

Candidates state Catholic school issues



Francis Robinson
..... seeks third term

Robinson: Emphasize the basics

RICHMOND HILL — Father Francis Robinson, parish priest at Our Lady Queen of the World Church is seeking his third term on the Roman Catholic separate school board in the Dec. 6 election.

He is president-elect of the Richmond Hill Ministerial Association and a member of York Region Priests Association.

His concerns in the coming election are as follows:

"Emphasis on the core subjects — namely the three Rs — reading, writing and arithmetic is a must in any school system today. Enrichment subjects are fine when they can be taught without jeopardizing the time necessary for the basic subjects. There is only so much teaching time in the day and the best use must be made of what is available. However, economic use of time can work wonders. Also, where there is a will, there is a way.

"The Christian faith, being taught by believing teachers runs through our learning day. A specific time allotment is not sufficient. The golden thread of Christ's teaching must permeate a school — dedicated to Christian living. As the sugar is absorbed by the coffee and changes its taste, so the faith is absorbed into the child's school day and changes its outlook on life."

Actors wanted

RICHMOND HILL — Young men and women between the ages of 20 and 26 — English accents preferred — are being sought by the Curtain Club for its next production, All in Good Time.

Casting date for the comedy-drama, is Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Curtain Club, Newkirk and Elgin Mills Rds.

Producer Beryl Radke said there was "desperate need for young people."

The play, a comedy-drama, is being directed by Brian J. Moore. It will run from Jan. 28 to Feb. 12.

Greer: Need realists in education

RICHMOND HILL — It is time we injected some realists into our educational system, says Joan Greer, a Richmond Hill housewife seeking election to the York Region Roman Catholic separate school board.

"Today we are being swamped by government bureaucracy, complete with 'experts' in all fields, at every level.

"We should not be intimidated by educational experts to turning over something so very important as our children's education and future into the hands of professionals without at least being aware of, or questioning, the methods employed", she says.

She is studying for a degree at York University, and says she feels, as a concerned parent and taxpayer, an obligation to become involved in community affairs.

Here are her comments on the separate school system:

"I would like to see the very best possible educational opportunities provided for the students in our schools. I would like to see that the extremely high school taxes paid achieve this end. If not-why not? In other words, both the parents and the taxpayers should be getting value for their money.

"It has become evident that there must be a return to the basics in our educational system along with increased emphasis on written work. Also, I can see nothing but benefits to be gained from an effective, comprehensive French language program.

"We are fortunate to live in a country where we have two of the world's greatest languages and cultures. Our children are deprived of a certain enrichment if these values are not made available to them.

"Our children are this country's most valuable resource and we have the responsibility to see that this resource is not squandered.



Joan Greer
..... questions methods



John Taylor
..... 10 years experience

Taylor: Grade 13 is long overdue

RICHMOND HILL — Education in Roman Catholic separate schools to Grade 13 is long past due, says incumbent trustee John Taylor, seeking his fifth term on York region Roman Catholic separate school board.

An accountant, Taylor is a resident of Richmond Hill and father of seven children. He has 10 years experience as a separate school trustee, serving on the board prior to regional amalgamation, with five years experience as chairman.

"I am not aware of any issue facing candidates for the position of trustee," he says. He also commented:

"In the eight years of its existence, the board has acquired the services of an administrative staff of exceptional capability and in co-operation with this staff, has attracted a teaching staff that could well be the envy of many school boards in Ontario.

"Everyone connected with the board, trustees, administration, principals, consultants, teachers, maintenance and custodial personnel have been concerned only with providing the best education possible for the children entrusted to our care and have bent their best and most dedicated efforts toward that end.

"We are a growing board and face the problems that come with development and expansion over a very large area. But, these are problems, not issues, and are being met in the best way possible — even though somewhat unsatisfactory temporary measures must sometimes be used to solve them."

O'Flaherty: Minimize the costly waste

RICHMOND HILL — Better communication is needed between board members and the principals of schools, says Michael O'Flaherty, candidate for the York Region Roman Catholic separate school board.

O'Flaherty, who has lived in the Richmond Hill area for 11 years, has had 13 years' experience as a manufacturing manager for a pharmaceutical company. He hopes to be able to put this experience to good use testing board budget proposals, contributing to controlled spending and asking pertinent questions when individual budget proposals are brought before the board.

