

# Province calls on Finlay to direct educational strategic policy

■ By Tim Whitnell  
SPECIAL TO THE BEAVER



Barry Finlay

with the board on our options. I'm not prepared to make additional comment until I've been able to talk to the board (of trustees)," he said.

The next scheduled board meeting is not until late August, he noted.

Joudrie said Finlay's salary and benefits had been factored into the just passed 2006-07 operating budget.

The province's salary disclosure Web site for public employees lists Finlay as earning \$159,632.57 in salary and \$4,455.11 in taxable benefits for the 2005 calendar year.

Finlay assumed the role of associate director for the 2003-04 school year.

The 55 year old has been an educator for 31 years and a Halton public board employee since 1979. He worked his way through six schools in this region. He was a teacher at Lester B. Pearson High School, later a department head and then a vice-principal at M.M. Robinson and later Lord Elgin high

schools. He was then elevated to principal at General Wolfe High School in Oakville. He became an assistant superintendent and then a superintendent in March 2001.

Canadian football enthusiasts over the age of 40 probably know Finlay better as a

starting defensive back in the Canadian Football League — with the Toronto Argonauts from 1973-76 and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in 1977.

Finlay graduated from McMaster University in '73, where he was the quarterback of the Marauders' varsity team.

The Halton District School Board has lost its second-in-command.

The board has approved the secondment of Associate Director Barry Finlay to the Ontario Ministry of Education for a two-year period starting Sept. 1.

The board said Finlay was approached recently by ministry officials to gauge his interest in joining them.

He will assume the position of director of strategic policy and planning for special education.

"We recognize this is an excellent opportunity for Barry, and while this temporary loss of his experience, wealth of knowledge, leadership and integrity will be felt system-wide, we know this will, in the long run, provide tremendous benefits to our system upon his return," said Halton Education Director Wayne Joudrie.

Joudrie was non-committal when asked if the associate director's vacancy left by Finlay's departure would be filled for either or both of the two years the latter will be gone.

"With this recent announcement I haven't had an opportunity to confer

## Police tight-lipped on murder investigation

■ Continued from page 1

Bleuge, whose maiden name was Parker, was separated from her husband at the time.

The arrest came following a three-month investigation by Halton detectives of the major crime unit after receiving information from Niagara police.

Albano wouldn't say what that information was in order not to jeopardize the case.

"I really can't give away anything," he said.

Chapman was in the Niagara Detention Centre on charges of criminal harassment at the time of his arrest for second-degree murder.

The harassment case has since been dealt with, Albano said.

Chapman has hired renowned Hamilton criminal defence lawyer Dean Paquette.

He appeared in Milton court

Monday.

Police are asking anyone with information about Bleuge's death to contact the major crime bureau at 905-825-4777, ext. 5082.

— Story by Jason Misner.

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