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Trustee to seek vice-chair position

MIKE ADLER
Staff Reporter

Stouffville trustee Virginia Hackson is challenging two colleagues this week for a leading role on York Region's public school board.

of the board against the woman who has held the post for four years. Karen Barker of Newmarket.

Newcomer Howard Shore of Thornhill said he'll also seek the position at the board's inaugural meeting Thursday.

Last week, Hackson and Shore both said some change in leadership is needed at the board which is returning with fewer trustees

and a new name, York Region District School Board No. 16.

"I'm not saying I can do things better. I'm saying I can do things differently," Hackson said last week.

Both Hackson and Shore promised they'd work to improve the board's strained relations with its teachers and the public.

Barker pointed to the board's record of fiscal restraint and said her experience as vice-chair would be valuable on a 12-member board with six new trustees.

Homemaking agency stays open

A pay equity-driven wage hike for workers won't force the Red Cross to shut down its homemaking agency, Red Cross officials have promised.

The 45 per cent hourly raise for homemakers, required Jan. 1 under Ontario's pay equity law, still "threatens" the service but the Red Cross is looking for a way to keep it running, announced Ontario Zone General Manager Allen Prowse last week. That means 6,400 Red Cross homemakers — including 162 in York Region — will keep working for their frail and elderly clients. Officials had feared the agency would close because of the law, which offers some competitors a different way to reach pay equity by making smaller salary adjustments. But because it was given "appropriate assurances" from Labour Minister Jim Flaherty and other provincial politicians, the Red Cross said it will continue the 24-hour homemaking service while searching for a solution that can meet its pay equity obligations.

"We're very optimistic," Mary Ferguson, public affairs director for Ontario, added last week. "Meanwhile, it's service as usual."

Markham trustee Bill Crothers, meanwhile, is almost guaranteed another year as board chair, his sixth.

Yesterday, Vaughan trustee Harvey Nightingale, who tried unseating Crothers last year, said he won't run against Crothers on Thursday and doesn't know any trustee who will.

The people filling the two top posts would get \$10,000 a year, twice the amount given to regular trustees.

A budget committee chair will also be elected at the inaugural meeting.



SWINGING IN THE PARK Ingrid Hutton and baby Joey Hutton, 10 months, enjoy the swings at the playground near Rupert Street in Stouffville recently. Photo by LORIE HEMMERSON

Elections among top news stories

Here are the remaining months of our look at the news in 1997.

MAY

- After more than 40 years with *The Tribune*, Joan Marshman's retirement was announced near the end of May. The life-long resident of Stouffville held a variety of positions at *The Tribune*, including compositor, distribution representative and sales.
- Tracy Kibble was announced as the new editor of *The Tribune*, replacing Andrew Mair, appointed as the paper's new editor-in-chief.



JOAN MARSHMAN

JUNE


- The fourth annual Caribbean Festival was held at the Recreation Centre on Ninth Line on June 7.
- Liberal Bryon Wilfert won the election in Oak Ridges, making history as being the first MP for the new riding.
- A 17-year-old local youth was sentenced to four and a half months in jail after being found guilty of vandalizing the Stouffville Cemetery.
- It was announced the proposal for a \$3.4 million town hall/library complex being planned for downtown will undergo public scrutiny, delaying the building process.
- A raging \$600,000 fire destroyed the 30,000-square-foot three-storey barn housing a King Cole Duck operation at Lee's Poultry Farm on Durham Sideline 32, resulting in the deaths of nearly 20,000 ducks.
- York Regional Police Det.

YEAR IN REVIEW '97

Robert Wiche was stabbed in the neck inside a Newmarket courthouse. The officer was on trial after being charged with manslaughter in the death of Faraz Suleman, who was shot behind the wheel of a stolen jeep. A 15-year-old Markham youth was charged with the attempted murder of Wiche.

- As of June 14, the finishing touches were being put on the construction of the York-Durham Heritage Railway tourist train station.
- Reta Alcorn won the Whitchurch-Stouffville's Senior Citizen of the Year award.
- Thomas Strand-Allard was one of four students in York Region to achieve a perfect score in the 1997 Gauss math contest.
- The York-Durham Heritage Railway tourist train station won the Ontario Local Government Innovation award.

■ Please see page 3 ■



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