

Public school board candidates

6-year King trustee states objectives

KING TWP. — A school trustee for six consecutive years, Mrs. Margaret Coburn served on eight board committees during the past term and was chairman of four of them.

She also represented the York County board of education on the board of directors of the Ontario Public School Trustees' Association 1975-76.

A resident of King Township for 12 years, Mrs. Coburn cites the board's major aims for 1977-78 as follows: restore credibility and public confidence in the school system, develop "priorities" in spending, contain the budget, while protecting the quality of education, increase decision making at the local level.

Stated objectives

Among her stated objectives would be one of over-all communication on the board, which would see a spirit of mutual trust and respect in all areas between the board, its employees and the public, "whereby valid criticism, offered with respect, is recognized, accepted and acted upon; and unfair and untrue statements are vigorously challenged."

Mrs. Coburn said she would like to see expanded performance review procedures for all staff, and the use of standard testing procedures to evaluate the progress of students in the basic skills.

She said she would actively encourage parents to come to the schools to find out what was happening there.

Personal aims

Her personal targets would be to encourage and assist in developing a program for gifted children, plus alternate educational programs for students with exceptional needs.

The latter would include alternate schools, "at minimal or no additional cost to the board."

Mrs. Coburn has a BA from the University of Toronto, and a BLS from McGill Library School.

She and her husband have two teenaged sons, one attending King City Secondary School and the other at the U. of T.



Margaret Coburn
... profession librarian

clip and save
Dec. 6 election

Homework creates good work habits



Cathy MacDiarmid
... favors basics

RICHMOND HILL — "One vote for Mother" is the slogan adopted by Cathy MacDiarmid of Beechy Drive, a candidate in the last election and wife of former Richmond Hill councillor, John MacDiarmid.

Mrs. MacDiarmid said she is "strongly in favor of more basic education; a firm hand in budget control and a desire to obtain more education and less administration for the tax dollar."

She said she takes "strong exception" to the moral values program, and considers that the schools have enough to do to educate the child without invading the privacy of the home.

A firm believer in homework in all grades, Mrs. MacDiarmid says "homework creates good working habits."

A resident of Richmond Hill for 20 years, she and her husband have a son, Neil, who is a member of the RCMP.

Seeks RC north seat public school board

AURORA — Candidate John O'Mahony, 58, of Aurora is seeking to represent separate school electors in Aurora, King, Vaughan, Whitchurch-Stouffville, East Gwillimbury, Gwillimbury and Newmarket.

He represented Aurora on York Region Roman Catholic separate school board for the past eight years, the Aurora and district high school board for four years, and Aurora separate school board for seven years, five of them as chairman.

His goal

He said his goal as a trustee "would be to see that all children get a good, basic education and allow them to develop to their full potential."

"I believe the return to core curriculum in the secondary schools is a move in the right direction, especially for those students who wish to further their education."

O'Mahony also suggested a periodic review of school programs, plus the kind of environment needed to help children through their adolescent years.

They should be "taught to grow and develop as responsible human beings and show respect for authority and justice," he said.

