## Public school board candidates



.....John Denison .....family physician

## Wants schools parent firm

EAST GWILLIMBURY - Another person widely active in community affairs, Dr. John Denison, 43, has lived in Mount Albert for the past eight years and is in family practice in Newmarket. He's seeking this township's only seat

on the York County board of education. "Happily married," with five children in the public school system, Denison believes the region has "a basically good education system, with many excellent teachers, good students and concerned parents.'

However he is "perturbed" that so much of his tax dollar goes to education and wants to make sure the money is being "wisely spent."

Firm discipline He would like to see his children get a good basic education, without too many options, with "teachers who will discipline them in the way any firm,

wise parent should. "As a family physician working in the community, I want to see those with working difficulties and emotional difficulties, identified early, before they become 'problem children,' so they can be helped early and not become a greater drain on our general tax dollars at a later stage," Denison said.

"As a family physician working with adolescents, I want to see amateur psychologists and questionable 'psychological programs' kept out of our children's hands," he said.

Strong board

He said he wanted to see "a strong, effective board of trustees that directs policy and does not concentrate on personalities, and an administration which can stop being paranoid about the board's intents, and administer as the board directs.'

Denison and his wife have five children, Suzanne, 21; Melanie, 16; Tamsin, 14; Stephen, 10; and Sebastian,

#### Experience is offered

RICHMOND HILL - A candidate for trustee in Richmond Hill, Eric W. Baker, RR 1, Gormley, says he has always worked for "careful, efficient use of the taxpayers' dollar", while in public administration, "streamlining" of the latter is needed

In this regard, he has three years' experience as a public school trustee, five years on York County council, is founder chairman of York Parking Authority and founding vice-president of Metropolitan Toronto Region Conservation Authority.

He said he supported "a return to emphasis on standards in education and, while not supporting the "do your own thing or moral autonomy concept", he doesn't favor regimentation either.

"There is a need for clarification of values education . . . on a basis that will be useful to the students, practise for the teachers and acceptable to the

parents," Baker said. Baker has been a member of the York board's values education committee for

the past two years. He is a Fellow of the Life Management Institute, with 20 years

experience in office administration. He is chairman of Richmond Hill land use committee, a director of the Community Planning Association of Ontario, a charter member of the Conservation Council of Ontario, and vice-chairman of the Ontario Conference in Local Government.

He and his wife, Kathryn, have three children and four grandchildren.



#### Has list of basic trustee needs

THORNHILL - Thornhill public school ward candidate, Walter Gula, 33, said he felt many problems existed in the York educational system that concerned him both as a parent and

He then listed what he considered its basic needs:

"Trustees who can work together to make the board effective; a good basic school program; board members who are readily accessible and eager to discuss any matter of concern; more value for the education dollar - this would necessitate a re-evaluation of all existing programs; a board responsive to the needs of Thornhill."

Junior kindergarten He said he was also "committed to the implementation of junior kin-

The Thornhill school ward includes
Words 1 2 and 7. It earliest possible time." Markham Town Wards 1, 2 and 7. It

elects two trustees.

A teacher in Westview Centennial Secondary School in North York for 10 years, Gula has an honors BA and MA from the University of Toronto.

A resident of Thornhill for five years, he recently served as president of Bayview Fairways Ratepayers Association, and at present is on the board of directors of Thornhill Lodge.

Won representation While president of Bayview Ratepayers, the latter petitioned and received, guaranteed representation for Thornhill, Unionville and Markham on the York board.

"This means that this year for the first time, the people of each area will have their own representative to speak for them on the board," Gula said. He and his wife, Reisa, have two children, Lorne, 5, and Russell 1



Walter Gula .....teacher candidate

Russell Rees .....teacher candidate

## dergarten, where feasible, at the

THORNHILL - A resident of Thornhill for six years, Russell Rees, 50, was a teacher in Ontario schools for 19 years.

