

Reform school board has critics joining those that they criticized

By Jim Irving
The critics have joined those they criticized now, so if there isn't some sort of happy medium struck on York County Board of Education in the next two years, perhaps the system better be redesigned.

In what might have been the biggest upset of the elections, Board Chairman Merna Colbourne was defeated in her own riding of East Gwillimbury by Joy Horton, one of the organizers of WEB (Watchers of Educational Bureaucracy) in this case, the board of education.

During the strike of York secondary teachers last spring, Mrs. Horton and her group were among the most outspoken critics of the board and Chairman Colbourne.

In this age of instant labels, it was the misfortune of Mrs. Colbourne — who was honest, resolute and courageous in her stand — to be termed a hard liner; something tantamount to a hard-and-fast reactionary in today's unforgiving lexicon.

It is unfortunate, because she could have just as easily been termed as acting exactly the way a chairman should in such matters, and no doubt that cost her her seat.

Mrs. Horton and other critics, including Chris McMonagle of Thornhill, another WEB marksman who was also elected, had it pretty much their own way during the teacher walkout.

Negative luxury
As critics, they could indulge in the luxury of negativism; equivocation or compromise

of any kind was out. As members of the board, they will find it's not so one sided anymore and it will be interesting to see how long the militants remain in a state of seige.

Besides Mrs. Colbourne, there'll be nine other new faces on the board, not all of them as a result of defeating incumbents.

In Markham, for example, both John MacKay and John Honsberger, who chaired the salary negotiating committee during the strike, did not stand for re-election.

Mrs. McMonagle and Gary Adamson, replaced the two veteran members.

In Georgina Township, both the new trustees, Keith Hargrave and William Laird, were unopposed by former trustees, Vice-chairman Tom Johnston, and Mariane Gillan, who retired.

So far as the other incumbents were concerned, only three others besides Mrs. Colbourne were defeated.

In Vaughan, veteran Trustee Ross Jolliffe, was squeezed out by newcomer Betty Canivet by only 22 votes.

Thompson out
Conrad Thompson, the separate school trustee for Richmond Hill, lost out to John Stephens. John McMurray, incumbent trustee for Whitchurch-Stouffville, was defeated by Colin Barrett.

Another newcomer from Vaughan is Donald Cameron, who takes over from Morley Kinnee, who also retired.

Al Farquharson, the former president of District 11 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, lost out in his bid for a seat.

Farquharson, a onetime school teacher in Thornhill took a teaching job in Grimsby so he would be eligible to run.

In Richmond Hill all three incumbents, Douglas Allen, Robert Houghton and Warren Baile, were returned.

Also back: Margaret Coburn in King, who will be joined by Dorothy Zajac. Veteran Trustee and former board chairman, Marvin Hunter, did not seek re-election.

Markham — Donald Sim topped everybody everywhere with a whopping 5,998 votes. Two other incumbents, Donald Couzens, 4,063, and Doreen Quirk, 3,668, were also returned.

Firm stand
Mrs. Quirk, a former teacher, was

another one who took a firm stand against most of the teacher demands during the strike, and who was just as firmly criticized by the WEB group and the OSSTF.

Her re-election would indicate the teachers didn't always have the unanimous support some of their more rabid followers would have everyone believe.

The two other incumbents returned were Craig Cribar in Newmarket and Norm Weller in Aurora.

All in all, there should be a good mixture, perhaps just the balance the board needs to deal with the highly-contentious issues of wages, cost-of-living bonuses, right to strike, size of classes, tenure and security.

And, now and then, of course, that other contentious and oft-neglected issue education.

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7-lane Yonge is decided

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications has decided to widen Yonge Street in Thornhill to seven lanes, Deputy Minister H. F. Gilbert has told Vaughan Clerk Ted Jackman in a letter.

This news came two days before a public meeting on the plans scheduled for tonight at 8 pm in the Thornhill Public School.

Vaughan council had postponed taking a stand on the reconstruction plans until public response could be heard at tonight's meeting.

However, Markham council has stated its opposition to the design selected.

Donald Deacon, MLA York Centre, said yesterday the majority sentiment of councils in Richmond Hill, Markham and Vaughan is more likely to be opposed to the design since the elections.

He said the composition of the councils has changed significantly.

Though the minister, John Rhodes, was in Ottawa yesterday, Deacon promised to ask him to reconsider the plan.

Since it was decided recently to begin construction of the four-lane Highway 404 next year, Deacon said Yonge Street need not be redesigned as a major thoroughway.

"The seven-lane plan will actually destroy the whole village," he said.

