

Battle brewed below surface

By Larry Johnston

BUTTONVILLE — Tweedledum, tweedle . . . nothing. There is a ding-dong battle shaping up in Markham even if most of the voters are in a contented state of apathy.

Leading in the fray are the candidates for mayor.

Tony Roman, 40, who won the office six years ago is facing his first challenge from Bob Adams, 47, regional councillor, chairman of planning and the other dominant force on council.

The pair have worked side by side for years but are now tearing strips off each other whenever the opposition is

out of hearing range. Such is the nature of politics.

Both are politically ambitious, Roman has run twice for the legislature for the Progressive Conservatives and lost.

Adams sought the Liberal nomination last time and also lost.

Opinions of their talents vary from that of most councillors that it is too bad to lose both of them to one jerkhead last week that "they're both jerks."

Markham has undergone tremendous growth over the past six years and borrowed heavily against future growth to keep taxpayers in line. At the same time, (with ratepayers' associations watching them from every corner), the

town has made a reputation for being tough to deal with, says Roman.

Adams says he is the one with the reputation for toughness and as a result "some people want me out of there."

Roman says the difference between him and Adams is one of approach, that there are times when you have to use diplomacy. "I have had to mend so many fences after he charged right through them."

Adams says he wants "to turn the town around" by providing office space to provide white collar workers who live in Markham with a place to work as well.

The election has opened rifts that reach down into the race for regional

council where Alma Walker from old Markham, Roy Muldrew from Thornhill and Ron Moran, who tries to be in as many places as possible, are after the two seats.

Even in ward races, watching the candidates debate at Bayview Fairways Public School last week, while Peter Grosskurth talked the mayor beamed behind him and Adams looked up at the ceiling. Adams seemed much more interested in what Grosskurth's opponent, Tom Gove had to say.

There is a difference between the two candidates for mayor even if it is no more or less subtle than one inviting you home for breakfast while the other takes you out to lunch.



Adams sees Langstaff issue

THORNHILL—"Come early and have breakfast with us," said Bob Adams.

The next morning at 8:30 a.m., Adams was poring over a voters list and with a pocket calculator figuring out how many voters he could call on by lunchtime.

He should have been tired after the planning meeting that kept him out until after 2 a.m. but it didn't show. "You know what happened last night. We approved an entire town without any fanfare."

The "town", five subdivisions behind Thornlea High School was close enough that his wife, for one, was sorry to near more fields would be falling to the bulldozer.

Adams is known for his energy. He rose through the ranks of community organizations, from coach to president of the Thornhill Community Hockey League. He became a member of the Thornhill District Lions Club and went on to be president of "that very successful organization".

He was chairman of the building committee for the Thornhill Community Centre, sits as a trustee on the York Central Hospital Board and is a member of the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

A Bell Canada manager, Adams built his house on Ida Street and moved here 20 years ago. He and his wife Margaret have raised three children.

He first became involved in politics when Darcy McKeough threatened to merge Thornhill with North York. "We have a different way of life up here."

Since first elected in 1970, he has served one term as a local councillor and two as regional councillor. He announced last June that he was running this time for mayor.

He sees two big issues at this stage in the campaign and Langstaff is one of them. "It is preposterous that people of Langstaff when they tried to make their case at the public hearings, all they could do was object to where it is. They could not propose an alternate route."

A court ruling prevented the public hearings from dealing with land outside the Parkway Belt which made it impossible to discuss the merits of using the jail farm.

The Ontario government decided not to appeal the court decision and has not amended the legislation on which it was based.

The other major issue is the noise of CN trains in the Bayview Fairways and Bayview Glen areas. Adams says he would like to "clean up that situation" and stop all the shunting there.

Adams says the housing shortage will be over in five years when most of the post-war babies will be through buying their first homes. Meanwhile, developers will be scrambling to get as many houses on the market as soon as possible.

Adams says he would have liked to see the fairgrounds in Markham as a park. While there were many things wrong with the Save the Fairgrounds brief, he believes it made one key point, "how often does a community get a second chance in history to have a park in its downtown area?"

He believes in community involvement in planning.

One place where his views vary the most from those of the present mayor is in the attitude to the region which he says includes "all the worst things of county council."



Bob Adams
..... turn town around

He is vice-chairman of the regional planning committee, (where the Markham plan goes next) as well as chairman of the Markham committee that has worked on it for two years.

No Official Plan is perfect, he says, but the hope through the OP is to change Markham to a vital community which will give more people a chance to work there as well as live there.

Adams would like to avoid highrises. "Kids should not be in highrises," he says. "There are studies in Europe that show it is harmful to children in their formative years not to be living on the ground."

He thinks Markham's record in the area of senior citizens apartments is "abysmal". There are no senior citizens, rent-gear-to-income apartments in town now and the first one is being built by a church group. Another church group is planning one for Thornhill.

He thinks the density in the Thornhill-Vaughan plan is far too high. The people there do not know what they are getting themselves into. "It is like the old Markham Township."

The density of 40 units per acre compares to 22 units on the Markham side of Thornhill, he says. Again turning to his pocket calculator, he said that Vaughan would be 13 lanes short on moving the traffic out of the Thornhill-Vaughan development.

