

# Decision On Oral French Promised Soon, Vaughan

An early decision on whether Oral French will be started in the public schools of Vaughan Township this September was promised by Sam Kaiser, chairman of Vaughan Township School Area Board at a public meeting Thursday evening. He said the subject was scheduled for discussion at this Thursday's regular board meeting and a decision should be reached within two weeks.

The public meeting was called so that the board could hear opinions from those opposed as well as those in favor of this addition to the curriculum, which has been under consideration by the board for about eleven months.

Chairman Kaiser presented a brief in which he reviewed the petitions and investigations of the board into the feasibility of teaching Oral French in Vaughan. If introduced, the subject would be confined to grade 5 for the first year and require two teachers to provide three 25-minute periods a week for all grade five in the township. This is estimated to cost \$13,600.

mean. Business Administrator N. C. Jackman reported that at present in Vaughan a mill raises \$25,000 in taxes, so that the final figure would require approximately two mills. Chairman Kaiser, replying to the same question said it would represent an increase of about 10% in taxes for public school purposes.

Trustee Lorne Wells pointed out that all the cost for Oral French would have to be borne by the ratepayers, as the Department of Education does not pay a grant on this subject, since it is not a requirement of the curriculum.

Trustee Jolliffe estimated the cost in the first year would be about half a mill, one mill in the second year, and one and a half mills in the third year.

Mr. Terry Goodwin of Thornhill, a former trustee, mentioned that since the school year did not coincide with the tax or calendar year, that until 1964 the amounts would be somewhat less than the figures quoted.

Trustee R. Jolliffe enumerated advantages of teaching Oral French in public schools, answering a question by Robert Bright of Concord. He said that no education is lost on anyone; the teaching of a second language will unquestionably benefit the first language. "It's very hard to estimate the practical value through a lifetime," he continued, "but there is no doubt in my mind that it will benefit the pupil in high school work."

Superintendent J. A. Gibson, speaking further on the same question, said that since emphasis will be placed on the spoken language, under certain conditions it may be lost in later years. "It has its advantages and disadvantages, especially in regard to costs. But whether it should be taught is for the board to decide."

Warren Baillie, who has been a member of the board for only a week, recalled comments made by S. G. Chapman, Superintendent of York Central District High Schools, whom he felt was an authority. He noted Mr. Chapman as saying that it is important to integrate a grade 8 program with the high school French program, which cannot be done until 1966 or 1967. Little advantage could be obtained from starting a program in grade 8, and other subjects might suffer.

A Mr. Jefferys asked if the board had other planned projects where the money might be spent, and Mr. Baillie mentioned decent wells at Elders Mills, Edgeley and Patterson Schools. Trustee Wells stated the board did have a program. "We intend to do things for the benefit of the whole area."

Mr. M. D. Armstrong, elected to the board in December, and who resigned as trustee before the inaugural meeting, described Oral French as a form of enrichment and asked for the inspector's views on the subject.

Inspector D. R. MacDonald replied, "We need enrichment of various types. Personally I would prefer other things." He mentioned specifically a better reading program, which would need a lot of materials, and a consultant would prove beneficial. Another need was much better libraries. He quoted Winston Churchill as saying, "I'm glad I was not bright enough to study Latin, because then I studied English."

"We are sending pupils into different courses in high school and larger numbers are choosing the vocational courses, so that I would like to see home economics and manual training in our schools to provide a basis for the hand work which is very important."

Superintendent Gibson pointed out that the amount of deterring an eight-room school amounts to about \$7,000 a year. An approximately seven schools of this size could be carried for the amount that Oral French will cost by its fourth year.

Trustee Dorothy Robertson, replying to a question from Mrs. Retford about the children going into a high school course which does not require French and who do not wish to take French, said this is one of the problems the board faces. "Just how many pupils are going to benefit," she asked. "In some areas French is available only to the top level of pupils."

Howard Blair of Nashville asked from what other subjects the 75-minute per week would be taken, and Inspector MacDonald replied that it would vary from classroom to classroom.

