

Black delivers pep talk to her supporters at fund-raiser

By Bill Rea

The race for mayor of King Township hit the ground Thursday night as incumbent Margaret Black addressed a room filled with supporters at Carrying Place Golf and Country Club.

Black stressed the accomplishments that have been achieved in King over the 12 years she's been in office in her talk to about 260 supporters, commenting on the hard work that has gone in to preserving the natural and cultural heritage of the area, while encouraging business and the agricultural community.

"King is a perfect blend of our future and our past," she declared.

She also pointed out local official plans have combined with legislation governing the Oak Ridges Moraine and Greenbelt to turn King into "a virtual Central Park in Southern Ontario." This is the time to build upon those foundations to preserve the green corridor for future generations, she asserted. Black wondered if her great-grandchildren will be able to enjoy this scene.

As well, Black commented on the funds that have come into King from the other levels of

government over the current term; more than \$5 million, which she said is a first in the history of the Township.

That included the \$1 million that York Region put up for the acquisition of 170 Nobleton acres from Slokker Canada, as well as another \$1 million that came from the City of Toronto. The Region also came up with \$1.5 million to help reduce the costs residents of King City are being put to for their sewer system, and another \$200,000 was obtained toward the water supply system in Ansnorveldt.

"I fought hard to get

these amounts," she said.

"Our King is financially sound and well managed," she added, pointing out the municipal reserves have almost doubled in the time she's been in office. "We have consistently balanced our budgets every year and achieved favourable independents financial management reports from our auditors."

Black also commented on last year's King Summit, which she called a "visionary exercise to plan for the future." A number of topics discussed at the summit have already been acted upon, she said, including arts events, protecting green space and the establishment of a committee to look into seniors' housing issues.

In addition, she commented on her successful efforts to improve ambulance service in King City, as well as the establishment of emergency master plans, something that was not in place when she became mayor.

"Village and streetscapes are more beautiful now than they were 12 years ago," Black declared. "Just last week, King was awarded five blooms in this year's national Communities in Bloom competition, a accomplishment we can all be proud of."

"The judges commented in their report about the beauty of our community, that everyone seemed to

know one another and the warm sense of friendship that exists," she added. "They also complimented us on our environmental practices and our rural life."

Black stressed she's committed to maintaining the quality of life and preserving green spaces in King.

"The next few years will be crucial to King and you

will need a strong, trustworthy, experienced mayor with a proven track record to stand up to the pressures around us," she remarked. "King is my home, as it is yours. We have all worked toward a healthy, sustainable and charitable community in which to raise our families, enjoy our recreational facilities and retire."

Trustee candidate completes term on provincial parent board

Local public school trustee candidate Gord Kerr expressed his satisfaction that almost two years of effort on the Parent Voice in Education Project and the Interim Ontario Parent Involvement Advisory Board resulted in improvements to Ontario's education system.

"The results are beyond what anyone expected," Kerr commented. "We began by seeking a way to renew the Ontario Parent Council and finished with a new provincial parent's board, a new provincial policy on parent involvement and new funding for school councils and boards to engage parents in education."

The connections made at the provincial level should help Kerr if he is successful in obtaining a trustee's seat on the York Region District School Board. "I had the tremendous experience of working with Kathleen Wynne on these projects when she was the Parliamentary Assistant.

Now as Minister of Education, I know that she will use her extensive experience and her deep personal commitment to public education to continue to make improvements to the system."

On Kerr's contribution to the Parent Voice in Education Project, Wynne said, "Gord was a leader who brought skills, experience and humour and was instrumental in helping the project succeed."

There is no better investment that we can make in the future of our children and of our province, than the one we make in public education," said Annie Kidder, executive director of People for Education and another member of the Parent Voice in Education Project. Kerr agreed and stated that, "public education provides the very foundation for our democratic society and the basis for future economic prosperity in York Region, in Ontario, and indeed, all of Canada."



Mayor Margaret Black addressed her supporters at a fund-raising event Thursday night.

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Letter to the Editor

Election signs are like Christmas lights

Regarding the agreement between Peter Grandilli and Jeff Laidlaw on the placement and number of election signs:

I have never heard of such a silly agreement between two camps during an election campaign. What candidate would want to put a cap on how frequently they can promote their name?

Limiting where and how many signs you can put up is quite suspect. This is a

unique political strategy that I find very strange. Are these two candidates representing different ideas and viewpoints or are they playing a game with the electorate?

Letting people display their support for a candidate is a part of the democratic process. Election signs are like Christmas lights — Not all are pretty, but they celebrate the season!

Caterina Facciolo,
Nobleton

Craft workshop Saturday

The King Township Museum is hosting a Holiday Craft Workshop this Saturday (Oct. 7) from 2 until 4 p.m.

Create beautiful decorations and centerpieces for Thanksgiving and Halloween. The cost is \$7 per person and the Museum will provide all the materials.

The location is 2920 King Rd. in King City. Contact (905) 833-2331 or kingmuseum@king.ca for more information.