



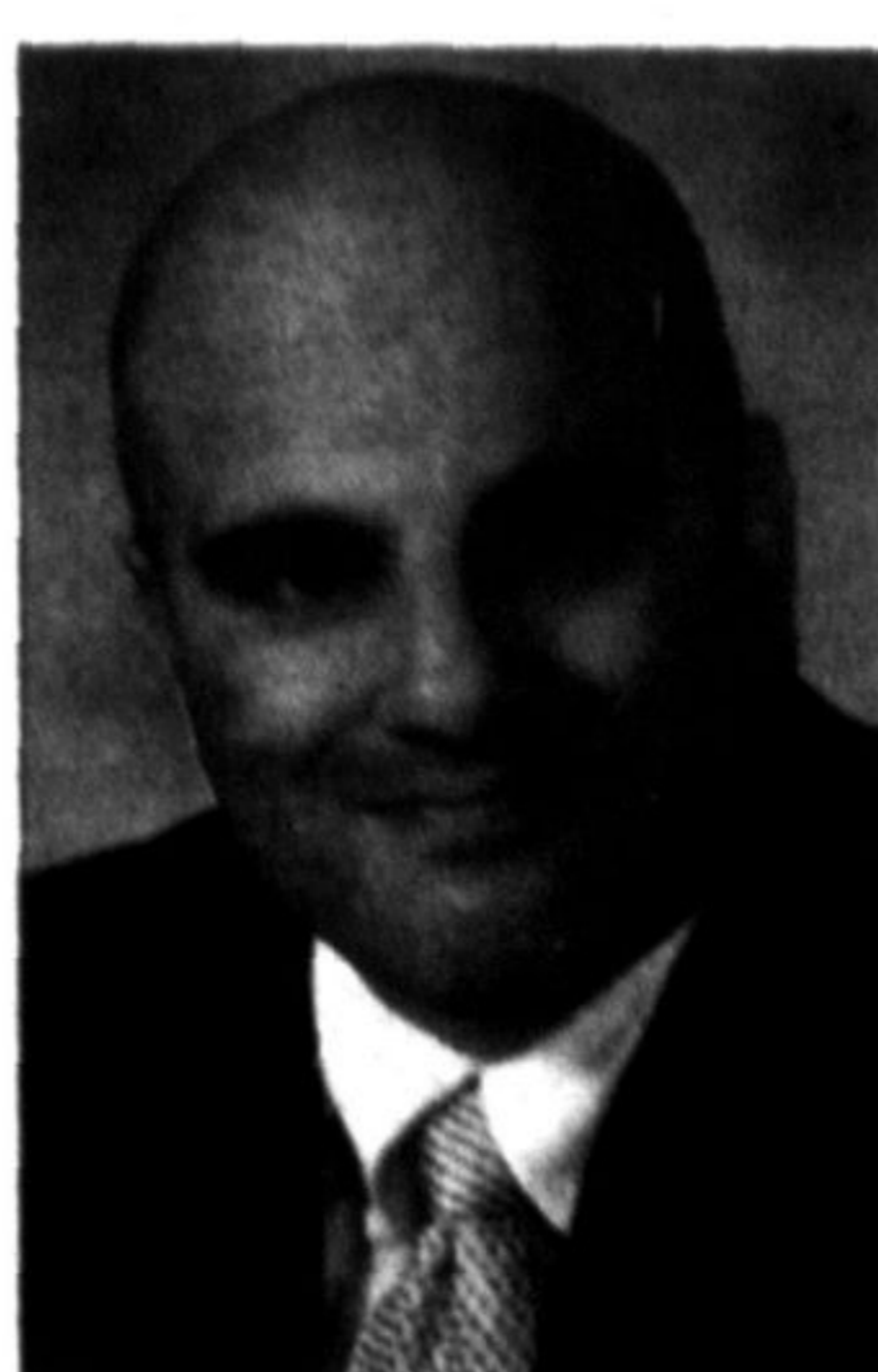
ELIZABETH CROWE
York Catholic District School
Board Chairperson



DANIELE ZANOTTI
United Way York Region
CEO



IAN PROUDFOOT
Metroland VP and YRMG
Publisher



ALTAF STATIONWALA
Mackenzie Health
President, CEO



TIM JONES
CHATS Development Director,
former Aurora mayor



JANET BEED
Markham Stouffville Hospital
President, CEO

Community leaders weigh in on what York Region's new chairperson must bring to the table

INTEGRAL ROLE DEMANDS DIALOGUE

BY CHRIS TRABER
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TELL US: What do you think is the most important quality for the role of York Region's chairperson? Let us know. Email jmason@yrmg.com

Dec. 11 will be a watershed for York Region.

