

'Board lacking in grants'

THORNHILL — Paul Hyatt of Thornhill, who is running for York County board of education in Markham Wards 1, 2 and 7, says he feels the present "failed to negotiate and fight for our fair share" of government grants . . . "to the detriment of our children."

Hyatt said the York board "sits at No. 16 from the bottom of 71 school boards in Ontario" in the matter of the grant weighing factor, which is used to determine financial grants to the boards.

Hyatt said Metro received \$64 more per pupil and Hamilton received \$56. "No wonder our children must share all their textbooks," he said.

Hyatt said he was concerned with academic standards and educational achievements found in York County, and felt there should be more time spent in developing the basics in

education, such as grammar, reading, spelling and the basic communication skills.

Among other concerns in that line, were: the infrequency of standardized testing, the results that were gathered and what was being done with the latter; plus the "in-fighting of the previous board and the lack of a cooperative spirit that's been so prevalent . . ."

Hyatt said, he would like to see a study made of a French immersion program to "assess its impact on a child's education . . . (and) social and emotional make-up."

He said that, he would suggest an extensive review of special education resources in York, and would also promote the implementation of junior kindergarten.

Hyatt said he would also encourage Canadian content — "not only in the

traditional history — but in all relevant subjects."

"My experience as a business administrator would naturally lead me into the financial areas of education," he said.

"Throughout my business day, I deal effectively with all phases of budgetary items — from the smallest expenditures to the areas of long-term financial planning.

"And whether it be by new accounting procedures or old, it still boils down to getting the best educational value for the tax dollar spent," Hyatt said.

A former school teacher, Hyatt is now vice-president of Superior Tire Co., and is active in Community affairs.

He and his wife, Irene, live on Apricot Street in Thornhill, with their four children, Tim, 13; Rick, 12; David, 9; and Jason, 7.



Paul Hyatt
...money is available



Donald Cousens
...board vice-chairman

Cousens cites accomplishments

MARKHAM — Donald Cousens, a member of York County Board of Education for the past four years, and its current vice-chairman, cites three "significant accomplishments" during his tenure on the board.

They are: the improved quality of education. With smaller classes in both elementary and secondary schools, teachers can spend more time with individual pupils, he said.

Also, "the emphasis on core subjects and basics continues," Cousens said. "The special committees on writing course outlines across York County are developing standardized quality course guidelines for kindergarten through to grade six."

The other accomplishments were: the opening of schools to community activities at no charge; and improved relations with teachers' federations, resulting in better staff morale.

"Every effort is being made to attract and retain good teachers," Cousens said.

He said that he would continue to press for quality education, while "holding the line on cost."

"I feel that the budget for 1977 will be one of the most difficult in the history of the board," Cousens said. All costs must be justified.

"The new board has to find more effective ways to conduct its business, drafting policies and communicating with the community," he said.

Cousens, who is running in Wards 4 and 5, said that he would present a four-year plan for the latter, which would be discussed openly with the public, so that they would be "aware of the direction the board is taking."

Cousens has a BA from Queen's University, and a Master of Divinity from Knox College in Toronto.

He and his wife Aline live with their two children, Mary, 7, and Paul, 5, at 2 Southdale Dr.

Eric Baker supports teaching of values

RICHMOND HILL — "In both curriculum and content, we can avoid the hazards of permissiveness, without reverting to the other extreme of regimentation," Eric Baker, a candidate for York County board of education, said this week.

Baker said he endorsed the teaching of moral values and guidelines in the schools, but that methods could be improved.

"In this we can apply what is being learned about motivations and we, as citizens and trustees, as well as teachers, can be more careful about the examples we set," he said.

Baker said ways of controlling costs and improving products were learned from study and experience, and were especially needed in the school system.

