

# No opposition for 'lucky' Markham Catholic board trustee

BY MITCHELL BROWN  
Staff Writer

Carol Cotton said there's a reason no one is running against her in this year's municipal elections.

"I got lucky," she quipped. The Catholic board trustee representing Wards 1, 2, 3 and 6 in Markham believes a dearth of candidates in the Nov. 10 elections is partly a sign parents are satisfied with her work and partly because the position pays too little to attract much interest.

"I'm sure there would have been more competition if it was a reasonably salaried position," she said, taking aim at provincial rules mandating a \$5,000 annual honourarium for

school board trustees.

Still, as the number of candidates in other areas suggests, there is still some interest in the job.

While public board chairman Bill Crothers (Wards 4 and 5 in Markham) and public trustee Gary Unitas (Ward 3 and 6 in Markham) were acclaimed, public board trustee Tessa Benn-Ireland (Wards 7 and 8) and Catholic trustee Frank Alexander (Wards 4, 5, 7 and 8) are facing challengers for their seats.

Kwan Ho Leung and Chevy Lloyd have signalled their intention to replace Mr. Alexander on the Catholic board, while Kumar Nadarajah and Neethan Shan are hoping to succeed Ms Benn-Ireland on the public board.

Mr. Leung, an instructor at George Brown College in Toronto, lists inadequate resources and a lack of public awareness about the positive things happening in schools among his reasons for running.

"Despite the diminished role (of trustees), I strongly believe a trustee can still make a difference and I want to be there to make that difference," he said.

Mr. Lloyd, a businessman and former director of the Liberal Party of Ontario, was a trustee from 1994 to 1997. He said he looks forward to ensuring decisions return to the local level.

"For the past eight years, the public education system suffered under the Progress Conservative govern-

ment," he said.

Mr. Alexander, a corporate trainer, said he is seeking a second term on the Catholic board in order to continue his work as chairman of the race and ethno-cultural committee and vice-chairman of the labour relations committee, among other positions.

On the public side, Ms Benn-Ireland, a children's librarian, said she is seeking a third term in order to focus on key issues, including a lack of supplies and textbooks in schools and more funding for ESL programs.

Mr. Shan, a youth program manager at Malvern Family Resource Centre in Scarborough, said his working closely with young people is the reason he decided to run as trustee for his ethnically diverse area.

"The main issue affecting our schools in Markham is lack of adequate funding to maintain a high-quality education," he said.

Mr. Nadarajah, president and CEO of an ethnic radio station, said he is running to represent Markham's diverse population at the board.

"My ability to work with the multi-cultural community will be an added factor to the success of the area I serve," he said.

Incumbent René Laurin and Mervat Rashwan are also vying to represent York Region's French-speaking parents on the Conseil Scolaire de District du Centre-Sud-Ouest. Luc Arbour, representing York Region schools on the French Catholic board, has been acclaimed.

## Stouffville trustee 'grateful'

All things considered, Loreale Carruthers is glad no one else was interested in the job.

"I'm very grateful I didn't have to run a campaign," the acclaimed public school board trustee for East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville said.

"It's such a huge area. I'm trying to get out there and meet the people and already I'm clocking a lot of miles on my car."

Still, the freelance writer,

bookseller and mother of two wishes there was more interest in the job, although she can understand why most people would pass at the chance to run.

"It really is a luxury to run," she said. "The job doesn't pay and not everyone has the time to do it."

Ms Carruthers, who has sat on school councils for six years, said one of her priorities will be educating people about the role trustees play.

— Mitchell Brown

# WARD 4 LET'S RECAP

- 1) He is not a politician but an honest, hard working, successful business person.
- 2) He **"WILL NOT"** stay on council for more than two terms.
- 3) His entire family lives in Markham. He loves this town!
- 4) His Objectives for Ward 4.
  - Organize his Ward into strong effective groups.
  - Communicate with his constituents (**EVERY**) month.
  - Make Milne Park the Botanical centre of Markham.
  - Resolve the speed bump fiasco.
  - Reduce traffic congestion on McCowan and Main St.
  - Eliminate grow houses in Ward 4.

Jim has learned one valuable lesson through this election ...  
"He is blessed with many fantastic friends."



**NOVEMBER 10th**  
**VOTE**  
**JIM TREACY**   
**WARD 4**

## HEPATITIS C

Education & Support  
Hep C Chapter Meeting

Dr. McNaull  
Hepatitis Specialist  
Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>

SUPPORT  
Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

Place: Public Health Office, Unionville  
4261 Hwy #7, East

Time: 7:30 pm EVERYONE WELCOME!

For more information, call  
(905) 940-1333 or 1-800-461-2135

## PAFCO INSURANCE COMPANY

LETTERS PATENT

Notice is hereby given that Allstate Insurance Company of Canada intends to apply to the Minister of Finance for the issue of letters patent incorporating an insurance company under the Insurance Companies Act (Canada) for the purpose of transacting the business of property and casualty insurance with the name Pafco Insurance Company, in the English form, and Pafco, compagnie d'assurance, in the French form, or such other name as may be approved.

Any person who objects to the issuance of these letters patent may submit the objections in writing, before December 29, 2003, to the Superintendent of Financial Institutions, 255 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H2.

Toronto, November 8, 2003

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