

Public school board hopefuls debate

Four of the six candidates for the three Richmond Hill seats on the York County Board of Education spoke at the Ward 3 Ratepayers all candidates meeting November 18.

Candidate Allen
Douglas Allen, local architect, who is completing his first term on the board, told the audience it had taken him a year to 18 months to learn the job so he could make an effective contribution. "It takes time to gain the confidence of the other trustees," he said he would like to build schools which are economical and yet provide the proper environment for the children attending them.

He noted curriculum development has become the responsibility of the board and believes a great deal of work has to be done in this area. He said he prefers a three tier system for schools and that in York this is accomplished by junior elementary, senior public and secondary schools in some areas giving the pupils a little better opportunity. "We can do something to improve the system so all have the same opportunity — not necessarily by adding to the present facilities, but by making the best use of the facilities we do have," he said.

Candidate Baillie
Warren Baillie, a trustee since the board's inception in 1969, said the five most

important reasons he became involved in education are his five children. He claimed experience is a good element provided it is coupled with a well balanced approach to the work of the board, but it also can be overrated. "Governments are going to have to learn the people are going to have more say. We have realized through study that we must have smaller classes in the foundation years with more emphasis on reading," said Baillie.

Candidate Houghton
Robert Houghton, a four year trustee, said he had served on a long list of committees ranging from early admissions to kindergarten to community use of schools. He expressed concern as a trustee about the problem of communication from the board to the parents and to the voters. "It's not as easy as it sounds and I am deeply concerned."

Houghton said, a study on the structuring of the board is under way with a report expected in March which could lead to changes in the structure to redistribute priorities and jobs. His main concern is the atmosphere in schools and the quality of education.

Candidate Johns
Rev. Ernest Johns sees the whole issue as "making the democratic process work". His main objective is getting the local community

back into the local school. He outlined the present system with its chain of command which puts seven people between the teacher and the superintendent of education. "That's why there is so much discontent around the high school. My daughter was in grade 13 last year and I believe she was short changed. If we get together — parents and teachers — all decisions don't need to be made by the trustees. I'm going to work toward getting some decision making back into the local level."

Candidate letters
Letters were read from Cathy MacDiarmid and William Monroe, the other two candidates who found it impossible to attend. Mrs. MacDiarmid said she felt the board needed new blood and a female approach. Monroe stressed he wants "The best education for our children".

On the subject of contract caretaking, Baillie stated "As a trustee of your money I must be very careful to see that it is spent in the best way." He said that the board has contract caretaking in four or five schools, and that it costs less but also creates social problems. "The local caretaker has more interest in his school, I like the savings but am not happy with the impersonal aspects, although we have received few complaints."

"Each time a new school comes up both systems are examined as to cost and existing personnel," added Allen. "It's partly a question of dollars, of location and of the community. We must make sure the cost of caretaking by our own staff does not spiral too high."

"I voted for it when it was initiated, but have voted against it ever since," said Houghton. "What you lose for a few dollars saved is not worth it. A caretaker does a surprising number of things around the school, particularly in elementary schools. In secondary schools it could be a combination."

"The question should be decided by the community — principal, staff, teachers and parents," said Johns. On the co-operation of library boards and the schools in making school libraries available to the public, Baillie pointed to the co-operation at Lake Wilcox, which is working well. He thought there is a good possibility of more co-operation.

"Most library boards believe these are two different services," said Allen. "I feel they should be located fairly close together with the school library accessible to the public and the public library close to the schools to be used by the students. However, one is course-oriented and the other has a much wider basis."

"These are two separate

areas, but there is room for co-operation," said Houghton. "I agree on co-operation," said Johns. "The whole purpose of libraries in schools is to get children to love books and start them going to the public library."

Junior kindergarten
"Is there any possibility of a junior kindergarten, especially in this school?" asked a ratepayer. Houghton said reports on early admission of four-year-olds to kindergarten "had been a shock, showing 20 percent failed in the first two or three years — which is not a good thing. However, a junior kindergarten where a program is set up for that age group is a good thing, a thing we will try to introduce in the future."

Another questioner wanted to know the candidates' stand on the size of schools and classrooms.

Baillie said during the past five years the York board has consistently turned down the optimum size recommended for new schools. "I believe high schools should be kept to 1,000, senior public to 600 to 700 and junior public to 350 maximum."