A pivotal decision impacting every constituent in our nine municipalities will be made that day when regional council members appoint a new regional chairperson and CEO to replace long-time leader Bill Fisch.

As political lead for one of Canada's fastest growing regions, the nominee's term through 2018 will abound with challenges, issues and opportunities.

The chairperson's agenda deserves and demands dialogue, Metroland Central publisher and vice-president Ian Proudfoot said.

Accordingly, York Region Media Group has reached out to community leaders to share seasoned and reasoned opinions on this integral role, the qualities the appointee must bring to the office and the issues he or she must address.

"There are several prevailing themes and a plethora of ancillary matters. None are more or less important than the others," Proud-

foot said of the responses.

"Issues confronting the region range from housing, transit, growth, senior, youth and newcomer services to poverty, homelessness, growth and infrastructure."

Commentary on the new chairperson's perceived skills is also diverse.

"From fiscal responsibility to working co-operatively and collaboratively with all levels of government to owning and delivering an erudite vision, the chairperson will need to be a supremely experienced administrator," Proudfoot said.

"The major opportunity for our new chairperson and council is to manage all aspects of our growth, from housing affordability to transit to social services and thereby ensure York Region maintains an envied quality of life for all its residents," United Way York Region CEO Daniele Zanotti said.

Over the past decade, regional council has played a leadership role in defining and addressing some of our emerging social pressures, Zanotti said. But increased investments in critical frontline programs, including those dealing with hous-

ing affordability, a regional seniors' strategy and newcomer supports, are necessary.

"Regional council, by its very composition, is a collaboration, a group of nine municipalities committed to a regional agenda," he added. "I would suggest there is, at the core, only one essential quality for our incoming chairperson - to be a selfless, relentless and innovative collaborator."

Each of York Region's nine chambers of commerce will have important local issues for council, Markham Board of Trade president and CEO Richard Cunningham said.

"In Markham, our government affairs committee is focused on two key areas - housing and transit," he said. "We hear from our members that their employees are making long commutes due to a lack of local housing in their price range or they are losing staff to jobs in communities closer to where they live."

Improving transit is the other key issue for those who wish to work and live in the region, he said.

Seneca College board chairperson and former York Region District School Board education director

Bill Hogarth said the region's next leader faces the challenges of an ever-changing local, Canadian and global economic dynamic, along with the infrastructure and social pressures that come with growth.

A number of specific issues will impact York, our youth in particular, in the next four years, he said.

"Majorities will become the minorities in the region, creating the need for insights into social cohesion," he said. "Social media will define how people gain authority and use it. Millennials will insist on solutions to accumulated problems and injustices. Their voices will be more pronounced."

An ongoing challenge for the region and its chairperson will be to ensure community services and infrastructure, including hospitals, EMS and public health services, keep pace with York's unprecedented growth, Mackenzie Health president and CEO Altaf Stationwala said.

Ongoing financial and political support from the region will be crucial to the development of Mackenzie Health's Vaughan hospital, he said.

"The new chairperson needs to be able to foster a culture of innovation and technological advancement to continue the great work that has been done to establish a health care technology innovation hub in York Region," Stationwala

added.

