

# Hard-hitting speech is a shocker

By KATE GILDERDALE  
He didn't pull any punches but few were left unshaken.

Potential changes in methods of funding for the public school system provided for a hard-

hitting presentation last Wednesday night when Bob Cressman, Director of Education for the York Region Board, spoke before parent and teacher groups from area schools gathered at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School.

Mr. Cressman was speaking on behalf of the Ontario Public Education Network (OPEN), an organization representing public school teachers, trustees, school board staff and public school supporters. Harry Bowes, school trustee, board chairman and a governor of OPEN, provided the introduction.

"The campaign has two primary points," noted Mr. Cressman, "promote public education and ensure public school finances are not jeopardized in any way."

A white paper to provide proposals for new ways of funding the system is expected in 1989, he stated.

Mr. Cressman stressed recent cutbacks of \$3 million worth of funding for computers, point to cash flow problems in the system.

"The cost of extending secondary education to separate schools is proving much more expensive than originally estimated by the government," he said.

Despite government promises in 1985 that the public school system would not be affected by the extension of funding to include separate schools, figures for 1988 tell a different story. He noted \$327 million or 68 per cent of total capital grants were allocated to the separate system, while \$157 million or 32 per cent were allocated to the public system.

"It's obvious they received twice as much as we did, when it should have been reversed. The public school system is twice as large at the elementary level and five times as large at the secondary," declared Mr. Cressman. "We found a lot of the money went into building new high schools for the separate school system; something that wasn't supposed to happen."

He pointed out funding sources for education come from provincial grants and grants financed by residential and commercial municipal taxes.

Most commercial and industrial taxes presently support the public system. In turn, the public system is open to anyone, whereas the separate system serves a specific group.

Mr. Cressman identified four funding issues, the first of which

was per pupil expenditure ceilings, or the amount of money it takes to educate a child for a school year, as estimated by the government.

The 1988 estimates were \$2,856 for elementary students and \$3,791 for secondary students. Actual budgets allocated by York Region were \$3,517 for elementary and \$4,914 for secondary.

"Every year we fall further out of line with their allocation. There isn't one board in the public system that can do it (keep within the government's budget allocation), and there hasn't been one in many years," Mr. Cressman emphasized.

He noted the excess is paid entirely by York Region taxpayers.

"The message to Queen's Park is it's about time they assess accurately what it costs to educate a student and pay the grants accordingly."

The second issue, he said, is the provincial share of the cost of education.

"For a number of years, the government paid around a 61 per cent share. In 1975 it started to decline and this year it's 45 per cent," he observed. "This means local taxpayers are forced to carry a rapidly increasing burden."

In 1988, according to Mr. Cressman, the provincial share of funding in York Region was 23 per cent, with local taxation accounting for 71 per cent, and six per cent coming from other revenues.

Mr. Cressman advised that the Board of Education and the Separate School Board in York Region have made a proposal to the Minister of Education on this issue.

"In York Region, new school construction worth \$100 million is presently under way," he said, adding the Ontario government's share would be \$35,000,000 while local taxpayers will have to supply the remaining \$65,000,000.

As a result, established residents with no school age children will pay substantial education taxes and young resident taxpayers will face an increasing burden.

He believes one answer is to approve lot levies for collection by school boards.

In conclusion, Mr. Cressman urged the audience to contact local MPPs and to write to the Minister of Education, the Treasurer and the Premier of Ontario expressing their concerns on the funding issue.

