

Stouffville Tribune

Serving the community since 1888

WE'VE MOVED OUR OFFICE

Contact us... our new info.

**9 Heritage Road,
Markham, Ont. L3P 1M3**

Phone: (905) 294-2200

Fax: (905) 294-1538

Classified: 1-800-743-3353

Distribution: (905) 294-8244

E-FILE

LYNN BROUGHTON

INCOME TAX RETURNS
36 Baker Street, Stouffville
(905) 640-5759



Please call for an appointment
Local pick-up and delivery can be arranged

905.883.0047
ext 318
www.etc.yrbe.on.ca

Certificate Programs

Oracle Developer

Oracle Certified Instructor & Courseware
Full-time, Mon. - Fri. 18 weeks
Instructor led for 6 hrs. per day
Oracle Training Centre since 1997

Graphic Designer

Up-to-date MAC equipment & peripherals
Mac, Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator, Quark XPress
Full-time, Mon. - Fri. just 12 weeks

Come to our Open House

Tues. Feb. 8, 2000 from 5:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.
Refreshments will be served.
Please call to confirm your attendance.

ORACLE
Academic Initiative



etc

Elgin Training Centre

10909 Yonge St.
Richmond Hill
(Yonge @
Elgin Mills)

Flyer WATCH

Inserts for
Tuesday, February 1/2000

BiWay*
Smartklean Cleaners*
Cashway*

NO ONE CAN DELIVER RESULTS
LIKE WE DO!

To Book Your Flyer
Distribution Call:

Markham
(905) 294-8244

Stouffville
(905) 640-2100

MARKHAM
ECONOMIST & SUN

Stouffville Tribune

*selected areas only

Secret vote shows contempt for voters: trustee

BY GIANNI COLAVECCHIA
Staff Writer

A York Region public school board trustee is accusing his colleagues of showing utter contempt for their constituents after they killed the idea of holding open elections.

Trustees agreed at a board meeting Thursday night to forget about holding open elections every year for their top three positions.

Trustees currently elect their chairperson, vice-chairperson and budget chairperson through secret ballots. The proposal would have allowed them to publicly express support for or disapproval of candidates through recorded votes.

Thornhill Trustee Howard Shore immediately condemned his colleagues' approval of the current system as a "slap in the face" of local taxpayers.

"I would have hoped common courtesy and respect for the public's right to know would have prevailed," Shore, the board's vice-chairperson, said after the meeting.

"That clearly wasn't the case." It has been a long-standing tradition in many boards, including in York Region, to hold secret ballot elections.

But for Shore, the process the board uses to fill its key positions should be no different than the process regional councillors use to elect their chairperson. For three decades, they have used a recorded vote to fill that position.



HOWARD SHORE: Thornhill trustee says school board chairperson should be elected in public session.

The Education Act states trustees can go behind closed doors to discuss sensitive issues such as land deals and hiring or firing of board employees.

But the statute is conspicuously silent when it comes to inaugural board meetings, in which trustees elect their leaders.

Thursday's meeting featured a lively debate between two groups of trustees. One camp says the public should see every aspect of elections for the key jobs and the other feels the traditional way of filling those positions is fine.

The only outspoken supporter of secret ballots was Aurora-King Trustee Susan Plamondon, who said the current process is an open one because it allows people to see trustees nominate their colleagues to the positions.

But that process doesn't allow the public to witness trustees voting for or against candidates.

The idea behind the secret ballot is to allow trustees to feel comfortable running for the key positions.

The method of voting also allows trustees to give the public the impression they can all work together harmoniously when that may not be the case.

"I don't want to be perceived as someone who does not support open decision-making," Plamondon said.

After the meeting, Plamondon noted people may think certain trustees won't be able to work together if one of them publicly opposes the election of another.

The rookie trustee, who has never served in any of the three top positions, also pointed out the board's process is "not dissimilar" to general election secret ballots, which protect voters from being intimidated to vote a certain way.

"I hope the public will see the principle in a democratic society to elect their representatives by secret ballot," she said.

In the end, trustees turned down the idea of public voting eight votes to four.

Aside from Plamondon, none of the eight publicly explained their vote.

Separate school priority list is on the way

York Region Catholic board trustees have promised to outline their priorities soon for building schools in their rapidly growing region.

The board is to let area residents know over the next two months where elementary schools should be built.

The officials are to release one list

next month to show where schools should be built over the next year and a list in March that lays out a plan as to where schools should go up during a three-year period beginning in 2002.

To help them draft their lists, trustees agreed on the process decision-makers should use.

More emphasis will be placed on overpopulated areas.

Bureaucrats wanted the board to put much more emphasis on its five-year enrolment predictions, but trustees nixed the idea.

Out of the picture are criteria such as geographical barriers.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO GO
ON TUESDAY NIGHT?
WE DO!!!

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD EMPLOYMENT RESOURCE CENTRE (NERC) WILL
BE OPEN ON TUESDAYS UNTIL 8:30 P.M. STARTING TUESDAY,
JANUARY 11, 2000.

OUR CENTRE OFFERS YEAR ROUND, NO COST ACCESS TO ALL THE
RESOURCES NEEDED TO CONDUCT A JOB SEARCH, CAREER
ENHANCEMENT OR CAREER EXPLORATION.

WE ARE OPEN TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF THE STOUFFVILLE AND
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD EMPLOYMENT RESOURCE CENTRE
IS LOCATED AT

STOUFFVILLE DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL
183 BRAMBLE CRESCENT, ROOM 109,
STOUFFVILLE, ONTARIO
PHONE: (905) 640-2856



IF WE HAVEN'T MET YOU YET, WE WOULD LIKE TO NOW!

The Neighbourhood Employment
Resource Centres
are a partnership between:



Human Resources
Development Canada

Developpement des
ressources humaines Canada

Canada

