

# Teacher trustee interest conflict debated in York public school board

Does being a school teacher and a member of a board of education at the same time, constitute a conflict of interest? York County Board of Education has been challenged on that score and as a result will seek an interpretation through the Ontario School Trustees' Council.

The suggestion the two might be on opposite sides of the school fence was contained in a letter from Michael Bailey, president of Thornhill Parents Council. The parent group was concerned about the board having any active teachers in its ranks.

Both Trustees Robert Houghton of Richmond Hill and John McMurray of Whitchurch-Stouffville hold teaching positions outside York Region.

In his letter, Bailey said the council would like to see a policy instituted excluding such people from voting "when the matter is appertaining to a conflict between the board and any teacher federation."

Shouldn't vote  
Trustee Margaret Coburn

of King, whose husband is a teacher, moved the board ask staff to develop a policy whereby teacher-members would not vote where it was primarily an issue between the latter's federation and the board.

Trustee Doreen Quirk of Markham, a former teacher, seconded the motion "with a fair bit of sadness."

She said she didn't like what had happened to society. She was disturbed by literature from the teacher federations calling for members to support only those who supported them.

She said she felt they put children at the "bottom of the heap." The board couldn't have those conflicts of interest.

Ultra vires  
Markham Trustee Don Sim just returned from a session before the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa that afternoon. At his eloquent best, he shot the theory down in short order, terming the matter "ultra vires" — "beyond this board."

He said if it were felt the federation was in conflict of

interest, and if teachers shouldn't vote, they shouldn't be elected.

If elected, they were full-fledged members of the board, "so we can't tell them what to vote on."

"If the Parents Council feels strongly, they should have the legislation changed," Sim said.

Mrs. Coburn said the matter had to come out on the floor. She felt it was an issue.

Trustee Houghton, who teaches upholstery in North York, said such a motion as that proposed by the council would destroy the board, which was made up of people from all walks of life.

Trustee Ross Jolliffe of Vaughan, said he felt the board should approach the Ministry of Education to "clear the air."

Hard liner  
Trustee McMurray, the other active teacher on the board, said he objected to the attitude expressed by the Parents Council. He felt he had been a "hard-line trustee," and people had a right to have their representative vote as they directed.

The same applied to groups outside the school, such as WEB (Watchers of Educational Bureaucracy). Sam Chapman, director of education, suggested the board take it through the trustees association, rather than have it misinterpreted.

"Right now when you reach for a hankie, they think you've got a gun," Chapman said.

Jolliffe agreed to the change.

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## Fuller runs for region

"It is the people who don't vote who elect a poor government that makes unemployment, welfare and inflation," charges H.H. (Bill) Fuller of Oak Ridges, a candidate for one of the two regional councillor seats on Richmond Hill Council.

He asks the voters to ask themselves several questions:

Are we satisfied with our present mayor and council?  
Did they hire the right people in the town offices?  
Are they for the taxpayer or for the government?  
If they couldn't run their own businesses should they be running ours?

Should they be sponsored, or does that create favoritism as they put their sponsors first?  
Have they one law for one and different laws for others?

Do you believe they should be bonded to ensure proper handling of our (the taxpayers') money?  
Do they recognize you after an election like they did two weeks before?

## Hillcrest area meet tonight

The Hillcrest Residents Association are holding a meeting tonight (Wednesday) in the auditorium of Hillcrest Mall. The main topic for discussion will be the proposed community centre and how the residents can participate in the planning and future operation of the centre. All residents are asked to attend. The meeting starts at 8 pm. Coffee will be served.

## Ecumenical rice bowl December 3

A bowl of rice would seem like a feast to millions of starving people in the world today. To give the people of Richmond Hill some idea of the privations which so many in other countries are suffering, all churches in Richmond Hill are combining to offer an Ecumenical Rice Bowl at Richmond Hill United Church December 3.

All offerings and proceeds will go to the World Relief Fund. Dinner is at 6:30 pm and tickets are \$1, available from any church in town.

Featured will be noted Canadian artist William Kurelek and the Rev. Bruce McLeod, former moderator of the United Church in Canada, at the piano.

## Conservation bird feeding stations

Adequate supplies of feed for birds wintering in this region will be assured by bird feeding stations set up in all conservation areas operated by Metro Toronto Conservation Authority. Five tons of the authority's own feed formula — 20 percent sunflower seeds, 40 percent wheat and 40 percent cracked corn — will be provided throughout the winter.

Eight areas are open for recreation during the winter months. There bird watchers can observe and photograph chickadees, nuthatches, cardinals, pheasants and other bird species that inhabit this region.

## Montessori School holds crafts lunch

The parents' guild of the Toronto Montessori Schools will hold their annual pre-Christmas Hollyday Luncheon Tuesday.

From 11 am to 2 pm there will be handcrafted Christmas gifts suitable for children on sale at the Heintzman House, 135 Baythorn Drive, Thornhill. Luncheon tickets, at \$3 each, include the cost of a glass of Sherry and are available from Phyllis Brown (223-0618) or at the door.

There will be decoupage, pottery, copper enameling, candles, fine European toys, antiques, stocking stuffers, Montessori T-shirts, knitting and sewing crafts as well as home baking on sale.

Proceeds will be used to buy books for the school library.

## St. Matthew's film showing

"The Cross and the Switchblade", an explosive motion picture which will "put you through the wringer of raw emotion", will be presented at St. Matthew's United Church, Crosby Avenue, Richmond Hill Saturday at 7:30 pm. Tickets are 50 cents if purchased in advance and \$1 at the door.

The film stars Pat Boone with Erik Estrada, Jackie Giroux, Dino DeFilippi and Jo-Ann Robinson. The screenplay was written by Don Murray and James Bonnet, the music by Ralph Carmichael and the film was directed by Don Murray.

Also showing will be "The Eternal Ticket".

## News from next door

KESWICK: The Harold King Farm is to be sold. The 44-acre farm operated for 12 years as a halfway house for convicts.

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