"It's disgusting. It just can't happen," said Markham Regional Councillor Bob Adams yesterday. "If this (the announcement) is true, it just shows the insensitivity of the ministry."

Vaughan Councillor David Fraser said he intends to scream about the announcement of the ministry's decision prior to the public meeting. "That makes our public meeting ridiculous," he said.

The design selected provides for two 12-foot driving lanes in each direction, a 14-foot continuous left turn lane and nine-foot parking lanes on each side, with the curb on the outside.

Alternative B, rejected by all area municipalities at a meeting September 23, had the curbing between the driving lanes and a reverse paved shoulder.

Scheme C, favored by Markham council, has two 12-foot lanes in each direction, a 14-foot turn lane, barrier curbs on the outside and no parking.

Gilbert said in his letter "this latter scheme has been rejected... as it is even more restrictive than the present roadway, which has reverse gravel shoulders."

He said without bus bays traffic would be held up when passengers board and with the bays, the road would be as wide as in the other schemes.



Happiness is a Christmas party
Mrs. Gertrude Orr of King City is seen above as she opens her Christmas gift at the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party held December 9 at King City Community Centre. The party was held by the 39ers of King City, a very active group of senior citizens. About 75 attended the annual party.

Wright seeks to be regional head again

By Jim Daw
York Regional Chairman Garfield Wright has announced he wants to keep his job for another two years. But other potential candidates are testing the wind.

Wright was appointed four years ago by the province but this time council will select its own chairman at the first meeting of the new year, January 9.

Conventional wisdom in York political circles has it that at least three mayors are interested in the position.

Their intentions were apparently suspected by their cohorts on local council because all three were unopposed in the December 2 elections.

Vaughan Mayor Garnet Williams said two weeks ago he is definitely interested in the position but would have to meet first with other mayors from the southern municipalities.

Wright, a former warden of York County, is from East Gwillimbury and under the old county game of "warden-warden-who's-got-the-warden" it would be time for a southern representative.

No one has said if region council wants to play that same game. But if it does, Mayor Williams may have to fight it out with Markham Mayor Tony Roman.

The other man who has said he is interested is Newmarket Mayor Bob Forhan.

Williams said Friday the southern mayors are to meet soon. But newly elected Richmond Hill mayor David Schiller said he hasn't been invited yet.

Mayor Roman said he had heard of a meeting but not that the region chair-

manship would be discussed.

Schiller said he hopes everyone interested in the chairman's job will speak with him because he has only second hand information on which to base his opinion of the contenders.

A new name could of course pop up in the next few weeks. Though council has the option of appointing someone from outside the council, many members feel they would not select someone with whom they have not worked.

Five new members will join regional council in January including David Fraser from Vaughan, Ron Moran from Markham and Schiller.

In Georgina their entire representation changed hands with former mayor Dr. George Burrows ousting Mayor Joe Dales and Regional Councillor Bob Pollock in a three-way race. The new regional councillor is Erik Larsen of Sutton.

It is unclear, however, if these changes will buttress or undermine the "Tory bloc" on the present council.

On most issues, Mayors Williams and Roman voted with this group, but Mayor Forhan was seen as an independent.

Forhan's voting pattern and his "lack of seasoning" might work against him if the Tory bloc maintains its slight majority. Only if there is a three-way race would his chances improve.

If one of the three mayors steps up, there would be an appointment or a by-election at the local level.



Garfield Wright Appointment runs out
Vaughan's Fraser told The Liberal two weeks ago he would try for the mayor's seat if Williams is selected. (continued on page 3)

Boundary revision

Donald Deacon, MLA York Centre is happy with the revised plan of the electoral boundaries commission introduced at Queen's Park yesterday.

His riding will lose the portion of Vaughan west of Bathurst Street as well as the south portion of Whitchurch-Stouffville. The north portion of Richmond Hill, to the Bloomington Sideroad, will be added.

Proposed changes tabled in June, which attracted considerable criticism, provided for the division of York Region on a north-south rather than the present east-west axis.

Happy to have all of Thornhill in his riding, Deacon said the commission has not only considered the distribution of population, but also the common communities of interest. His will be an essentially urban riding, while Bill Hodgson, MLA York North, with have an essentially rural riding.

As in the former proposed redistribution, East Gwillimbury will be included with Georgina in a Durham North riding.

Inside The Liberal
Meet the Fuddle Duddles
Meet the Fuddle Duddles, the world's worst male curlers, in pictures on Page 19 of the Sports Section, this week.

The Family Service Centres of York Region are determined to keep going. See "Letters" on Page 4.

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RC schools face teacher shortage

A shortage of teachers has become very evident for the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board. They face the need of replacing seven teachers at the end of this month.