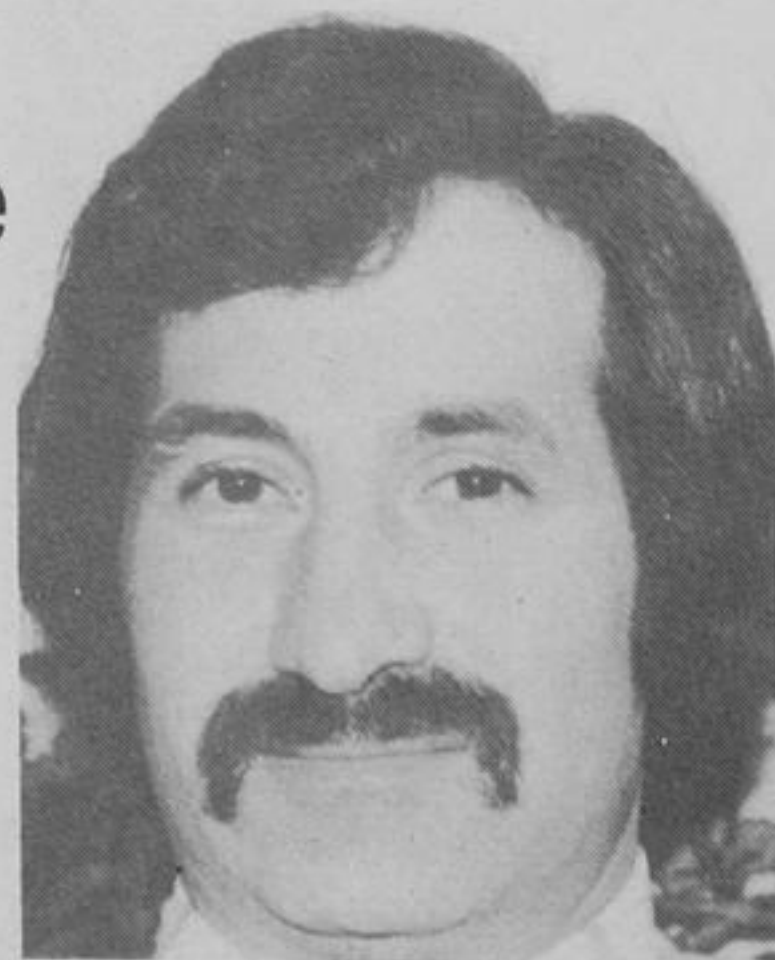
He has no previous political experience, but has served as area group committee chairman, treasurer and leader with the Boy Scouts of Canada.

"As candidate, my main theme is better communication between board members and principals of schools in the areas in which they were elected, so as to be able to assess the needs of those schools, bring problems to the attention of the board and demand action when it is warranted.

"Greater control of education budget spending is now becoming a priority. With the increase in enrollment in the separate school system, on the one hand, and the government cut in spending on the other, the board will have to take a hard look at next year's budget, assess priorities and minimize wastage."



Michael O'Flaherty
..... improve communication



Pat Burzillo
..... Oak Ridges resident

Burzillo: Must stress 'the 3 Rs'

RICHMOND HILL — The board must ensure that the "Three Rs" are continually being taught, Pat Burzillo sees as the most important concern as he seeks election to the York Region Roman Catholic separate school board.

Although he has had no previous political experience, Burzillo is employed as a resource teacher with the Metropolitan Toronto separate school board and has served on the Ontario English Catholic Teacher Association, Ontario Physical and Health Educator Association and is past president of Metropolitan Separate School Athletic Association.

At present, there are two representatives of the separate school board on the public board. Burzillo wants to see what steps can be taken to attain closer liaison with the public board and how can professional experience be shared to the benefit of the children attending both systems.

"The establishment of St. Robert's junior high in Thornhill has created new horizons for separate schools in the region. Can or should the board, in the future, provide educational facilities for a Catholic education to the end of Grade 13? Can or should the board establish other junior highs to serve other parts of the region?"

Burzillo says new programs, such as industrial arts, home economics and instrumental music, can help students explore different aspects of education.

Thompson: What are the issues?

RICHMOND HILL — There just don't seem to be any issues at stake in this election, says Conn Thompson, seeking one of the three available seats on the Roman Catholic separate school board.

"There's nothing that I can come up with or take issue to," he said.

At 49, Thompson is well experienced in school board goings on. He served for three years on the Richmond Hill separate school board before regional amalgamation and then served six years on the public school board until his defeat in the 1974 election.

Now he's back again to try to get some public interest stirred up. He's been attending the meetings for the last couple of months and has been very disturbed by the apathy.

"I just can't understand the lackadaisical attitude of the people, yes lackadaisical, that's what I mean," he said.

He was also the only candidate to show up at an all candidates meeting held at Richmond Hill High School Monday.

"I don't know how the electorate will decide who to vote for in this election," Thompson said, trying to think of some concrete issue that might distinguish one candidate from the next.

"I guess they'll be voting strictly for their friends."



Conn Thompson
..... a former trustee

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