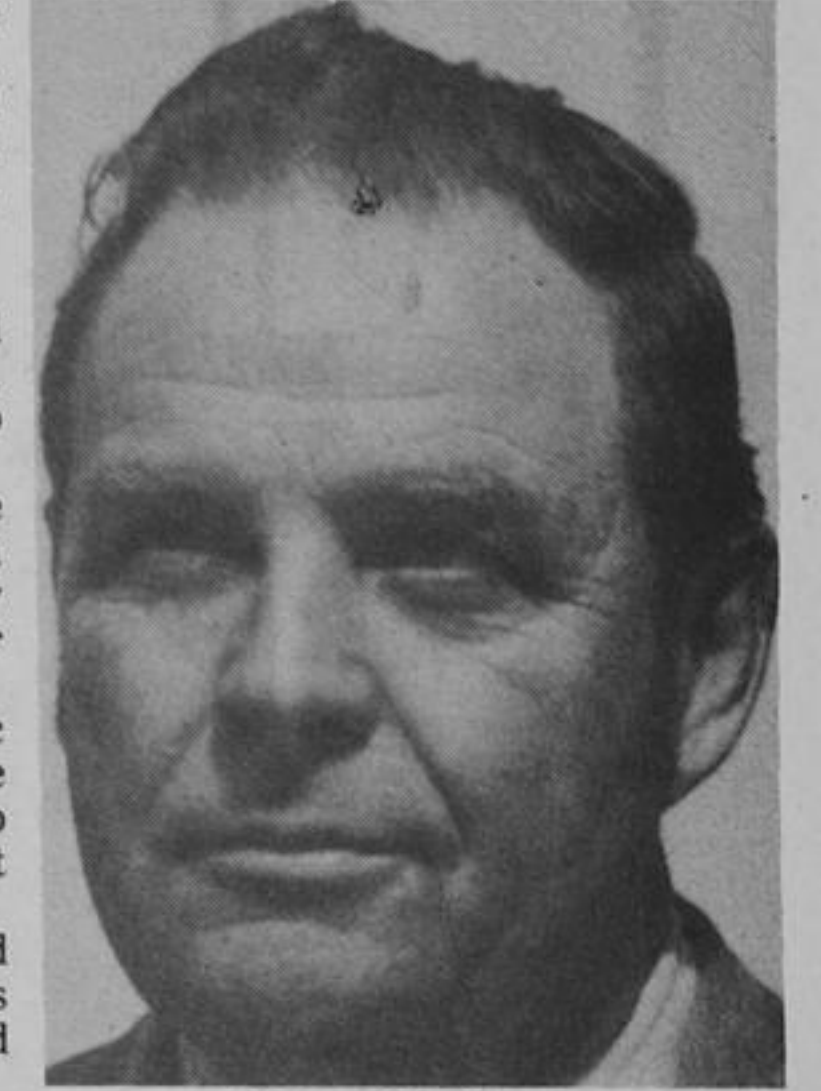
Budget scrutiny

He said he would wish to scrutinize

the budget, "but not necessarily cut it to the detriment of education."

O'Mahony has been with Collis Leather, Aurora, for 36 years, and is now office manager.

He and his wife, Mary Frances, have seven children.



John O'Mahony
... authority, justice

School board needs sound administration

KING TWP. — "The board of education needs sound business administration, which happens to be his business," is the claim set out in a brochure about King candidate Vince DeVita.

"We must reach out of the \$70 million budget," DeVita said.

"Over half of our property taxes goes to education, and it needs strong business minds to see you get your money's worth."

"This will be my primary concern."

DeVita also stresses the following: a strong emphasis on basic skills, with county-wide standards; reducing the class size in beginning grades, without increasing costs; increased community involvement in the schools; and improved board-teacher-parent relationships.

He said he supports the government's intention to introduce 50 per cent compulsory curriculum content, so that "by Grade 8, a child will be able to add, subtract and do the multiplication tables."

DeVita said he believes the school buildings "should become community property for the betterment of school children," through teachers, principals and parents working together, the latter through volunteer activities.

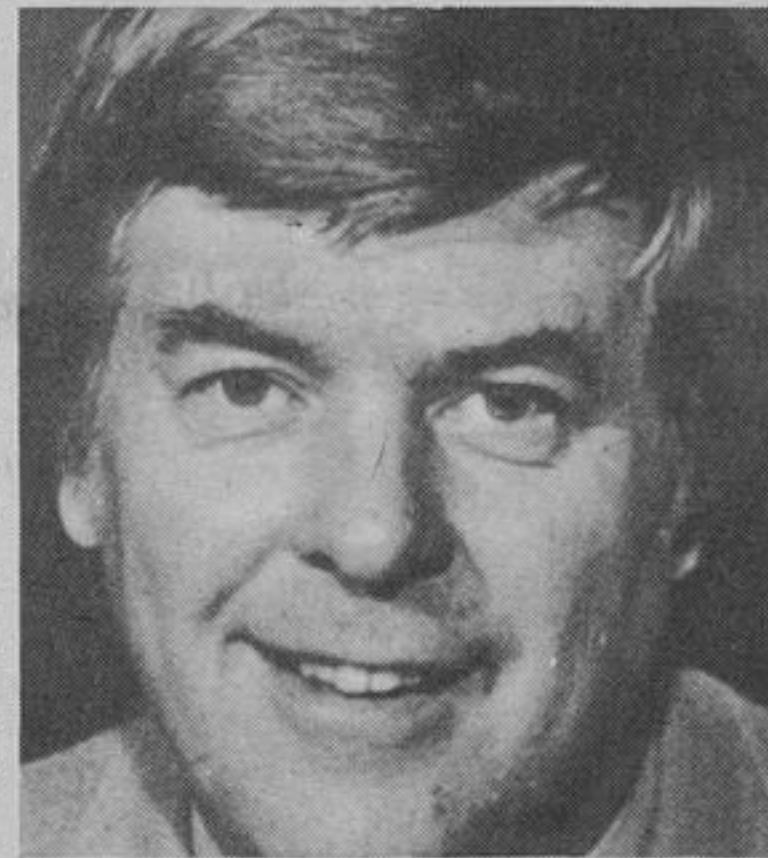
"Let the parents feel they are participating and helping the teachers educate their children," he said.