Allen said the York board inherited schools of every size and said, "With a larger school you can have better facilities but a school can be too large. But this is often not within the control of the board."

3 Ward 3 candidates face to face

About 100 interested residents of Ward 3 were present in the gymnasium of Walter Scott Public School Monday evening to hear all candidates in the coming election. Each candidate was allowed three minutes to present his or her platform and then to participate in a question and answer period.

There are three candidates for the position of Ward 3 Councillor — John Birchall, Ray Gemmill and Jack Major.

Candidate Birchall
"Are you happy with the way this town is going? Are you happy with the developers?" asked Birchall. "I'm concerned. I'm interested in the people of Ward 3 and I'm working for you. I believe we need a controlled growth rate. With a 4.3 percent growth rate we will reach the allotted ultimate population by the turn of the century. With that rate the community will be able to absorb the newcomers. Uncontrolled growth will mean that our identity will be lost."

Birchall also favors a light standards bylaw to preserve the observatory and preservation of the Langstaff Jail Farm as green belt. He promised frequent meetings with the ratepayers if elected as he believes councillors have to listen to what people have to say.

Candidate Gemmill
"I feel I have something to contribute to our town," stated Ray Gemmill, the second speaker. "I think there is room for a big improvement. I am quite aware of all ramifications of our tax dollars being spent. Councils have to watch closely to control spending and to control development."

With the big pipe and proposed subdivisions increased vigilance will be necessary. "I don't believe there is any place in Richmond Hill for mobile homes."

Gemmill would like to see a traffic court established here, potholes in the roads fixed, prompt attention to burned out street lights and a different type of lighting at street intersections so they are easily recognized. He also expressed concern about the quality and quantity of public works such as snowplowing, ditch cleaning, etc.

Candidate Major
The third speaker was Jack Major, the incumbent councillor, who described himself as a totally involved community worker. "When the big pipe goes in German Mills Creek will not have problems," he told the audience.

"The work on it has been delayed so it can be carried out at the time of installation of the pipe. He said negotiations are under way with the City of Toronto for an easement over the jail farm to solve the drainage problem on Duncan Road. He advocated measures to keep illumination to a minimum in developments near the observatory since bright lights hamper its operation."

He agreed the jail farm would make an ideal park, but noted that the purchase at present land values (\$20 to \$25 million) would be virtually impossible. He said council had a study of the South Yonge Corridor carried out to guide development in that area.

During the question period, on the subject of Duncan Road drainage, Birchall said the residents of that road had come to the Ward 3 Ratepayers who arranged a meeting with council's works committee represented by Regional Councillor Lois Hancey and Councillor Lou Wainwright.

"Yes, we are getting the Langstaff easement, but this was done under pressure from the residents and I helped them."

"If elected I will try to see that these people and the people of Dollar and Headford get their equal share of work done for the tax dollar paid," said Gemmill.

Bus zone fare
All three candidates were agreed the TTC operates the Yonge bus line for the municipality on a contract basis. There was a question as to why the fare is 15 cents per zone and only 25 cents for all of Metro Toronto. Birchall said he would have to take a look at it but warned a reduction could cost money. Gemmill thought mini-buses might provide an answer and Major said the difference was in the number of people from which patronage was drawn.

"What will happen to our

taxes if the jail farm develops or remains undeveloped?" was the next question. "It depends on what kind of development occurs there and what goes on in the rest of town," said Birchall.

"Unless every girl takes the pill and every guy gets a vasectomy we're going to need development," stated Gemmill. "We would be losing taxes by leaving it undeveloped," said Major.

Jail farm park
From the floor the question was asked "Why can't Richmond Hill approach the province or the federal government to purchase the land to maintain it as a park. Why can't we try to make a joint plan? Why was the town willing to act as a real estate agent for a developer with a domed stadium and large residential development?"

"I don't think council ever acted as a real estate agent," said Major. "Council approved Parmata's proposal in principle with or without a major sports facility," commented Birchall. "We need a buffer between us and the city. The hill on the jail farm is about the same height as the observatory and anything built on it will be a detriment to the observatory."

"It's hard to imagine it

being held as a buffer zone as it's only from Yonge to Bayview," said Gemmill. "We will have to see what the developers have to offer. My theory is the provincial government will want it for low cost housing."

"Why did you appear to ignore the opinion of the Ward 3 Ratepayers this year?" Robert McKee asked Major.

