

WHITCHURCH—STOUFFVILLE—MARKHAM—UXBRIDGE, THURSDAY, FEB. 7, 1974

Frustrated parents urge end to strike

Fear whole year lost

MARKHAM — It was steaming hot in the lower auditorium of Markham's Centennial Library Friday, but no 'hotter' than the tempers of some parents.

The meeting, arranged by Members Barney Danson, (York-North), and Donald Deacon, (York-Centre), was meant to discuss some of the 'people problems' of the day.

One problem held priority over all the rest — education. Feelings ranged from hopeless frustration to irritation and anger.

"Re-call the House and force the teachers back," demanded one. "It's time to say this is enough," charged another. "The teachers are 'snowballing' you," called out still another.

Several took a more passive approach. They wanted to know if their children could be transferred to another school outside York County. They wanted to know if summer school courses would be available to catch up on missed subjects. They wanted to know what major issues were keeping the two sides apart.

Mr. Deacon fielded most of the questions in this area due to the fact that education is a provincial matter. He said he

suspected the Government was hesitant to force the teachers back for fear a total walkout might occur across Ontario. He predicted a takeover of negotiations by Queen's Park only if the trustees admit to an insurmountable impasse. "I want binding arbitration now," he said, "there's been no progress for the past four weeks, and I still hear both sides saying things completely at odds with each other."

A lady in the audience produced a letter signed by Markham trustee Don Sim, saying the Board is willing to negotiate seriously on all issues. She handed it to the Member.

Mr. Deacon said that as a parent, he faced a similar problem. He said some were making arrangements to have their children taught elsewhere, but other Boards were hesitant to accept them without assurance they would stay. He said he had no idea if the teachers would be willing to put in extra hours to make up for lost time.

"You politicians are too passive," complained a listener. "We obtain answers but see no results." "It's we middle-of-the-road people who are paying for all the bums downtown through welfare and unemployment insurance. The teachers are under contract and should honor it."

Mr. Deacon said there was nothing illegal in the action the teachers had taken.

Solution

soon or

quit—Deacon

YORK CITY — If no settlement is reached this week in the current York County teacher dispute, the Board will have no alternative but to resign.

This is the opinion of M.P.P. Donald Deacon (York-Centre). Mr. Deacon spoke personally with this newspaper Monday following a weekend of discussion with parties on both sides.

With the Board's duties terminated, the issue would be handed back to the Minister and an end to the strike would soon follow, Mr. Deacon predicted.

Blame director

MARKHAM — Sam Chapman, York County's director of education, came in for a verbal 'roasting' at the Danson-Deacon Liberal meeting Friday.

One speaker, a student of Markham Dist. High School, suggested Mr. Chapman alone was responsible for the stalemate in York. "He's almost like a dictator," the big boss," he said. The young man said it seemed strange that teachers in other areas had come to terms, but not in York County.

Donald Deacon, M.P.P. (York-Centre) said one person could hardly be blamed for the problems in York. "Perhaps it's the system that's wrong, perhaps an area setup would be better. Obviously, there's breakdown in relations," he concluded.

Editor's Mail

A 'local' dispute

MARKHAM — The resigned teachers of Markham District High School wish to assert that the dispute between York County Board of Education and its secondary school teachers is a local matter.

It has been stated by Mr. John Kippen, Superintendent of Operations for the York County Board that "the O.S.S.T.F. is trying to establish itself as a power force and had to come into any area, where a director of education is a strong figure. It didn't matter where."

The public should be aware of the following facts:

All secondary school teachers are members of O.S.S.T.F.

The secondary school teachers of York County initiated negotiations with the York County Board of Education on March 30, 1973. After eleven meetings ending on October 4, 1973, it was evident that negotiations had reached an

impasse. Not one issue had been resolved.

As a result of this stalemate, over 90 per cent of the secondary teachers of York County voted to request assistance from their provincial executive. In response to this request a group of O.S.S.T.F. members headed by Mr. Vincent Mathewson, a full-time mathematics teacher of Grey County, continued negotiations on our behalf. We were one of several counties that requested and received assistance.

Since that time, we have constantly kept our negotiators informed of our objectives in this dispute.

As far as we are concerned final acceptance of a contract is the prerogative of the teachers of York County and not the provincial organization.

This is a local dispute involving local problems!

Signed,
The resigned teachers of Markham District High School.

Together again



The home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Seymour, 228 1/2 half dead, was taken to the Stouffville Veterinary Clinic for surgery. Both jaws were broken plus Puddy, the family's part-Persian, is back, but other injuries Puddy's now on the mend as indicated by smiles from Mrs. Seymour and son Jim. The pet was found by Jim Ryan, the Town's Canine Control Officer, and although Dougie, age 6,



Don Deacon, M.P.P. (York-Centre) and Barney Danson, M.P.P. (York-North), were greeted by a 'full house' at a meeting, Friday, in the lower auditorium of the Markham Public Library. Mr. Deacon (above), found 'education' high on the priority list of problems. — Jim Thomas.



Mr. Danson (left) was confronted with questions concerning inflation, housing and the energy crisis. He also commented on the proposed new international airport saying: "We need it, but not here" — Jim Thomas.