"Better communications" were also essential," DeVita said, pledging to listen to the voters and the teachers.

"I will be your voice on the board and vote accordingly. I will keep you informed through the newspaper and newsletters," he said.

Married, with five children, DeVita has been president of a large Canadian advertising corporation for the past 22 years.

A resident of King Township, he sponsors a soccer team there and is actively involved with crippled children.



Vince DeVita
... advertising man

He's running because people need voice

NEWMARKET — Rev. Grover Crosby, who is running in Newmarket against incumbent Rev. Craig Cribar, says his main reason for running is to be "a voice for the people."

"We must be concerned about how our educational system affects the child, the home, the community, social attitudes, and those chosen to train our children."

In that respect, it was important the taxpayer get his money's worth. "Good administration calls for controlled spending," he said.

He said it was also vital to get the opinions of parents, who were, "after all," responsible for the education of their children.

As a voice for the children, it was necessary "to assure them that at the conclusion of their formal training they will be well equipped for a life of responsible service."

Protect teachers

Crosby said teachers needed to be protected.

"They are too often blamed for things for which they are not responsible. They must be consulted about proposed changes or innovations being considered at the board."

He said he would "insist on a certain core curriculum, which would be standardized across the region."

This would not discourage flexibility of method, but would ensure that important basic skills will be taught and maintained.

The initiation of values education could move them from "education to indoctrination," he said, so it was necessary "that such emphasis is based on universal principles, which are basic to all."

Moral decisions

It was important to plan ahead for the students and to be "a voice for truth and integrity." Children needed to be

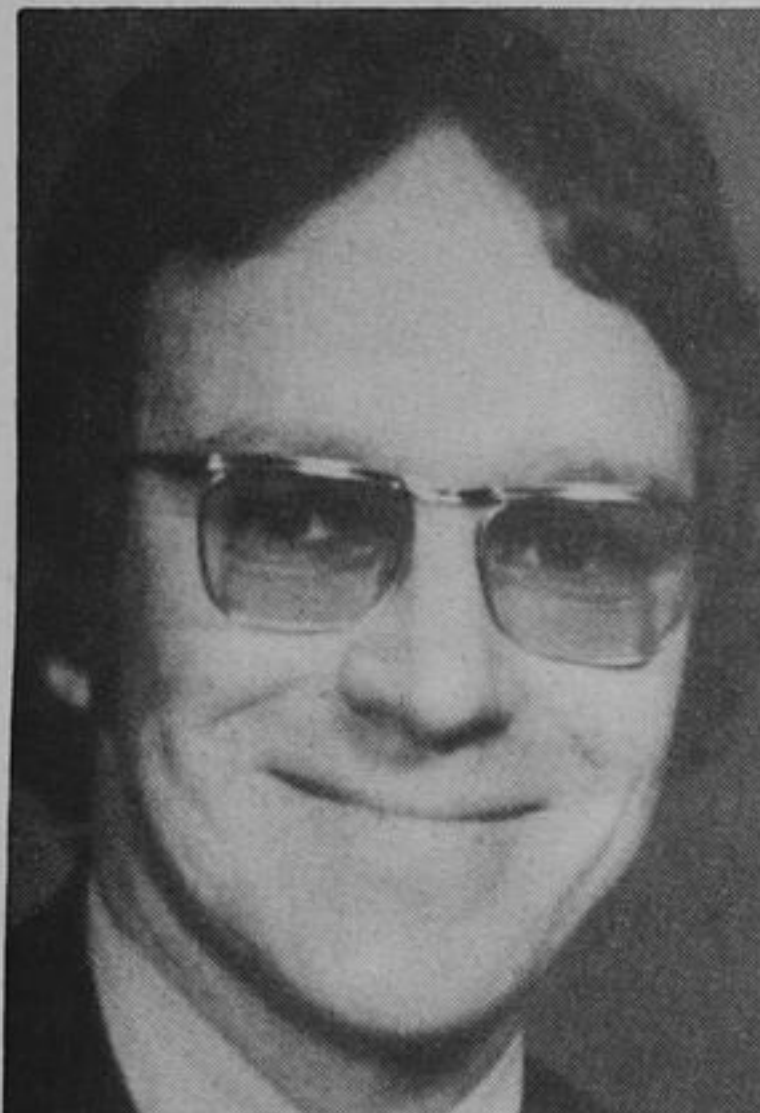
taught how to make responsible moral decisions based on unchanging principles of truth.