Major replied he voted for his neighbor of 17 years, a tremendous fellow, for a seat of the parks and recreation committee rather than for Mr. McKee. "I thought because you were connected with sports you would be influenced in that

direction. As for the association's meetings, the first two were held on council nights," Major replied.

The POODLE SCENE
Poodle Clipping
Pet Grooming
New Fall Fashions
• SWEATERS
• COATS
• FANCY & PLAIN
COLLARS & LEADS
10088 Yonge St.
Richmond Hill

LAMB MOVING & STORAGE
Division of O.S.S.
127 BIRCH AVENUE, THORNHILL
889-4911 636-6636
Local — Long Distance — Overseas Moving
MEMBER: UNITED VAN LINES

CHRISTMAS FUR SPECIAL
RICHMOND HILL FURRIERS
ARE REDUCING ALL PRICES DURING THEIR Christmas Fur Special
PRICES STARTING AS LOW AS **\$350.**
FULL LENGTH MUSKRAT COAT
Up to \$600. off Black Diamond and Wild Mink Full Length Coats
1 WEEK ONLY: Wednesday, Nov. 20th to Wednesday, Nov. 27th, 1974.
CUSTOM-MADE-FURS COATS-STOLES-JACKETS
Personally designed by professionals to your own taste and measurements.
• REMODELLING • Reasonable prices
• REPAIRING • as we do all our own work on the premises
ALL WORK GUARANTEED
OPEN DAILY:
Monday to Wednesday and Saturday 9 am to 6 pm
Thursday and Friday 9 am to 9 pm
RICHMOND HILL FURRIERS
10,210A YONGE ST., RICHMOND HILL — Just North of Centre St.

Walkers PRE CHRISTMAS SALE
Begins Wed., Nov. 20th Continues Until Sat., Nov. 23rd

MEN'S WEAR
 Polyester Double Knit Blazer Reg. 38-46, Short 38-42, Tall 40-46, Reg. \$60 49.99
 Polyester Double Knit Pants Sizes: 30-40 14.99
 Pig Suede Car Coats Zip-out liner, Sizes: 38-46, 59.99
 Blazers, Pants and Car Coat not available at all Walkers stores.

DRESSES
 Cotton Voile Long Dresses Sizes: 5-13, Ord. \$26. & \$28. 19.99

SPORTSWEAR
 Assorted Pants Sizes: 12-20, Ord. \$11. to \$23. 8.99
 2-Pc. Polyester Pant Suits Double Knit, Sizes: 10-18, Ord. \$17. 13.99
 Famous Maker Cotton Tops Sizes: 5-13, Ord. \$12. to \$17. 8.99

LINGERIE
 Brushed Acetate/Nylon Sleepwear Pink, Blue, Maize, S-M-L. 7.99
 Pyjamas Long Gown 6.99
 Shift Gown 5.99

ACCESSORIES
 Beaded or Fabric Evening Bags Black, gold or silver colours. Ea. 3.99
 Men's Wallets By Buxton Leather, Brown, Black, Tan. 3.99
 Famous Maker Handbags Shoulder or dressy styles. 10.99
 Rabbit Fur Back Mitts Vinyl palm, 6 1/2", 7 1/2", 8. Ord. \$8. 5.99
 Lined Leather Gloves Black, Brown, 6 1/2"-8. 9.99
 Mohair-Look Scarf & Hat 4.99
 Children's Acrylic Mitts Sizes: 3-7, 8-12. 69c
 Ladies' Acrylic Mitts & Gloves Assorted. One size. 89c
 Open-Toe Scuffs Red, Turquoise, Rose, S-M-L. 2.69
 Chains In Various Lengths Gold or silver colours, Ord. \$3. 1.99 Ea.
 Pierced Earrings Gold or silver colours, Ord. \$3. 1.99
 Decorative Trinket Box 5.99

HOSIERY
 Sheer Nylon Knee Highs One size fits 9-11. 3/99c
 Burlington Panty Hose 'Almost Perfect' support style, S-M-L-XL-Queen. 2.49
 Hanes Panty Hose Discontinued style. P/M, M/T. Ord. \$2. 1.19 Ea. or 2/2.29
 Walkers Brand Panty Hose Discontinued package, One Size: 90-150 lbs. or Queen Size: 160-210 lbs. 79c Ea. or 2/1.49

