but not willing to accept a reduction in

representation in its other communities, Marai's motion reaffirms the status quo of trustee distribution for the 2014 municipal election —four for Oakville, three for Burlington and one each for Halton Hills and Milton, unless the provincial government allows an additional trustee.

The motion that passed also states trustee elections within the Halton Catholic board remain in the current format — with trustees serving at large in Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills but by wards for Burlington.

Lastly, the motion adopted directs the Halton Catholic board to create a multi-year plan to lobby the provincial government to alter regulations for adding trustees, to accommodate significant growth in areas like Milton.

Three weeks ago, Education Director Michael Pautler delivered a staff report to trustees that indicated the board wasn't entitled to an extra (10th) trustee for the October 2014 municipal elections, a threshold based on tax ratepayer per trustee and student per trustee government calculations.

Pautler previously told trustees that, using current statistics, they wouldn't be eligible for a 10th representative for about another 16 years.

That being the case, board administrators had suggested the most equitable solution, for now, was to take away one of the four trustee positions for Oakville and give a second trustee position to Milton at the time of the next municipal election.

Both towns are acknowledged as undergoing rapid housing development, with Milton's among the most intense in Canada.

"This motion attempts to get to the deficiencies in (education ministry) policy..." Marai said in support of his plan.

"We are in a very unique position; we are one of the few (student popu-



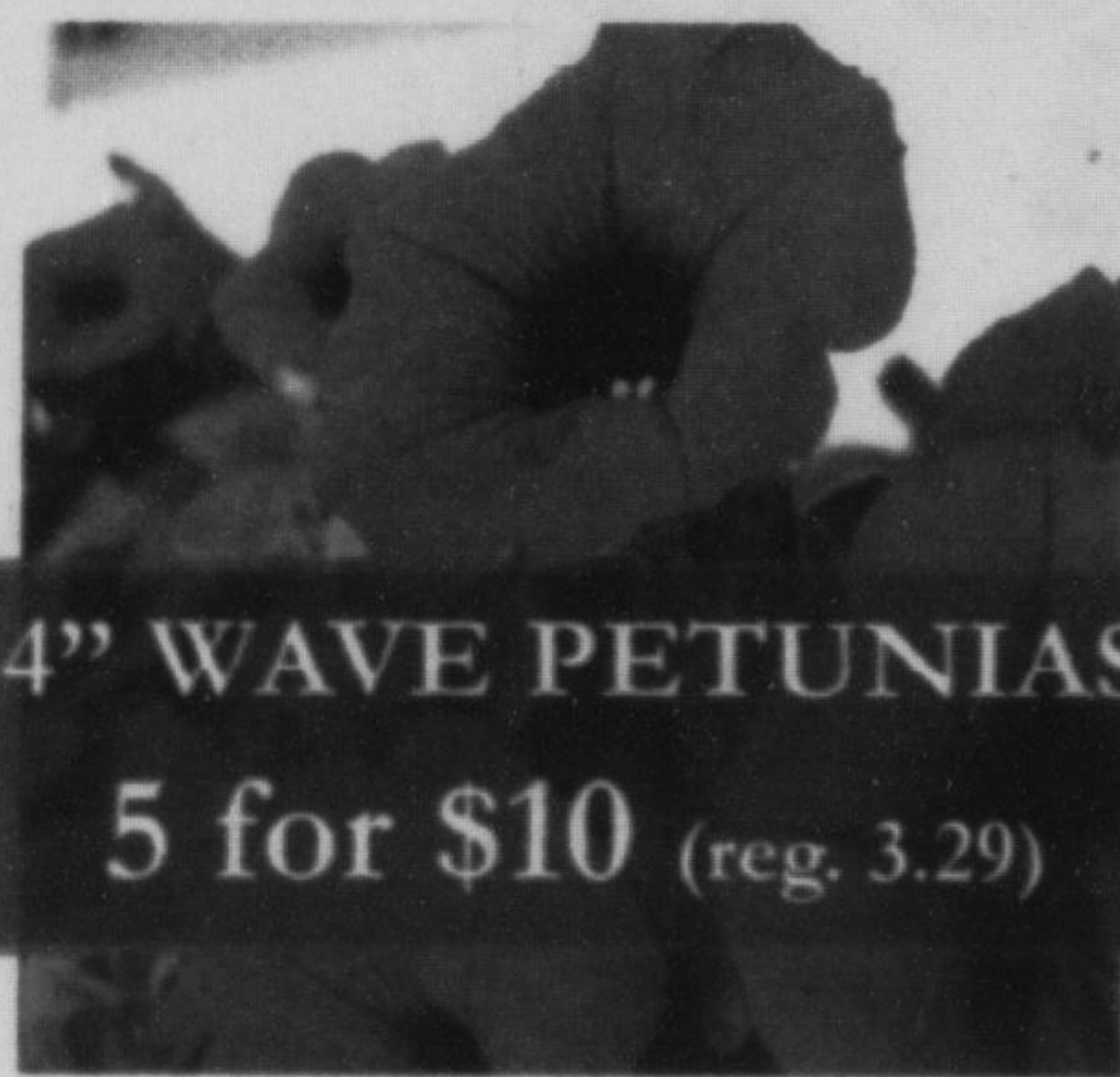
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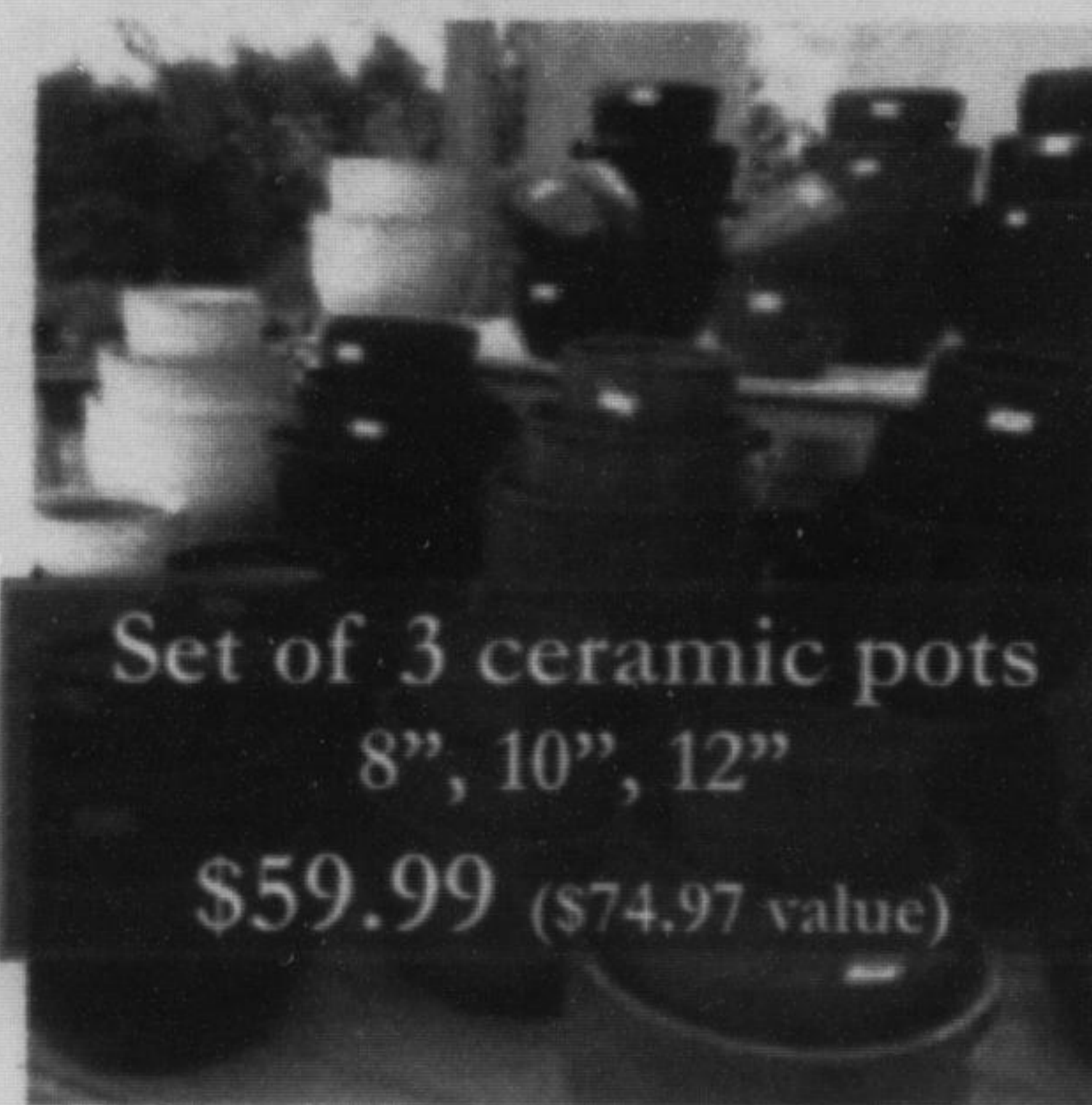
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