Pastor of Grace Church in Newmarket, Crosby and his wife live on Carlson Dr. in Newmarket, with their four children.



Grover Crosby
... Newmarket pastor

Only Hill trustee who didn't quit



Robert Houghton
... teacher candidate

RICHMOND HILL — The only one of the three Richmond Hill representatives from this year's board to be trying for another term, Robert Houghton has been with the board since 1970, just after its inception.

Since that time, he has served on numerous committees of the board and, while away from it, has tried to see to it that he is accessible to his constituents at all times.

He said he is working to develop "an excellent quality of education at all levels in York County."

A secondary school teacher in North York for the past 13 years, he said his "personal background and interest represent sincerely the feelings, which I hope will promote an atmosphere and conditions conducive to a desirable system of education in York County."

His wife, Marion, is a former elementary school teacher, who spent four of her 11 teaching years in special education.

Houghton and his wife reside in Oak Ridges with their three children, Nancy, 7; Heather, 5; and Brian, 3.

2 new Markham wards

BUTTONVILLE — Markham's voting list has grown by 3,300 names since the 1974 election.

Despite the addition of a new ward in Thornhill, rapid growth areas are still under-represented in terms of the rural area.

Ward 1 in Thornhill in 1974 had 10,536

voters. This time it has been split in two.

The new Ward 1 west of Bayview Avenue has 6,010 names on the list.

Ward 7, containing the other half of the old Ward 1 has 5,968 voters.

Ward 2 now has 5,914 voters com-

pared to 5,125 two years ago.

Ward 3 (Unionville) has 5,236, up from 4,715.

Ward 4, which includes the west side of the old Town of Markham has just ten more voters than in 1972 or 3,955.

