

Gagne new French SCRCSSB superintendent

Anne Gagne says she wants to breathe new life into education when she starts her new job as Superintendent for French Language Education for the Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board (SCRCSSB) next week.

The Penetanguishene woman, who has been involved in education for the last 25 years, appears just as excited as ever to spend time with the children and

teachers to excite them about the experience of education.

Gagne said she wants "to see kids loving going to school," and wants "to help teachers be energetic about teaching and what they're able to do in their classroom to make children learn better."

"I'd like to have the chance to have contact with the kids," she said. "I get just as much of a lift when I have contact with

the kids in a class where the teacher is into a new dynamic way of teaching."

"There is also a need to rejuvenate French in the schools in the sense of making it a living, fun language," she said.

As for the new arrangement involving the French Language Education Council (FLEC) and the school board, Gagne says she looks forward to working closely with both bodies and with her Simcoe County Board of Education (SCBE) counterpart Denis Chartrand.

"Openness and respect for both cultures has always been part of our community," she said.

"The separate school community puts a great deal of emphasis on community. The sense of community and respect for both cultures has always been very important."

Gagne added that as the new French education superintendent, she will strive to clear up misunderstanding and misinformation that have created English-French friction.

To do this, Gagne added, she will have to help the Francophone community build its credibility. But as for respect and credibility, Gagne lends a lot to her job, since she is viewed as a top quality educator by

both Ministry of Education officials and SCRCSSB Director of Education Bill Bolger.

The new superintendent's job will be a change of pace for Gagne, who, for the past year, has been working with the Ministry of Education. She worked primarily out of Toronto, but her job took her across the province, east to Ottawa, north to Sudbury, with principals and teachers groups.

Gagne had been working as a curriculum consultant and resource person for guidance and family studies teachers, who instruct in French. She says she worked closely with an

English counterpart, so the curriculums across the province mesh. She and her partner were working with teachers as they gave workshops, updates and speeches.

Gagne will be juggling the two jobs until the end of April, when she runs Dialogue '87, a workshop, seminar and conference for French Guidance teachers. She has invited liaison personnel from universities and community colleges offering programs in French.

Originally, the Simcoe County Roman Catholic

Separate School Board lent Gagne to the ministry for a two-year term as a resource person, but both the ministry and SCRCSSB saw a need for a French-language school superintendent and Gagne as the best to fit the position, SCRCSSB Director of Education Bill Bolger said.

Gagne has taught for both the SCBE for 17 years and for the SCRCSSB for the last eight. She has been a vice-principal at Ecole St. Joseph, a principal for the SCRCSSB at Ecole St. Martyrs' Canadiens and Ecole St. Louis.



New Superintendent

Anne Gagne will start her new job as the Superintendent of French Language Education for the Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board next week. She has worked in education for the last 25 years and looks forward to exciting teachers and students about learning.

Racetrack subdivision proposed

A Toronto developer says Penetanguishene is a classy town and he would like to extend the image in a new subdivision, Jockey Club Estates.

Marc Russell and John MacMaster-Hughes presented their dream for the history-laden property to the planning committee and 15 nearby residents.

The Planning Advisory Committee tabled the report and presentation for a month, awaiting additional information and details from engineers.

But the details given in the presentation and discussion lasting over an hour apparently pleased some of the neighbours.

"I like what I see tonight," said Doug Mundy, an Edward Street resident.

The former J.P. Payette property is located between Robert Street East and Edward Street and encompasses 25 acres, just west of the Bonaventure Estates subdivision.

The developers plan on

introducing much of the folklore into the design, style and image of the neighbourhood. Russell said he and his partner have researched the history and want to make fullest use of it to add character to their project.

But one concern of the Planning Advisory Committee is the marketability of the homes, which would be all brick, and range in price from \$95,000 to \$145,000.

The developers, however, said they have done and are still conducting market research and are confident the homes will sell.

"We would go with the market," Russell said, "and we would prepare ourselves to go with their demands."

"It's not easy to build any more \$85,000 homes when they're all brick. We're hoping people will appreciate quality," Russell said.

The developers' designs

include two-car garages for all the homes and fireplaces. They also say they hope to have interlocking walkways between all the streets and parkland.

The land has been the subject of previous subdivision plans, but the Edward Street drainage problem has proven to be a hindrance in engineering subdivisions at a reasonable cost level, Penetanguishene Town Clerk Yvon Gagne said.

Rebate debate settled Thursday

When members of the Simcoe County Council meet, for the first time in a month, on Thursday, the 44 members could finalize the debate on urban rebate.

After months of discussion the council has finally come up with an answer to the controversy over urban rebate that has split the council since it was brought up in the fall.

At last month's session, the county government approved a report calling for the equalization of the rebate given to the urban municipalities in the county at 40 per cent.

The issue of urban rebate has been thrown around by county officials since last September when the county's Roads and Transportation Committee called for a change in the structure of the rebate.

A report, released in December, by the county administrator and supported at last month's meeting calls for discontinuing the practice of giving variable percentage rebate, based on equalized assessment. In an effort to lessen the financial impact on the larger municipalities, who presently receive a 50 per cent rebate and will be faced with a 10 per cent loss, Green's report also proposes that in 1987, all urban municipalities continue to receive the same dollar figure as in 1986.

Despite the 10 per cent decrease in the subsidy for the Town of Midland, Reeve Bev Day said he can live with the change.

"I'm not thrilled with it (the decrease), but I can live with it," said the Reeve. "We won't lose very much over the next two or

three years. The first proposal we would have lost \$18,000 right off the top."

Day added with the new proposal, the town will be able to re-evaluate their roads budgets as the money is phased down gradually.

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