He is now associate professor in the faculty of education, University of Toronto. "The cause is the child in the classroom," Rees said in announcing

his intention to run in the Thornhill-

Markham public school board ward which elects two trustees. "For every child of whatever ability and talent has the unalienable right to excellence in the basics. Facility in reading, writing and practical

mathematics, skill in gathering knowledge and expressing ideas and thought are the basics of basics. Thinking ability "Another is ability to think

reasonably so as to meet and overcome undoubted future problems as custodians of this rich land. "Another is the ability to survive, to develop, to grow as human beings with

self respect for others, thus to value our traditional beliefs in faith, hope and charity, in courage, prudence, temperance and justice.

"To these purposes there must be a cohesiveness at all levels of the system — for the benefit of the child in the classroom," Rees said.

Informing public

He said also there must be communication between the public and board and back to the parents again, "to whom all arms of the system are accountable."

Rees stressed "an intelligent and realistic" approach to budgetary and other needs, avoiding waste, but not diminishing the quality of teaching.

### Schools leading election issue

THORNHILL - Yet another Thornhill resident, Glenn Sullivan, 42, feels "education is the most important single issue in this election."

He's running in the two seat Thornhill-Markham public school ward. Sullivan said it would be his goal to visit every school in his area on a regular basis to make sure children were receiving the best education

To help bring about those goals, he listed the following as among the things he would try to do:

Treat all children as individual, educable people, reinstate a sound basic curriculum, return schools to the grassroots level by making them more accessible to the community, provide for professional accountability to parents and taxpayers in order to better protect the rights of both parents and children, re-establish genuine moral and social values in the schools, hold down riding costs through sound financial management.

Local involvement

Sullivan would also extend community involvement so a joint school and local committee would be set up that would have as part of its program, the right to select the principal and vice-principal among qualified applicants recommended by senior administrative officials.

The committee could also initiate and approve curriculum and innovative programs, and should be formed as soon as possible, he said.

Other proposals

Other recommendations: the next board should take steps to improve schools shown to be consistently unpopular with parents and students; a booklet should be issued containing specific examples of good practices parent-teaching relations; steps should be taken "to further decentralize the administration of the entire school system into well-developed and wellorganized local units."

**English expert** 

A department head in English at Toronto board of education, Sullivan holds bachelor of arts, master of arts and master of education degrees from the University of Toronto, plus an Ontario high school specialist's certificate.

He is a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Education at University of

Sullivan and his wife have two



Glenn Sullivan .....teacher candidate



William Munroe .....town firefighter

Stella Todd ..... value for dollar

board of education.

"the best possible education."

He said he would like to see board

RICHMOND HILL - "Until a person rather than at cross purposes.

mond Hill seats on the York County policy," Monroe said.

to pinpoint all the issues . . . " school "If, in fact, administration really

He is seeking one of the three Rich- lashing out at the nearest person or

However, Monroe says there are communicate directly with the public.

several things he would stress in an Electors were owed "some input other

effort to provide area students with than public meetings and newspaper

editorials.'

#### Stresses adequate education THORNHILL - Markham-Thornhill of language and math, to prepare candidate Stella Todd feels the main children for advanced study or to enter

and whether tax payers are getting the adjusted member of society. best value for their money.

Markham Wards 1, 2 and 7 on the 20- compulsory curriculum-content-grade member York County board of level basis, that allows for enrichment

are to teach children the fundamentals said.



areas of concern are whether students the work force, and to help them are receiving an adequate education become useful, productive, well-

"I believe the basics must be taught She is seeking one of two seats for in all the elementary schools on a or simplification to suit the needs and The purposes of education, she says, abilities of the students," Mrs. Todd The return to compulsory core

curriculum in the secondary schools "is a positive step toward ensuring that all students acquire a sound academic foundation," she said. However, course content "must be

flexible enough to allow students of different abilities and needs to be successful."

Mrs. Todd has a degree of bachelor of science in home economics from McGill. She is chairman of Thornhill and German Mills block parent committees, and for the past three years has been a member of German Mills Homeowners Association educational committee.

Among her precent projects was to present a brief to the board's planning and building committee, which resulted in project for additional school facilities in the German Mills area being given top consideration.

Mrs. Todd and her husband, Ray, live on Simonston Boulevard in Thornhill, with their two children, Katharine, 7, and Brent, 5.