## MARKHAM MISSIONARY CHURCH

Major Mackenzie Dr. (1/2 mile E. of McCowan Rd.)  
Phone 294-5081  
You are invited to See

### "I'LL KEEP THE SWADDLING CLOTHES"

Written by Judith Gooding

A Musical Drama  
With a Choir and Cast of 85 People  
Under the Direction of Doris Pikey

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 7:00 P.M.**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 7:00 P.M.**

December 24, 6:30 P.M.  
CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE  
December 25, 10:30 A.M.  
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE  
Pastor Thurton Speaking

Come Share With Us the Joy of Christmas

TO ADVERTISE  
CALL

294-2200  
495-9440  
640-2100

# SERVICE DIRECTORY



TO ADVERTISE  
CALL

294-2200  
495-9440  
640-2100

### JOHN HEATON PAINTING CONTRACTOR

High Quality Decorating  
Fully Guaranteed.  
Airless Spray  
Completely Insured  
**640-4338**

### HANDYMAN

All Home Repairs and Renovations  
Decks, rec. rooms, retiling, door replacement, truck & trailer for moving, and rubbish removal.  
CALL NOW  
**471-4552 or 640-8332**

### CERAMIC TILE, TUB & SHOWER STALL REPAIR

Re-caulking service, plumbing repairs.  
Metro Lic. No. B2195  
Call IAN at **294-6440**

### COMEAU CARPENTRY INC.

Need your house renovated, your basement finished or intricate woodwork. **FOR FREE ESTIMATE CALL 475-3929**

### O McCrossan & Son Ltd.

Building Contractor  
Custom Carpentry our specialty. Additions, renovations, custom building.  
**294-6141**

### WINSTANLEY

SNOW PLOWING  
REASONABLE RATES  
**294-8328**

### BURGESS CONTRACTING RENOVATIONS

Residential - Commercial  
BATHROOM, BASEMENT, KITCHEN, CARPENTRY, DRYWALL, TAPING, CERAMIC TILE, SPRAY CEILING, FREE ESTIMATES  
IAN 294-6440

### MAYNARD CABINETS

Custom Furnishings  
Wall Units, Desks, etc.  
FRED  
**640-3441**

### GARAGE DOOR OPENERS CO.

SALES, INSTALLATIONS & REPAIRS  
**738-2546**

### PAINTING & PAPERING

for your home needs  
call Terry  
**298-8884**

### MARIC CONSTRUCTION LTD.

• Additions • Rec Rooms  
• Interlocking • Decks  
• Concrete Work • Fencing  
• Bathroom  
Phone: 471-8242  
471-4111

### HAMMER CONSTRUCTION

Residential & Commercial  
repairs and renovations 10 years experience - professional carpenter  
• Basements • Drywall • Taping  
• Additions • Decks • Solariums etc.  
Fully Insured • Free Estimates  
**471-4552**  
**640-8332**

### WAYNE SMITH CARPENTRY

Additions —  
Renovations  
Cabinets — Decks  
**640-6345**

### JM SCOTT CONSTRUCTION LTD.

Custom built homes, additions and renovations  
Fine workmanship guaranteed  
Call **640-8081**

### BARKER ROOFING & SIDING LTD.

640-4966



REPAIRS - RE-ROOFING  
SIDING & SOFFITS  
Free Estimates  
Serving The Community Since 1955

FREE ESTIMATES

MARKHAM PLUMBING

Renovations

New construction

565-2915 (mobile)  
294-3866 (res.)

GUARANTEED QUALITY

### KAVANAGH ROOFING

Residential Roofing & Repair

MIKE KAVANAGH  
**283-6452**

### DAVID BARKEY

Painting and Decorating  
Professional  
Experienced  
Reasonable  
**294-3026**

### Channel Master TV RECEPTION PROFESSIONALS

EDWARDS TV ANTENNA INSTALLATION, REPAIR & REMOVAL  
CALL ANYTIME  
477-1974  
Antennas Rotators Accessories

### WALSH PAINTING

Quality Work  
Reasonable Rates  
Paintings & Papering  
Call James  
**294-2504**

### DRYWALL RENOVATIONS - NEW & OLD QUALITY WORK

Call RAY at **640-6298**  
Stouffville

CLASSIC CONSTRUCTION  
Commercial & Residential  
Interior & Exterior

- Repairs • Decks
- Renovations • Walkways
- Drywall • Fences
- Basements • Painting

