

Wendy MacKenzie is school board chairman

Wendy MacKenzie of Elmvale is the first female chairman of the Simcoe County Board of Education. MacKenzie was acclaimed to the position during the

board's inaugural meeting for 1984, held on Monday.

Mary Erichsen-Brown of Collingwood was elected to replace

Mackenzie as the board's vice-chairman. Trustees Bill Scott of Stroud and Sam Neilly of Gilford also stood for election for vice-chairman.

Bill Straughan of Barrie served the maximum number of years, two years, through which a trustee can be the board's chairman.

Elmvale Reeve Ken Knox addressed the board. John McCullough, the board's first chairman, attended.

and in January that of the new director, Mr. Boswell," and said she planned to count on it in meeting the challenges of the 1980's.

She named some of the challenges of the 80's as the implementation of Bill 82, the changes in the secondary education program as outlined in the OSIS document, advances in computer studies and technical education; the planned expansion of French a second language, and an examination of the adequacy of library resource centres.

"They all reflect the rapid changes in our society and the desire of this board to prepare our students to adequately face that society in a useful and purposeful way," said

MacKenzie.

A reorganization of administration, a revamping of the personnel department and business practices will help create a more efficient system, she said.

Simcoe County Board of Education is one of the largest school boards in Canada, and MacKenzie hopes to establish a higher profile and strong voice for the board, in the drive to re-establish educational funding to the high priority it deserves.

"With the help of all the board, I look forward to the days ahead. They are full portent, and will demand all the resources of our intelligence, patience and trust," said MacKenzie in closing.



Reaction to dump study mixed

BY CAROL DIMOCK
Penetanguishene
Citizen Editor

High levels of trichloroethylene (TCE) found in three Tiny Township wells do not come from the Pauze Landfill Site, according to the long-awaited hydrogeological report by Gartner Lee Associates Ltd., released last week.

The report failed to identify the source of the TCE in the Therrien, Kramer and Posey wells, but recommended that the Ministry of Environment continue research to pinpoint the source. In the meantime, reaction to the report's findings is mixed.

Jean Therrien, co-chairman of TRAP and the owner of one of the contaminated wells, said this week she is "not at all reassured" by the MOE's assertion that the plume from the dump poses no danger to the rest of Perkinsfield or to Georgian Bay.

"If people are being reassured by this report, they're being very naive," said Therrien. "I feel they are completely wrong about the TCE not coming from the dump. At least 20 acres is contaminated around our house with TCE - where else could it be coming from?"

Therrien says she plans to have independent hydrologists review the report, and take a look at what she feels are inconsistencies in it.

The MOE will take a "priority pollutants" test of her well water sometime this week, she said, and will also investigate the Therrien property in an attempt to pinpoint the source of the TCE. MOE has suggested that the chemical is commonly found in some household products such as oven cleaners, degreasers, de-waxers, etc.; but Therrien says her

family uses a minimum of chemicals.

"I have a self-cleaning oven, and the only cleaner I use regularly is Comet. I don't even use Javex," she said.

Therrien said she will "probably go ahead" with the suit against the MOE and Eric Pauze Construction, since the Gartner Lee report predicts that a plume of contaminants emanating from the dumpsite will reach her well soon, if it hasn't already.

Another member of TRAP, who also owns a well contaminated with TCE, Gary Posey, is "reserving judgement" on the Gartner Lee report until he gets more information. "I don't believe anybody at this point," said Posey, who intends to send samples of his well water to American laboratories for independent testing.

Tiny Township Deputy-Reeve John Lackie, who is Chairman of the North Simcoe Sanitary Landfill Committee, said of the Gartner-Lee report,

"It sure doesn't answer all the questions. I would have liked to have a better handle on the source of the TCE, but we'll have to wait for the next stage of testing," he said Monday.

"I think they did a pretty good job of pinning down the extent of the landfill plume," said Lackie. "The fact that they found no other dangerous chemicals, other than Toluene, Benzene and the TCE in the landfill plume is encouraging, too."

Neil Embree head of the local Ministry of Environment office in Barrie, said he was happy with the report. "It serves to clear the air," he said. "It's an excellent report."

"It's good to be assured that the landfill plume presents no danger to Georgian Bay," said Embree.

The Gartner Lee study predicts it will take 50 years for the groundwater from the dump to reach Georgian Bay, and expects levels of contaminants to be undetectable within nine years.

Embree said, "It's most significant that the contaminated wells turned out not to be impacted by the dumpsite."

In her inaugural address, MacKenzie expressed her appreciation to her fellow board members for their support. She thanked the outgoing chairman, Bill Straughan, for his guidance and for sharing the concerns and decisions over the past two years with her.

She mentioned "the expertise of our present director, Mr. Harris,



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