

## Parent councils, school board officials about to get closer

MIKE ADLER  
Staff Reporter

School councils, the volunteer advisors now required at each school, are being drawn closer to the public school board.

York Region's district board is proposing regular, area-wide forums which will give representatives from councils a chance to talk to trustees, board officials and each other.

The board approved the idea last week because it felt communication with the councils — bodies of elected parents, teachers and community advisors that now help principals run schools — needed to be improved.

Under the board's model, representatives from all "eastern" elementary schools — 25 between Markham and Stouffville — will meet at least twice a year, with local school superintendents in charge.

Representatives from York Region high schools and those from other geographical areas would also meet separately.

The board, although it offers training to school councillors, had never proposed regular forums.

For years, however, there have been informal meetings between school volunteers in communities like Newmarket and Stouffville.

"This is an old concept that they wanted to formalize," said Linda Simerl, a Newmarket parent and co-chair of the York Region Parent Information Network, a region-wide group that has been meeting for three years.

At a network meeting this week, Simerl said parents have been waiting for something like the proposed forums, "regional discussions where there are knowledgeable persons present."

Having made councils a legal requirement through Bill 160, the province is expected to ask parents this year about what they feel a council's role should be. In its proposal, the board stressed that nothing in this system of forums pre-

vents people from bringing matters to the board's attention in other, more traditional ways.

But chair Bill Crothers noted the board has fewer trustees and said expecting them to meet regularly

with all the councils in their area is "not a reasonable or logical expectation."

EDUCATION

# SENIORS' DAY

## SAVE AN EXTRA

# 15% OFF

### HUNDREDS OF ITEMS STOREWIDE

Fashions, Furniture, Linens & more.

Save 15% on regular, sale and clearance merchandise, too!

OR

# NO GST\*

on Major Appliances, Personal Care, Small Electrics, Home Electronics, Broadloom, Vacuums and Infants' Wheel Goods.

## ONE DAY ONLY Tuesday, February 3rd

Seniors' Sale 15% discount excludes cosmetics, fragrances, Bath & Body concessions & services, Easy Spirit shoes, DKNY handbags and shoes, Eaton Gift Certificates, Roots merchandise, Jockey and Calvin Klein apparel, Liz Claiborne and Guess fashion accessories & apparel, Women's Designers (classes 359/118), Men's Designers: Mani, Valentino, Joseph Abboud & ck clothing, Mont Blanc accessories, Prospector footwear, Royal Velvet towels, Eaton Home towels, Sunglass Hut, watch straps, sale and clearance-priced fine jewellery, Dior and Estate jewellery, Gucci, Swatch, Guess and Prestige watches. Eaton's will deduct an amount equivalent to the GST from the total price of your purchase. Excluded from this offer are: Panasonic GA00 TVs, pre-recorded video & audio tapes, CDs and film. Offers valid for those 65 years of age or older. Offers cannot be combined together or with any other tax saving offer. Seniors' Day Offer not valid in our Shendon store.

## SENIORS' DAY SALE

# EATON'S

Important Recorded Messages For YOU!  
FEBRUARY 1998  
**DO GOOD PEOPLE GO TO HEAVEN?**  
Phone Call (905) 294-6960  
Life Line Jan. 31-Feb. 6  
Free Service Provided by BellSouth Life Group

ADVICE ON BANKRUPTCY AND ALTERNATIVES  
**FREE CONSULTATION**  
To discuss your options with a Trustee in confidence  
Call Anytime • Evg. & Wknd. Appts.  
**Starkman Kraft Inc.**  
Trustee in Bankruptcy  
Personal & Corporate Services  
Markham 889-7529  
7030 Woodbine Ave. (at Steeles)

**LAWYER**  
**PETER J. LEWARNE**  
Matrimonial / Personal Injury  
Commercial Litigation /  
Small Business Law / Bankruptcy  
Real Estate / Wills  
Over 20 years experience  
Low Rates - Quality Service  
4701 Highway No. 7 (at Kennedy Rd.)  
Unionville, Ontario L3R 1M7  
Tel: 477-4381 Fax: 477-7601  
24 Hour Availability