"Save our school"—parents

MILLIKEN — If the York County Board of Education approves the closing of Marklee Public School, at the end of June, it will be contrary to the wishes of most parents.

This feeling was obvious, Feb. 27, at a public meeting called to discuss the future of the

building and the 100 students now enrolled there.

Trustee Donald Cousens of Markham said he was impressed with the unity of the parents and their support of the staff. He called it "a pretty tremendous presentation."

He said the ratepayers were

unanimous in their desire to keep the school open and provided excellent reasons to support this request. He said the appeal was made without anger or emotion.

Mr. Cousens said the matter would be reviewed by a committee prior to a Board meeting, March 11.

Regardless of their decision, a delegation of parents from the Marklee area will also attend. One of its members will be Mrs. Marian Disette, a pro-Marklee supporter.

In a letter to this newspaper, Mrs. Disette charged that the Board had "whittled down" the attendance during the past three years by altering the boundaries "to suit their convenience." "It is our belief that the Board has been anxious to close down Marklee, all along, and this has been their way of doing it," she said. She praised the work of the Principal and his staff, the size of classes and the happy, relaxed atmosphere.

his wife, the former Evelyn Byer, one brother, Walter, of Fenelon Falls and three sisters, Mary (Mrs. Aaron Good), R.R. 2, Baden; Hanna (Mrs. Gordon Wideman), Galt; and Ada (Mrs. Phillip Barg) in British Columbia.

Emmerson McDowell conducted the service, Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m., assisted by Glenn Brubacher, Lawrence Burkholder and Paul Burkholder.

Late Leonard Burkholder

Pillar in church

MARKHAM — Service was held from the Wideman Menonite Church, Saturday, for Leonard W. Burkholder, R.R. 1, Markham, following his passing, Feb. 27.

Mr. Burkholder suffered a heart attack after retiring for the night, and died suddenly. He was 58.

Leonard Burkholder was a lifelong resident of the area. Up until two years ago, he had operated a dairy farm at lot 9, conc. 9. He was in the process of selling the property and had diminished his operation to that of raising beef, cattle and pigs.

Mr. Burkholder was active in many phases of community life, particularly the church. He was a member at Cedar Grove Menonite where he served as treasurer, Sunday School teacher and song leader. He was a past-president of the Markham Sunday School Association. In addition, he helped out in the Menonite Disaster Service, an organization that provided relief for the needy in many areas.

Leonard Burkholder was proud of his family, that includes two sons, George, and Charles, both at home, and six daughters, Kristine (Mrs. Stanley Nissley) of Markham; Louise (Mrs. David Wideman) Listowel; Eleanor, and intern at Kingston General Hospital; Betty, a student at Ryerson; Marie, a student at Waterloo University; and Elfreda, a student at Markham Dist. High School. They survive along with

Fire loss over \$220,000 in '73

MARKHAM — Fire losses in the the Town of Markham for 1973 rose to \$220,365.00, an increase of \$97,845.00 over the previous year.

Chief Myrl Smith released this information before Council Feb. 26, as part of his department's annual report.

Chief Smith assured members that although the figures might seem alarming, the per capita loss of \$4.79 was in fact quite small and well below the national average.

Total operating costs of the department were \$296,444. There were only two injuries as the result of fires, and no fatalities, he said.

Markham has a staff of 27 full-time fire fighters and 48 on part-time. They answered 573 calls, 164 more than in '72.

The town's three fire stations accommodate a formidable array of equipment including five class 'A' pumpers, one aerial unit, one tanker and a station wagon.

The department performed many community oriented services, the Chief explained, including nine safety lectures, 30 station tours and 13 supervisory fire drills at area schools.

The men also made a valuable personal contribution to the Town through fund-raising campaigns. They donated \$1,586 to the Muscular Dystrophy Association and a \$1,000 contribution to the sign at the Markham Centennial Centre.

Hamlet postmistress honored

LOCUST HILL — Mrs. Frank Wade, that friendly face across the counter at Locust Hill General Store, and community postmistress, 32 years, has been honored by the Prime Minister of Canada.

A plaque, bearing the name Pierre Elliott Trudeau, will always remain one of her fondest possessions. It reads: "To Margaret W. Wade: On the occasion of your retirement from public service, I wish to thank you, on behalf of the government and the people of Canada, for your contribution over 32 years of faithful service and extend to you best wishes." Signed, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister.

Mrs. Wade took over the postal duties at Locust Hill in 1941. She retired in December, 1973.

While the rural route is more populated now (from 160 to 250), the hamlet itself is little changed, Mrs. Wade says. The federal government has purchased the store site. Mr. and Mrs. Wade are moving to Markham.

Charges follow tavern brawl

MARKHAM — A 25 year old Church Street man faces a charge of assault causing bodily harm following a fracas in a Markham tavern, Friday night.

It is alleged that Rick Bowden entered the premises and struck a patron, John Blundell, Pavillion Street, Unionville, in the face with his fist. While on the floor Bowden is supposed to have hit Blundell again, this time with his boot. The victim was admitted to York Central Hospital, Richmond Hill for treatment and observation.