Confused voters

Voters have a lot to figure out in this election, especially if they are newcomers to Markham. Over the last week or so, they have been bombarded with campaign literature that they

will have to sort out. This page features profiles and platforms for candidates for mayor and regional council only. More Markham election stories appear in the A section.

Markham race for mayor, region

Stories by Larry Johnston

Moran runs, runs again

MARKHAM — Ron Moran never stops running.

The 49-year-old former insurance underwriter turned politician started to campaign for re-election the day he was unseated in a 1975 recount.

Moran served from Jan. 1 to June 15, 1975 on regional council before the recount gave his seat to Alma Walker by four votes.

Ever since, he has been working towards re-election. His campaign signs were ordered one and a half years ago and his literature last August.

He has attended all daytime council meetings since he was put out of office and for the past three years, has called on six to eight taxpayers every Saturday "to learn of the public's views and to uncover local problems."

Selling insurance

Moran has also been selling insurance as an agent. He and his wife, Penny, live near Highway 48 and the 19th sideroad. (Their four children are grown up and living on their own.)

He expects to run well on the west side of town where much of his door-to-door canvassing has been concentrated.

And he says the aborted "team" of Hi Lawrie and Alma Walker have made the election a "whole new ball game."

Ever since, Lawrie and Walker announced they would run as a "team", he has been receiving notes of encouragement of \$5 and \$10 in the mail, sometimes anonymously.

He says he was not one of the "gang" when he was on council and some members would not like to see him return.

Some voters have picked this up and many of those calling to complain about the "slate" now say they are going to vote for him alone.

Moran, a member of the Markham District Veterans Association, and a Chapter of Chartered Life Underwriters, served two years as a councillor for Ward 6 in Markham. He has been active in the NDP in the past but says he is now politically "independent."

He lists the following as important issues in the current campaign:

Speeding Cars

"There must be greater police surveillance of our streets. Many residents are complaining of speeding cars, squealing tires, and numerous break-ins. If there is one area where taxpayers appear to be prepared to pay more for better service this seems to be



Ron Moran
..... long campaign

it. I will support an increase in the regional police budget if Chief Crawford can assure me that the extra men he seeks will provide the quality of service being demanded by our taxpayers."

"There are too many townhouses going into existing neighborhoods. In 1975 a total of 221 single permits were issued compared to 1,518 multiples. It is easy to see how schools become crowded, parks and recreation programs taxed to the limit and traffic flows altered. High densities should be planned for new developments such as Riseborough, not old neighborhoods."

Council salaries

"The practice of a new council setting their own salaries must stop. The present council should make a recommendation to the incoming council so that the taxpayers will have an opportunity to hear where each candidate stands. (This approach is being worked on by finance committee chairman Stan Daurio.)"

"Council should not accept cash in lieu of parkland except in the case of extremely small subdivisions where a lot would be expensive to maintain. We should try to obtain all the parkland possible."

"Millions of dollars have been debentured over the past few years by our town, much of it for recreational structures. It is now time to turn to other less expensive sports facilities such as tennis, soccer and baseball. The era of big spending for big buildings should come to an end."

"The town sign bylaw should be enforced, or it will be meaningless. It was no sooner passed than there were dozens of businesses appearing before council asking for exemptions."

Muldrew touts experience

THORNHILL — A late entry for the regional council race in Markham is Roy Muldrew, 48, of Thornhill.

But Muldrew does not think his decision to run was made too late last month to jeopardize his chances.

Muldrew says he is running because "a number of citizens approached me some months ago and asked me about responsible representation."

He was a councillor from Thornhill for four years and chairman of the Markham finance committee.

"I feel I have to offer business sense," he said on a recent Cable television 10 program. "I think I proved my love for the town."

The Muldrews raised their family in a home in Thornhill and, now that the children have moved away, are living in a high rise luxury condominium on Yonge Street.

Muldrew says it is a misconception that condominium living is only for people with lower incomes.