Should be stopped

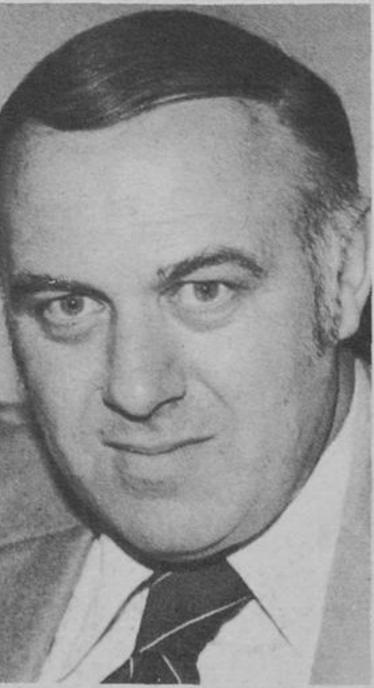
He said it would be necessary to

Board should behave

Permissiveness He said, also he was wary of permissiveness; a good home and church

life made for better students. A member of Richmond Hill fire department, Monroe is president of the Firefighters' Local 1957; past president of Ross Doane Home and School and past secretary-treasurer of York Region home and school association. He was educated at Richmond Hill High School, Markham High School,

Danforth Tech and Seneca College. Monroe said books "that are obscene He and his wife, Linda Carol, have meetings that are orderly and that set or abusive to the students, should not two children, Wendy, 14 and Pamela, an example for the students; the board even be considered by a trustee, let and administration work together, alone used in our schools for student 13.



Bob McMonagle ..... business consultant

# vacated

THORNHILL — Bob McMonagle, 47, who hopes to take over the Thornhill-Markham seat from his wife Chris (who is not seeking re-election this year). He is running "as a concerned

parent, ratepayer and businessman." As a parent, he said, he believes the the primary grades where we can firmly establish exceptional children before academic failure and regressive attitudes become excessive."

programs "which invade the privacy of my home, attempt to establish the moral standards and ethics of our children and perform services best undertaken by professionals of outside service agencies."

Limit reached

Speaking as a ratepayer, he said he felt they had reached the limit of tax endurance when 53 cents of every local dollar was spent on education.

Value analysis must be used to ensure dollars were carefully spent, along with keying on effective pupil-teacher contacts and elimination of unproductive programs and non-essential

"As a businessman, I believe our budget process is anticquated," McMonagle said.

"It fails to effectively match the September-August school year with a January-December budget, and budget decisions cannot be implemented for many months."

Zero-base budget

The board must consider use of a "zero base" budget, which started with nothing and required the whole program, department or system be totally evaluated on a regular basis. He said he felt the board had not

"adequately reflected the electorate," with only four businessmen serving last "With a budget of \$68 million dollars,

I feel I offer a trained, critical approach to value that will add a needed dimension," he said. Administration degree

McMonagle, a senior consultant with P.S. Ross and Partners, Toronto, has a degree in honors business administration from University of Western Ontario, and is a certified member of the Institute of Management Consultants. He and his wife, Chris, have two

children, Bob, 21, and Ann, 17. Widely active in community services, McMonagle has lived in York County for 20 years and Thornhill for 10.

### 2 terms resulted in goals reached

THORNHILL A member of the region public board of education for the past four years, Mrs. Doreen Quirk, 43, said her goal as trustee has been to ensure each child "receives the education he needs to develop his potential to the

She's a candidate in the new two-seat Thornhill-Markham public school ward just formed this year.

She said she worked toward that goal and "had the satisfaction of seeing those objections carried out — at least in part.

Among these:

Getting Grade 1 and 2 classes reduced from 32 and 33 to 22 and 23; Supporting the board's policy to allow children to attend schools other than in their attendance zone, if "in the best interests of the child";

Supported special services for slow learners, with the board increasing the number of diagnostic, remedial and speech teachers, plus an audiologist for those hard of hearing, with a program

for gifted children next in the offing; Helped bring about French program for Grade 1 students in Thornhill, which will spread to all Grade 1 programs in

Curriculum emphasis

She said she felt the board needed "to put a great deal of emphasis in the next two years on curriculum development, so no fundamental skill was missed "and that students have a common base of knowledge upon which subsequent teachers know they can build."