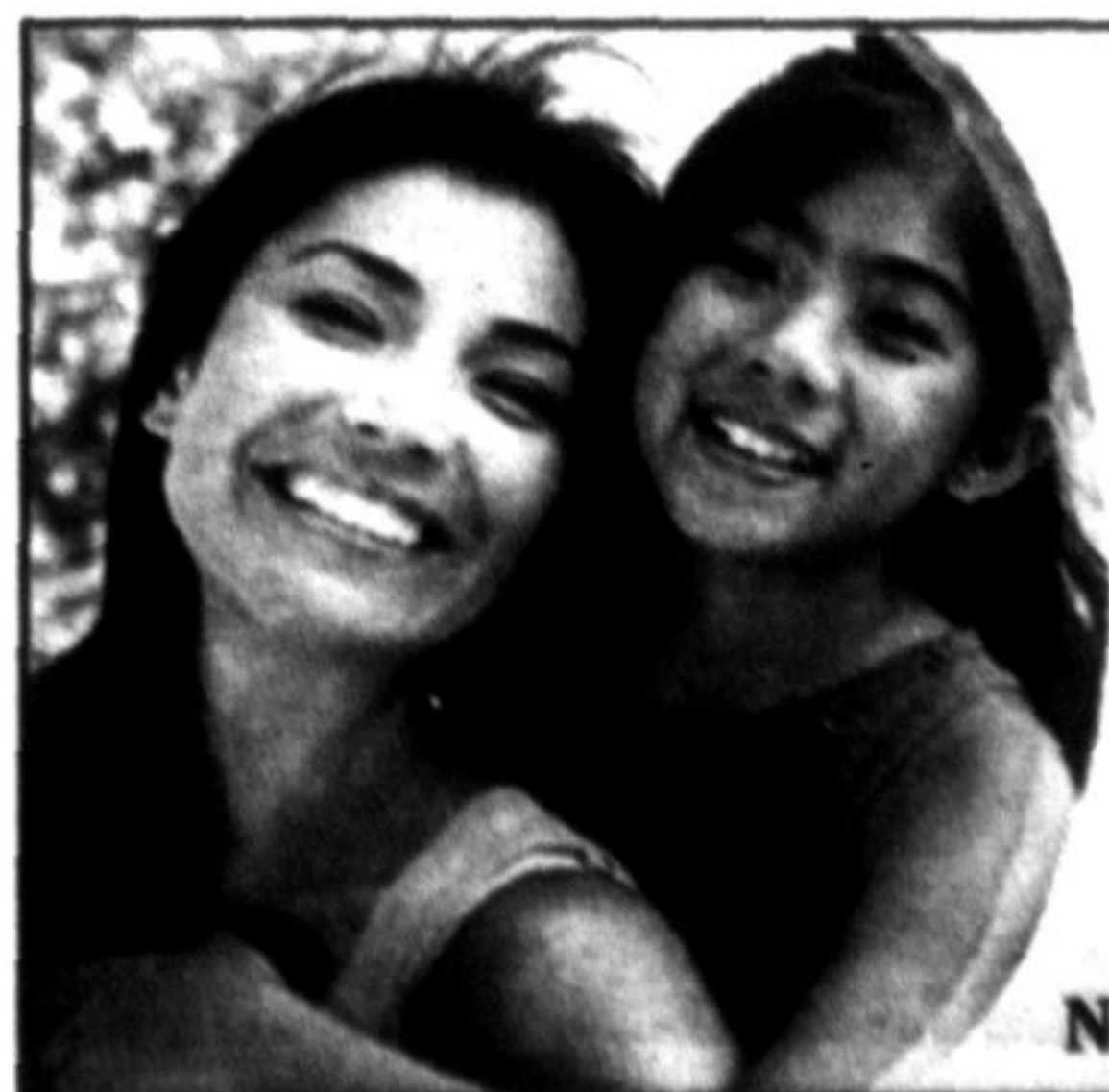
The next chairperson needs to have the ability to look at how community growth, industry changes, infrastructure planning and economic development all come together to meet the needs of the people of the region, Markham Stouffville Hospital president and CEO Janet Beed said.

"This person should be a facilitator, a listener and a big picture thinker. They need to be someone who understands what the region is today, where it's going and what it will be in the future. Their role is to help us get there," she said.

York Catholic District School Board chairperson Elizabeth Crowe believes the next chairperson's challenges in York will include the need for affordable housing, our "invisible" poverty and providing necessary infrastructure to support low-income earners, further improving transit and increasing employment opportunities.

The new chairperson will have to address and create a focus on the growing needs of seniors, especially in the areas of accommodation and better health maintenance options, CHATS (Community and Home Assistance to Seniors) development director Tim Jones said.

For extended commentary, visit yorkregion.com
For more on the race, see stories on pages 10 and 11.



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