

Markham trustee Honsberger not running

After 18 years' continuous service as a school trustee, John Honsberger of Markham, last week announced his decision not to stand for re-election to York County Board of Education.

"The time needed and the financial commitment to reasonably fulfil the responsibilities of a trustee is more than I am now able to afford," Honsberger said.

"Over the past years, and particularly this past year, my commitment to the board has been at a personal and financial cost to both my family and my firm. It would be unfair to both if I were to continue with the board."

He said he would also like more time to devote to other commitments.

Stayed to help
Honsberger said he had originally intended to resign with the formation of the York board, but stayed on to assist in the transition to the larger board for the teaching and administrative staff.

"I have always felt I could best assist public education in the county by working with and encouraging those within our system who had vision and ability," he said.



JOHN HONSBERGER
Private life beckons

"Those qualities I felt would attract other good people to our board and in the end provide the best possible system of public education in the province."

Danger ahead
He said there were certain pressures on large institutions "that ultimately

lead to their disintegration into smaller units". The board, he felt, was headed in that direction.

There was a danger the most able teachers, ambitious students and concerned people in the community would be "increasingly turned off with the public school system and be attracted to the competing independent schools where there is not the same degree of being lock-stepped with each other and the style may be more professionally and educationally satisfying, albeit often more rigorous," Honsberger said.

Good trustees and good

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administrators could also become equally disillusioned. If that happened, public education would suffer, "particularly when the total school population in the province was bound to suffer".

The challenge was to prevent it from happening and to "keep the good people

in our system. They are our most valuable resource and the most difficult to replace", he said.

Honsberger said he would miss his work with the board and schools and valued the friends he had made "and the personal satisfaction of sharing in the achievements of the board".

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