Mrs. Joy Thompson of Maple asked if the ratepayers were consulted when art and music supervisors were added to the staff of the area? The answer was that art and music are on the curriculum but French is not. The decision is made by the department. "All we do is to see that they are run as successful as possible," Superintendent Gibson stated.

## Escapes Injury In Car Mishap

Helen Maude Sheppard, age 62, of Catering Road R.R. 1, Sutton West, escaped injury when the pick-up truck she was driving north bound on Don Mills Road struck an ice patch on the road and overturned near Victoria Square. The mishap took place at 4.30 p.m. Sunday last. Markham police estimated that damage to the truck would run about \$100.

GEORGINA ISLAND: Popular Indian Chief Lorenzo Big Canoe has retired as chief of the band of Objivays on this island. The new chief is Leslie McCue. Chief Big Canoe will continue to operate his ferry service to the mainland, run the post office and raise beef cattle.

AURORA: John Addison Liberal election posters were taken down in Aurora last week when it was found they contained a town-by-law passed after last June's federal election, when the posting of signs got "out of hand."

## Head of Sterling Named Hon. Col. of Regiment

Canadian army headquarters, Ottawa, has announced that Fred Tilston, V.C., Wellington Street West, Aurora, president of the Sterling Drug Limited, has been named honorary colonel of the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment. He succeeds Col. Alan C. Preece, V.C., who held the post from 1930 until his death last summer.

The regiment which he now heads is located in Windsor and Leamington and the 2nd battalion at Chatham and Wallaceburg. He has been a lieutenant colonel of the regiment since December 1956.

Col. Tilston is 56 years of age. He won the British Commonwealth's highest award for valor, the Victoria Cross, in

the Hochwald Forest in Germany, in March 1945. As a company commander of the Essex Scottish he was wounded three times but "displayed outstanding leadership and gallantry" and kept on the attack.

The colonel graduated from Ontario College of Pharmacy in 1929, and represented Sterling in many sales capacities before moving up to the presidency.

Last summer he attended a reunion in London, England, of holders of the Victoria Cross and the George Cross, and was a guest of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip at a Buckingham Palace reception.

The Tilstons have one son, Michael, a student at Regiopolis College, Kingston.

## Horticulturists Tree Planting

Richmond Hill Horticultural Society featured a showing of the slides entered in the annual color photography contest at their meeting on February 28.

President Spence Urquhart, announced that further flower arranging classes are being planned. Anyone interested should contact him or the secretary, Miss Gladys McLatchy.

The civic improvement committee reported that this year tree planting will be featured in conjunction with other local groups, in addition to the regular plantings of bulbs and annuals.

In presenting his report, Jack Large, convener of the photo contest, said there had been more entrants this year (12) than ever before. More slides had also been received. He further stated that though the quality varied, the average was of a high grade.

Main criticisms by the judges were: poor focus, over and under exposure, and tilted horizons, plus the failure of some contestants to read the rules carefully. The judges were Mrs. Janet Goodman, Mrs. Roger Rossiter, members of the Toronto Guild of Color Photography.

Before the slides were shown Mr. Large showed some accessories which can be used to improve pictures, about which more information will be available later.

The slides were shown by Mr. Lambert with a running commentary by Mr. Large. Everyone was delighted with the beauty and colour of the slides, which should prompt even greater participation in this year's competition.

There was a first place tie between Mrs. E. Redelmeier in the judges' decision, with S. Casement being awarded third place and Doug Boyd fourth. All present enjoyed coffee and cake.

## Lions Hear Geo. McCague

## Marketing Services Aid Farmer

Mr. George McCague, chairman of the Farm Products Marketing Board, was guest speaker when the Victoria Square and District Lions met last week at the community centre.

Mr. McCague was introduced by Lion Frank Gee as a former local boy who received his early education at 'the little white schoolhouse on the 3rd concession of Markham,' and Richmond Hill High School, before going on to take a degree at O.A.C., Guelph.

Early in his career, Mr. McCague was agricultural representative for Huron County. Since that time he has held responsible positions in the business world; he farmed for 20 years; and prior to his present position was vice-president of the provincial co-operative.

