

# King trustee wants to build out of the ashes

Speaking at the school board portion of the joint all-candidates meeting for the school board and council candidates last week, York County Board of Education Trustee Margaret Coburn told the packed audience at All-Saints Anglican Church in King City that 1974 wouldn't stand out "as a year to be proud of."

"I hope however, out of its ashes we will build," she said.

There had been a number of changes made in the system in the past six months to improve board-teacher relations, she said.

Contrary to one candidate's view, liaison committees did work, and a letter from a teacher who had served on one, proved it.

The teacher said the committee served a useful function in promoting understanding between "the trustees and those groups with which it deals throughout York Region."

Mrs. Coburn said she, herself, was taking part in principals' meetings for the first time, and in staff meetings in school, "if they invite me."

She also attended professional activity days, which weren't tea parties, but "an opportunity for everyone to learn the views of others."

"Times are changing rapidly and we have all become learners. And I think it's great," Mrs. Coburn said.

**Defends building**

Mrs. Coburn defended the proposed new administration building in Aurora, which she said was much needed.

Also, to build made economic sense, as they had to move and rent was taken out of education ceilings.

Their new building was "not the Taj Mahal."

The board was not "feathering its nest," as The Newmarket Era charged.

Referring to last spring's strike of secondary school teachers, she said they had ended up using professional negotiators, instead of local trustees and teachers.

"I believe the trend will continue and lead to divorcing the negotiating process from the educational process, which would benefit everyone," Mrs. Coburn said.

"It's essential for trustees to work with teachers in the interests of good programming for kids. This becomes difficult in the tense atmosphere of negotiations."

She said it was essential to return a "more traditional curriculum in core subjects; also it was important to find a method of evaluating what was happening in the system. A co-operative approach to evaluation was now being worked out."

She said her role was to join with the rest of the board to make policy. She had often challenged them, but in 1975 the board must

make a major effort "to develop a policy of priorities."

**Frustrating**

Jack Garbutt said the "open-school concept was the biggest contribution to student frustration and delinquency."

Grades 1, 2 and 3 were the most important in a child's education and it was essential to have a sound basis in the three 'r's.

"If they have it, they will have little trouble in the future," he said.

Teachers should instill in their students a high regard for teachers and the schools, he said.

The mass resignations last spring caused him deep concern and he was not satisfied with the answer from the teachers and the board.

His aims were: the betterment of elementary and secondary education, to provide a better relation between trustees and the board, try to curtail unnecessary expenditures, and to be available to parents and teachers as much as possible.

**Definite void**

Robert Phillips, running in Ward 5, said there had been a "definite void" between trustees and the administration and it was the trustees' duty to "keep all channels open."

He was seeking: more direct control by the trustees, the administration to "bridge the gap" with the

teachers, greater access to the trustees for the teachers, to establish "priorities for each area," a full board meeting in each area at least once a year.

Dorothy Zajac said she was "appalled at the degree of mistrust between board and the teachers."

The community was entitled to an explanation as to why that was done, Mr. Kudelka said. When a principal became that dependent on the system, then all trust was destroyed.

The issues, as she saw them were: make better use of master teachers, long-range planning in special education classes, board meetings should be conducted in a more business-like manner.

Trustees should neither be pro-teacher or pro-board, but only pro-student.

**Questions and answers**

In the question period afterward, John Kudelka, speaking from the floor, said the role of the school principal had changed with the formation of the board.

There had been a "slow,

subtle, Machiavellian" change. Was Mrs. Coburn in favor?

Last year, principals had been "shuffled around like bank managers." One school had had four principals in four years. (Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School in Aurora).

The community was entitled to an explanation as to why that was done, Mr. Kudelka said. When a principal became that dependent on the system, then all trust was destroyed.

That sort of thing didn't exist before (the formation of the board) and there were less problems then, he said.

Mrs. Coburn said she "didn't recognize the problem in the same way."

Mr. Kudelka said that, if she tried, she would see the diabolical behavior of the administration was one of the problems they had to deal with.

Mrs. Coburn said part of the policy was trying to create a system. How did they get a system to become a unit?

"The example of Mr. Kudelka is unique and I hope never occurs again," she said.

The remainder of the questions dealt mainly with the importance of getting back to the three 'r's, which

all the candidates agreed was essential.

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## Humane Society will withdraw from region

The board of directors of the Ontario Humane Society has announced it will be withdrawing its animal control services in five municipalities in York Region and one in Simcoe County.

January 31, and in Newmarket, April 30.

Mr. Hughes said labor costs went up 12 percent in the past year, while employee turnover was 200 percent because of low wages.

A prediction that the society would get out of the animal control business, was made by Pat Lindert, director of the York branch.

He said also it would cost the municipalities much more to run their own service than it now costs the society.

**Staff abused**

He said it was hard finding staff who would put up with the abuse and criticism they get from the public.

Hughes said he had asked local municipalities to pay more for the services — voluntary contributions make up 40 percent of the society's total revenue — but hadn't received any replies so far.

Tom Hughes, executive director, said high costs and public criticism brought about the decision.

Service from the animal shelter will be cancelled in Aurora, King Township, Whitchurch-Stouffville and West Gwillimbury on

On December 2nd  
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## Rustled cattle

Thirty-three head of valuable cattle, obtained by false pretences and rustling from livestock sales barns and farms throughout Ontario were seized by the Provincial Police recently from a pasture farm in Mariposa Township.

A number, including one animal worth almost \$10,000, have been returned to their owners. But 23 head still remain unclaimed. These include eight Herefords, eight Charolais and seven crossbred Charolais.

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## King favors re-usable containers

A resolution calling on the province to establish a uniform system of subsidizing returnable containers and avoiding expensive recycling was unanimously adopted by King Township Council Monday night of last week.

The resolution originated with the Town of Mississauga.

It points out the re-using of glass containers would greatly reduce post consumer waste and save almost three times the cost of energy necessary for the process.

Councillor Bill Forhan thought the proposal was excellent and suggested the "implementation could be made more effective with a high rebate for returning bottles."

All agreed.

**York Regional Health Unit**  
**NOTICE TO SEPTIC TANK CONTRACTORS ETC.**  
As of 6 December 1974, the installation of sewage disposal systems (septic tank) will NOT be permitted until weather conditions are satisfactory in the Spring of 1975.  
**J. O. SLINGERLAND, D.P.H.**  
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