Three of the resignations are from teachers of French, Superintendent John Zupancic told the trustees at the December 3 meeting.

It may be necessary, if they cannot be replaced, to cut down on the French program, limiting it to grades 8 and 9. Eight or nine schools will be affected, he said.

No applicants
The superintendent reported he received no applications from two advertisements. But he had been in touch with some teachers through members of the staff.

He also was using appeals through parish letters and is checking the voters' list.

He noted this shortage is not confined to York, but that the Metro Roman Catholic Board is also having difficulty finding teaching staff.

Need portable
He reported a portable is needed for Keswick school and was authorized to make application to the Education Ministry for approval for one. Another teacher will be needed there when the portable is available.

The superintendent said supply teachers are also needed badly by the York system.

Thornhill fatality

A man who was injured in an industrial accident November 8 in Thornhill, died Thursday in Branson Hospital.

York Regional Police said Vincenzo Conberson, 21, of 30 Concord Avenue, Vaughan, was working in the yard of Canac Kitchens, 360 John Street, Thornhill, when he was crushed between a truck and a mechanical fork lift.

The accident is being investigated by the Industrial Accident Bureau.

Predicts people will smash fetters on home building

By James Daw
Councilors like Lorna Jackson and Jim Cameron don't scare Vaughan's biggest developer Cam Milani. He is confident he has time and the system on his side.

Milani and his associates control approximately 2,500 acres of vacant land in Vaughan, so they don't like to see councilors get elected on a controlled growth platform.

But escalating land prices and the present housing market make him feel secure.

"I can sit on my land and wait," he said last week in an interview in his offices at the Upland Golf and Country Club in Thornhill.

"I am ultimately going to develop it, provided the socialist renegades don't take over the country," he said.

"Cameron and Jackson are ivory tower idealists if they think Vaughan is not going to grow."

The name Milani has been heard around Vaughan for the past 10 years, since Cam and his brother Italo first moved their operations from North York.

They came to Toronto from the North Bay area to start a construction firm in the early 1950's and later moved into the development field.

After Metropolitan Toronto was formed in 1954, it was the Milanis who registered the first plan of subdivision. Twelve subdivisions later, as the land in North York started to disappear, they looked to greener fields on the north side of Steeles Avenue.

They hoped they would be able to develop in Vaughan more economically and mount a more "substantial" project.

So in 1967 they proposed Centennial City — a 4,000 acre development near the Kleinburg area, that would provide homes for 80,000. The Milanis had assembled approximately 1,500 acres.

But faced with 12 similar projects in a 30 mile arc around Toronto, the province brought out the now famous Toronto Centred Region Plan to limit growth in the area called Zone 2.

Milani kicked as hard as he could against the plan. He protested it was an interference with the housing market and the "natural" expansion of Toronto. He presented briefs to the government and every housing or planning task force going.

"The government never asked the housing industry to participate in the planning, or if it did, it got the wrong guys," said Milani.

"Our selection of this land was based on years of experience as a land developer," he said. "I walked the land myself."

Near the Humber River, he thought it would be more economical to build because it would be easy to provide drainage, water and sewage facilities.

"Nobody cared to realise it would cost 20 to 30 percent more to build in Richmond Hill, than on our land."

1 vote wins RC board seat

Richard McIsaac, who was seeking re-election to one of the three Markham seats on the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board, failed by only one vote of obtaining that objective in the official figures released last week after press time.

In the count by the Markham Town Clerk's office Lawrence Pelliccione had 510 votes and McIsaac 509. McIsaac has said that he will definitely seek a judicial recount and has hired a lawyer to set the wheels in motion.

Markham winners
The other two Markham incumbents, Leo Wigglesworth and Alex McGregor were returned to office with votes of 671 and 523 respectively.

In another close contest in Vaughan Township which to regain the seat she has held without contest since 1970.

King winners
Frank Besco was re-elected in King Township taking the second seat from Gus Clark who has held it for the past two years.

In Newmarket, Ivan St. John, the incumbent, was returned to office when he defeated Kathleen Taylor 395-268.

The other trustees were returned to office by acclamation — Malcolm Massie in Georgina, John O'Mahoney in Aurora, Board Chairman John McDermott, who represents Whitchurch - Stouffville and East Gwillimbury and Richmond Hill's three trustees, Rev. Father Francis Robinson, Malcolm Peake and John Taylor.



Lawrence Pelliccione Wins by one vote
elects two trustees, newcomer John Faraci led the polls with 311 votes, Eugene Jacobs had 308 and Mrs. Noreen Lee had 288. Mrs. Lee has decided not to ask for a vote recount to try



Local developer Cam Milani
(continued on page 3)