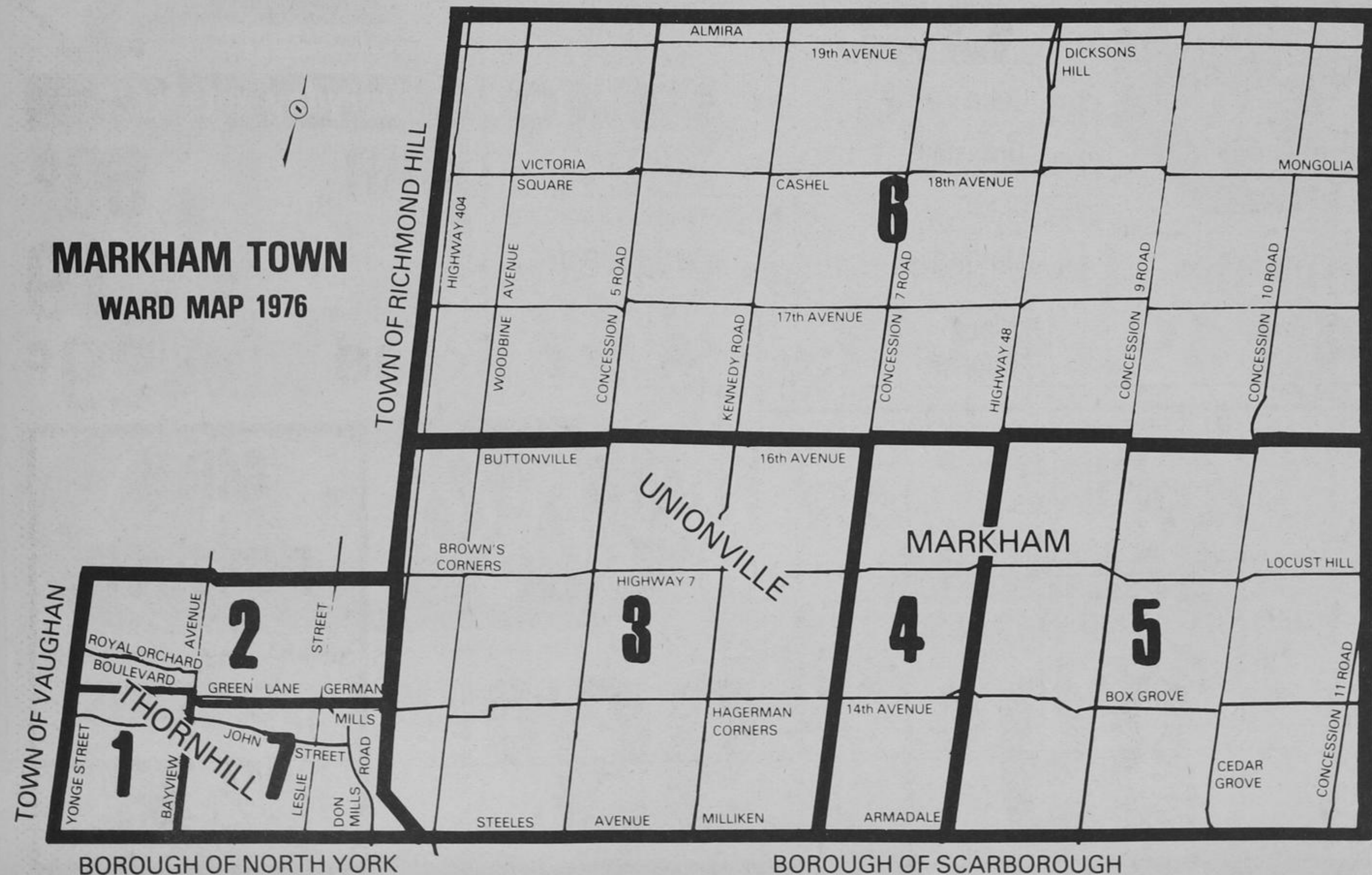
Ward 5, which includes all of the old town east of Highway 48 has 6,565, or

1,006 more than in 1974.

Ward 6, made up of the rural hamlet, and estate residential areas north of Sixteenth Avenue, has 2,293 voters, just 32 more than in the last election.

There are 35,349 voters in Markham in this election compared to 32,141 in 1974.

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE TOWN



4 things big aims of next 2 years

KING TWP. — King candidate Dorothy Zajac sees four things as the main goals the board should shoot at during the next two years.

They are: Evaluation of all aspects of the educational system, appropriate educational opportunities for all students, re-establishment of core curriculum and creativity, plus the need to "balance responsibility to taxpayer with maintaining quality in education."

Some eliminating

In the first category, she would look at programs, teachers, administration and support services, deciding "what is worthwhile, what needs to be 'upgraded' and what needs to be eliminated."

The second area would cover educational opportunities for the mentally, physically and perceptually handicapped students, as well as the gifted students.

Mrs. Zajac also re-emphasizes the basic skills and the responsible use of tax dollars, while "maintaining quality in education."

A graduate of the University of Toronto and Ontario College of Education, Mrs. Zajac, 41, has been active in community affairs including serving last term on the York County board of education — and has taught school at the secondary school level.

She and her husband, Andy, live in King City with their two children, Michael, 17, and Stephen, 15.



Dorothy Zajac
... teacher candidate