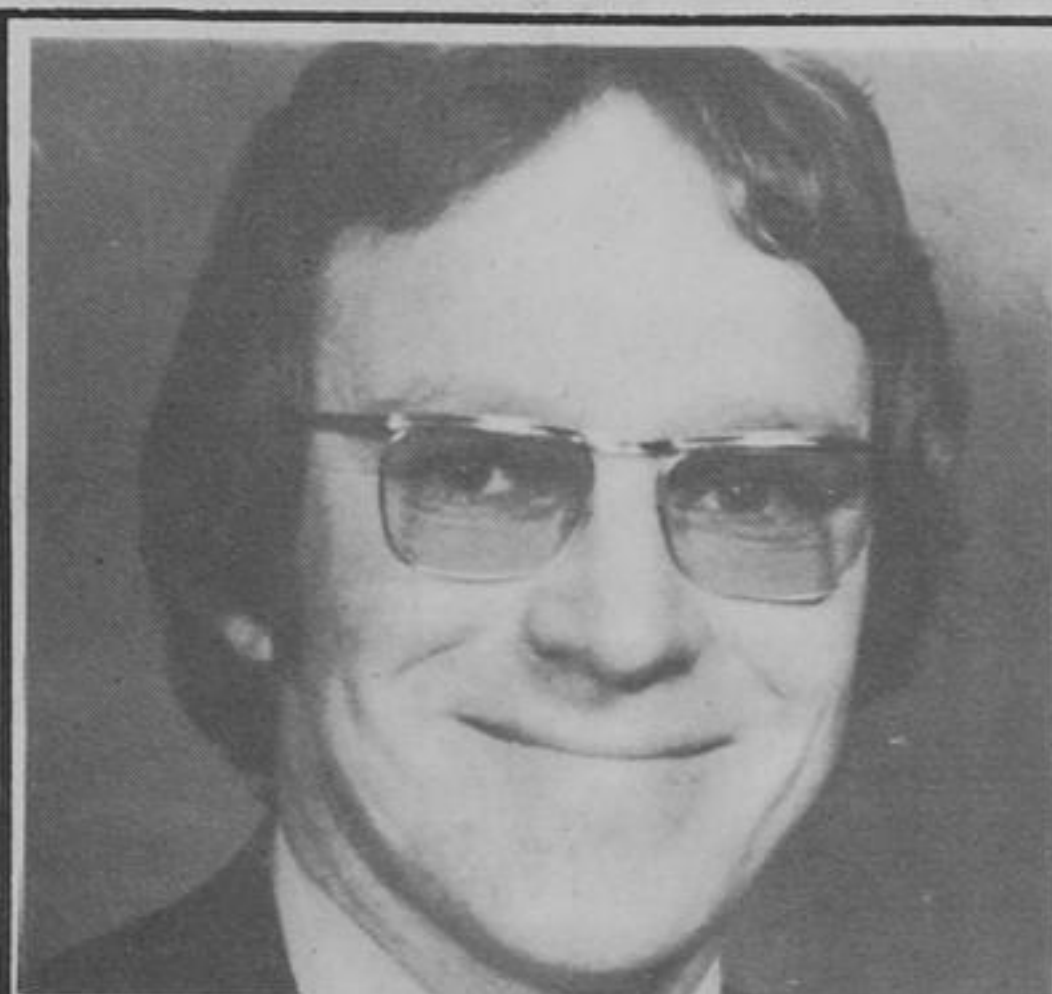
As one who had many years experience in both administration and adult education, he said he could offer that to the board. He could also offer his time, he said, as his business "now took only a small part of it."

Baker said that he endorsed the new emphasis on core curriculum.

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'Teachers' loyalty divided'

RICHMOND HILL — The participation of teachers as candidates for election to York County Board of Education, is disturbing to Ilga Irbe, of 337 Centre St. E., who will be trying for one of the seats on the board herself.

"A teacher being an employee of the school board, (and therefore of the taxpayer) can be neither impartial nor devoid of self-interest in exercising the functions of a trustee," Mrs. Irbe said.

"The charge of conflict of interest did not apply to the same degree when teachers were individual professionals," she said. "Today, a teacher is a member of an organized labor group, and therefore, cannot, in fairness to the public, disclaim vested interest in salaries and other benefits to teachers."

"As there is no legislation banning teachers from the position of trustee, it is the prerogative of the public to withhold their votes from candidates that are in the teaching profession," Mrs. Irbe said.

She said that, if elected, she would resign her position of claims adjudicator with the Workmen's Compensation Board, where she has worked for the past 11

years. "I think that the responsibilities of a trustee demand un-

divided attention," Mrs. Irbe said. A resident of Richmond Hill since 1972, Mrs. Irbe



Ilga Irbe
...avoid self-interest

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- Inspect PCV valve
- Inspect air and fuel filters
- Check coil
- Adjust timing
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