MEN'S WEAR
 Famous Maker Polo Shirts Choice of 5 styles, S-M-L-XL. 9.99
 Permanent Press Dress Shirts Polyester/Cotton, 14 1/2"-17. 6.99
 Lined Leather Gloves Sizes: 8-11. 6.99
 Terry Cloth Judo Robe One Size 12.99
 Polyester/Cotton Boxer Shorts Fancy prints, S-M-L-XL, Reg. 2/3.99 2/2.99
 Fashion Neckwear 2/4.99
 Stretch Dress Hose Ankle or mid-length. 1.49

INFANTS' WEAR
 Brushed Nylon Sleepers 0-15 lbs., 15-24 lbs. 2.59
 Acrylic Knit Diaper Sets 6 & 12 months. 7.99

GIRLS' WEAR—4-6X
 Polyester Holiday Dresses 2 styles, Sizes: 4-6X, Short 6.99 Long 8.99
 Brushed Acetate/Nylon Sleepwear Long gowns or pyjamas, 4-6X. 3.99

GIRLS' WEAR—7-14
 100% Polyester Long Dresses 2 styles, Sizes: 7-14, Reg. 16.98 12.99
 100% Polyester Pant Suit Red/White, Sizes: 7-14, Reg. 16.98 12.99
 Polyester/Cotton Nightwear Long shirt gown or pyjamas, 8-14. 4.99
 Polyester/Cotton Knit Tops Screen printed, 7-14, Reg. 4.98 3.99
 100% Orlon Knit Sweaters Sizes: 7-14, Reg. 4.98 to 6.98 3.99

BOYS' WEAR—4-6X
 Acrylic Pullovers & Cardigans Solids, patterns, 4-6X. Sleeveless Pullovers Long Sleeve Cardigans or Pullovers Lined Corduroy Pants Half boxer waist, 4-6X. 2.49 3.49 4.29

BOYS' WEAR—7-18
 Polyester/Cotton Knit Shirts Assorted, 8-18, Reg. 4.98 3.49
 Lined Corduroy Pants Navy, Brown, 7-12. 4.99
 100% Cotton Corduroy Pants Navy, Brown, 8-18, Reg. 7.98 5.99
 100% Cotton Corduroy Pants Half boxer waist, 7-12, Reg. 6.49 4.99
 Flannelette Pyjamas Fancy prints, 8-16, Reg. 3.98 2.99

LINENS & BEDDING
 'Plessis' All Wool Blanket 72 X 90" Reg. 18.98 15.99
 80 X 100" Reg. 22.98 18.99
 Dual Control Electric Blanket Double bed size, Reg. 32.98 27.99
 Cannon 'Sierra' Striped Towels 22 X 42" Bath Reg. 3.98 3.29 Ea.
 16 X 26" Hand Reg. 2.59 1.99 Ea.
 12x12" Face Cloth Reg. 1.59 1.29 Ea.
 Cannon 'Chalet' Towels With Shiffley Embroidered borders 22x42" Bath 3.99 Ea.
 16x26" Hand 2.79 Ea.
 12x12" Face Cloth 1.49 Ea.
 'Sundance' 2-Pc. Bath Mat Set Beige, Gold, Pink, Green, Reg. 11.98 9.99

walkers OPTION CHARGE ACCOUNT
 USE YOUR WALKERS OPTION CHARGE ACCOUNT OR CHARGEX. ENJOY WALKERS... 50 LOCATIONS IN ONTARIO.
CHARGEX

HILLCREST MALL, 9350 YONGE ST. RICHMOND HILL — Phone 884-0444
 OPEN DAILY: MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9:30 A.M. to 9:30 P.M. SATURDAY 9:30 A.M. to 6 P.M.

The Liberal
VOL. 98 NUMBER 19
10101 Yonge Street, P.O. Box 390, L4C 4Y6, Ontario
TELEPHONE — 884-8177
CLASSIFIED — 884-1105
CIRCULATION — 884-1105
Home delivery of The Liberal is 60 cents every four weeks; by mail \$7 a year in Canada.
Advertising Supervisor Colin Forsyth,
Production Manager Norman Stonden
Business Supervisor Mrs. Dorell Stong
Circulation Director Peter Line,
Art Director Louise Zavarella,
The Liberal is published each week by Metro Publishing Limited.
This newspaper is a member of the Canadian Community Newspaper Association and the Audit Bureau of Circulations.
CNA Second Class Mail Registration NO. 0190