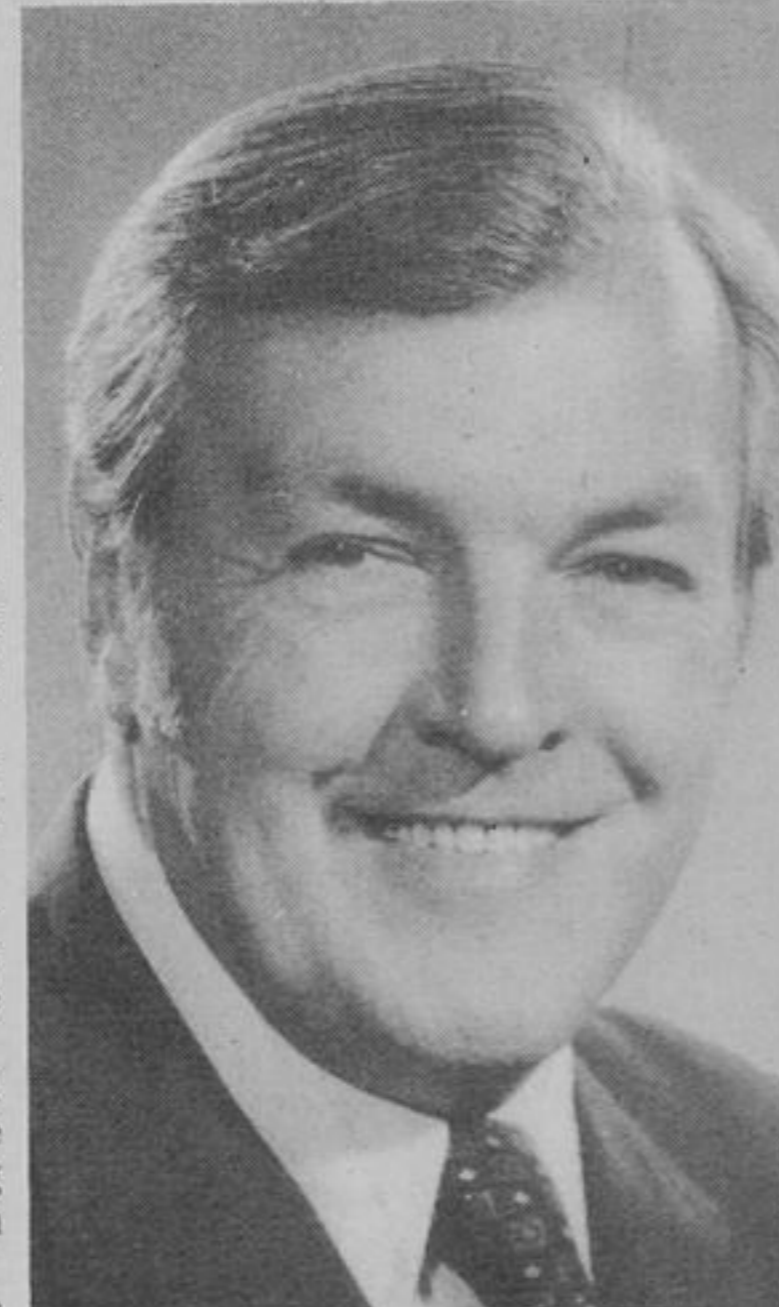
"It is for all levels," he says, and emphasizes that condominium residents own their own homes.

He is opposed to a you-scratch-my-back-and-I'll-scratch-yours system at York Region, the system that requires that you vote for something in someone else's municipality and they support you in return.

He thinks proposals should be considered on their individual merits.

He is pleased the Markham Official Plan is completed but thinks it is two years later than it should have been. Markham gave the region \$25,000 to do an official plan for it, but it was never done, he says.

He thinks it is important from the point of view of representation that Thornhill have a regional representative.



Roy Muldrew
..... regional bid

Key issues

Key issues in Thornhill include restricting Yonge Street to five lanes and providing alternate north-south routes so that Thornhill will not be split.

Region misunderstood

Muldrew says many people do not understand the role of a regional councillor as opposed to a ward councillor.

The regional councillor has to provide leadership to pursue issues with senior levels of government after they have passed the local level.

"I believe the region requires someone who can work with and make responsible decision on matters which affect long range planning, long range development, long range concern for the residents of our communities."

Walker known to speak out

MARKHAM — Alma Walker's most famous official remarks as a regional councillor were made behind closed doors, but they came barreling through.

"I have been compared to such intellectuals as Charlotte Whitton," says the 60-year-old Mrs. Walker who is about the same height, has the same red hair color and the reputation for speaking her mind as the former mayor of Ottawa.

On this occasion, she was chastising the Save the Fairgrounds Committee for its criticism of the Markham fair board. No one could defend old Markham better than the former mayor of the old town who was first elected to council in 1952 when it was a village of 1,200 people.

Over the years, she served as councillor, deputy-reeve and reeve. She ran for mayor of the new town when it was formed and lost and the following two years were the only time she was out of office.

She returned as a ward councillor in 1972 and in 1974 lost a close race on election night for regional council. She took office six months later following a recount.

Never a big spender in election contests, she said the recount cost her more than the previous campaign.

A busy person around and beyond the town borders, Mrs. Walker is a director of the Markham fair, active in Grace Anglican Church and has been honored for her long service as hydro commissioner by the Ontario Municipal Electrical Association.

Mrs. Walker notes that the council made an agreement with the new owners of the old fairgrounds when she was off council. Looking back, she says she probably would have voted the same way since the land changed hands



Alma Walker
..... former mayor

twice. "It was too expensive for a park. We can buy a whole farm in the parkway belt and have room for all kinds of things would not have there," she said, in an interview.

She felt the main concerns of residents near the fairgrounds was not to have a park, but the kind of homes that will be built. "They will be consulted."

She says she is running again because of the need for strong representation at the region. "I believe in regional government, but we must work to improve regional government."

There must be regional approval for the Markham Official Plan and secondary plan, she said. That brings up a second reason for running. "To finish what we started."

Mrs. Walker saw few issues in the current campaign. "The council has dealt with most of them."

The aircraft must finally be dealt with at Buttonville and the CN trains and federal government must come up with a decision that will help the people in the Bayview Glen area.