FREE ESTIMATES  
PETER MCCAUL 640-4379

### DRYWALL PROFESSIONAL

Eight years experience.  
Renovations, rec. rooms and repairs, small jobs done on short notice.  
Darren 471-1878

### NEW TO RICHMOND HILL FRESQUE CARPENTRY

NO JOB TOO SMALL  
Basements, bathrooms, ceramic tiles, decks, fences, repairs  
**770-0700**

### DOUG ELLIOTT & SON

Painting and Decorating  
Paper Hanging a Specialty  
37 years experience  
**281-9667 or 722-3694**

### LEHMAN PAINTING

Interior - Exterior  
Residential - Commercial  
Free estimates - Reasonable rates.  
**640-8537**

### MUELLER CUSTOM DECORATING

- Moldings • Wallpapering
- Chair rails • Painting

Quality workmanship  
18 years experience  
Free estimates call Bob Mueller  
**495-9922**

### CONCRETE WORK of ALL TYPES

Markham area  
Waterproofing and Urystone  
R. Pagnello  
ESTABLISHED SINCE 1945  
**294-4670**

### George R. Minor Insurance Brokers

147 Main Street  
Unionville, Ont.  
L3R 2G8  
"Quality Insurance Coverage For Careful People"

### YOU CAN SAVE WITH SAFECO INSURANCE

It's important to you, it's important to us.  
• OVER \$5 DISCOUNT ON HOUSE or APARTMENT  
• NEVER HOME DISCOUNT  
• HOME SECURITY CREDIT.  
**477-6240**  
"We Make Housecalls"

### ROGER HEATH CARPENTRY

LIC. B3591  
Contracting & Designing  
Basement Finishing Specialist  
Additions, Renovations & Repairs  
FREE ESTIMATES & REFERENCES  
**294-9786 EVNGS**

### HATHAWAY BROS.

PAINTING PAPER HANGING  
AIRLESS SPRAY  
INTERIOR & EXTERIOR

### PRATT & LAMBERT

Commercial, Industrial  
32 Years in Business  
220 Main St. E. 640-3075  
Success Square  
Stouffville  
**640-4134** (after hours)

### COXWORTH CONSTRUCTION

Custom Built Homes  
Additions - Renovations - etc.  
KEVIN  
**640-6516**  
(serving Markham, Stouffville & surrounding area)

### DONCASTER REFINISHING

FURNITURE REFINISHERS  
• Commercial  
• Residential  
**321-1102**

### DUNWOODY LIMITED

Trustees in Bankruptcy  
625 Cochrane Dr., Ste. 700  
Markham, Ont.  
L3R 9R9  
SOLUTIONS TO DEBT PROBLEMS  
• Creditor Arrangements and/or Proposals  
• Personal Bankruptcy  
• No charge for initial interview  
CALL (416) 474-0320  
FOR FURTHER INFO.

### KG KELLER GROUP LIMITED

ADDITIONS  
BASEMENT FINISHING  
CUSTOM BUILDING  
WET WALL REPAIRS  
**642-2000**  
"Guaranteed Quality"



ROOFING BY  
**edmunds AND COMPANY LIMITED**  
Choice of North York Homecare Assoc.  
Because  
*"We Dare to Care" SINCE 1947*  
**447-3961**

### AXEL FELSCHOW

**649-2485**  
Carpentry, dry wall taping, interior renovations, suspended ceilings and painting.  
Residential or commercial.  
Free estimates

### DMC CONSTRUCTION

**294-0778**  
**640-4538** (Evgs.)

### BILL'S PAINTING

Serving Markham Year Round  
Contact: Bill Fréchette  
**294-5415**

### CHIN'S Television Service

SERVICE TO ALL MAKES  
TV-VCR-STEREO-MICROWAVES  
 Free estimates on carries-ins  
 We make house calls  
 Honest, reliable & efficient  
 90 days warranty  
**293-0608**  
191 NUGGET AVENUE, UNIT 25