Although supporting the return to the "most competent teachers should be in core curriculum for Grades 9-10, announced by Education Minister Thomas Wells, Mrs. Quirk said she didn't think the "essential communication skills' would be met unless He said he took exception to students were given sufficient time to become competent in these skills, which included reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Also important

"Home-room teachers," quality teachers throughout, report cards emphasizing the progress of students in relation to themselves and others, a greater feeling of responsibility on behalf of the student, with an over-all feeling of respect for and by all those connected with the schools, were also emphasized.

Mrs. Quirk has an honors BA from Victoria College, University of Toronto, and a specialist's teaching certificate from Ontario College of Education.

A resident of Thornhill, she and her husband, Rick, have three children, Richard, 13; Barbara, 10; and Carolyn,



Doreen Quirk .... teacher candidate

example, and was in "a fairly artsy

hunt," Corcoran said.

eventually study law.

munication gap.

I'm not going to the board on a witch

"I'm going to be looking for people's

The youthful trustee hopeful plans to

opinions and hope to close the com-

#### Student enters race

VAUGHAN - A Grade 13 student at Woodbridge High School, 18-year-old Jim Corcoran says he is "an adult, with the asset of being a student".

He feels he has "something to offer the board of education." He's seeking one of the two Vaughan seats on York County board of education.

Corcoran said a fellow student suggested he seek a spot, following a run-in with the English department. He disputed the marking of an essay. A resident of Nashville, Corcoran

said he first felt there was "something wrong with the system" when he entered Woodbridge High School.

**Blames Davis** 

He decided to tackle it from the student council side at the beginning. But more and more he felt it went back to the faults introduced into the educational system by Premier William Davis when he was education minister.

Now, Davis was attempting to remedy the damage with a "patch-up" operation, he said.

"Education doesn't seem to be a twoway thing, anymore," Corcoran said. "Everything seems to have to come from the students.'

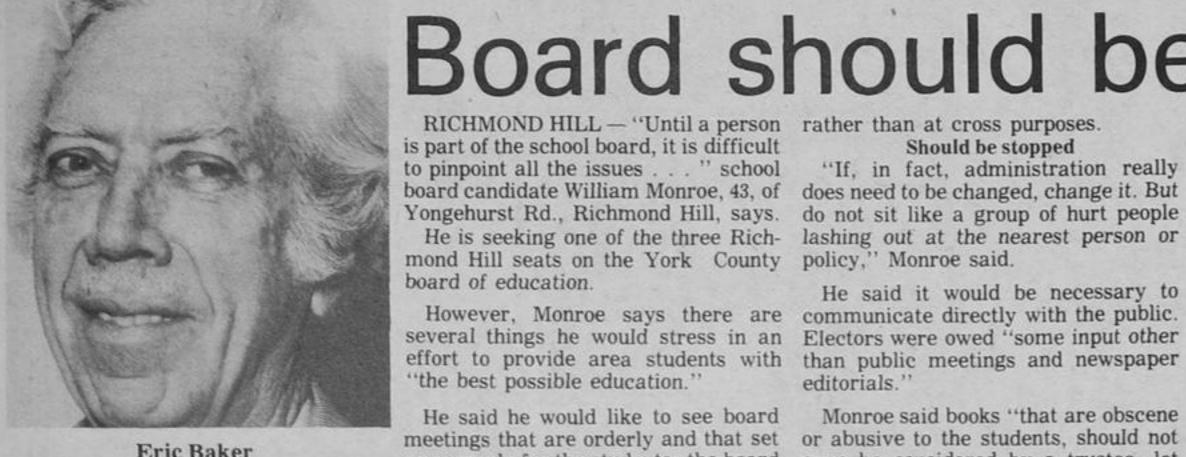
Too much oral

Elaborating, he said that, rather than doing a lot of written work, they did mostly oral work. This wasn't enough to help cover the subjects properly. There were hardly any compulsory

subjects. He had now dropped math, for



...Vaughan hopeful



Eric Baker . . . emphasis on standards