"What is the Best Way to Market?" was the question the speaker put to his audience as he began his address. He answered the query by saying: "The 'best' way to market is by using the method which will make the ethical conditions of sale effective, and allow the greatest development of competitive forces on a large enough percentage of product to establish price on the commodity."

Mr. McCague strongly advocated that farmers should band together for collective action where marketing of their products is concerned. "In Ontario today, the influence of the farmer and of agriculture is shrinking," he said.

As an example he pointed out that the province is considering redistribution of the Toronto and York ridings to give greater representation to the urban areas.

He indicated that in our present society, the rugged individualist can afford to be that way only because of the umbrella of protection provided through co-operatives, marketing boards and broadly based open markets.

"Because of some special consideration, the individual may have misled himself into believing that through his own peculiar ability he has gained advantage, while in fact he is trading on the results brought about by the collective action of his neighbours," he said. He believes that in the long range the producer can attain his strongest bargaining position by supporting his co-operative, marketing board or the open market, whichever of these is available to him. The greatest percentage of a commodity sold through these various methods will bring out the greatest buying support in open competition, thus realizing the best return to the grower.

By the same token, a greater portion of a commodity by-passing the real market place means a drop in buying support, less competition, and finally a weaker market. In this regard, the speaker cited a case where the price of eggs fluctuated as much as 50c a dozen in a day because a producer had dumped two or three hundred cases on the market.

eting legislation in Ontario greatly exceeds all other Canadian provinces. "In Canada, the total value of goods sold through boards is approximately \$370 million, of which about \$225 million is sold through producer boards in Ontario," he said.

The producer is naturally concerned about increasing his net income, and to many it would seem that the best way to do this is to increase production. Mr. McCague, however, pointed out that there are a number of other methods of major importance which will leave the farmer with more money in his pocket. Some of these means he listed: (1) raising prices; (2) establishing terms and conditions of sale that provide for: (a) fair and equitable handling and service charges and premiums; (b) eliminating unethical practices (secret rebates, kick-backs, etc.); (c) payments on due dates; (3) removal of small surplus that would otherwise destroy the price structure for the entire production (stabilization, two-price systems, etc.); (4) Effective price establishment — putting the product in the "open" to best encourage true competition; (5) Elimination of discriminatory practices in all segments of the industry; (6) Expansion of the market, quality promotion, developing exports, tariff arrangements; (7) Providing a variety of special services (distribution of deficiency payments, etc. i.e. milk, tobacco).

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as in other subjects, but where possible the grade receiving instruction would be withdrawn from the classroom.

Answering a third question posed by Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Jackman reported that government grants are received only on the first \$3,450 of any teacher's salary, the balance being paid directly by the taxpayer.

Members of the audience were given an opportunity to express their views on the matter following the question period.

Walter Campbell of Langstaff reported having been educated in Quebec, where French is part of the curriculum in the English-speaking schools. "What we learned in school wasn't worth that," he said, snapping his fingers. "I learned to speak French in my 20's," he continued, commenting on a previous remark that the earlier a second language is begun the better. Applause and jeers followed these remarks.

Another speaker asked "Is this a snob appeal effort?" and in spite of protests from many others in the audience, continued, "With some parents it is, I speak only one language and have been in many countries"

where I have never had any trouble making myself understood. Our children need English. I would rather see home economics and woodworking in our schools."

Mr. Hunter from Powell Road reported a parent in Markham, where Oral French was introduced last year in School Area No. 1, had told him that her child, now in grade 9, had been told to forget the French she had learned in public school.

Members of the audience questioned the purpose of the meeting, emphasizing that the decision was for the board to make. Trustee Wells maintained that the board was only sharing a problem with the ratepayers. The board's only intent he said, was to consult you, the people, so we can reach a decision which will prove acceptable to the biggest number. One woman rose to voice her appreciation for the privilege of meeting with the board to discuss the subject. Applause greeted her reference to dictatorship on the part of the township council when the school area was formed.

Mrs. Janet Burton of Kleinburg reminded those present that Canada is in dire danger of splitting because English-speaking Canadians will not try to understand the French-speaking.

ing, nor they us. Introduction of Oral French in Vaughan might be one little wedge which would be an indication that we are willing to establish a common meeting ground. "To worry about one extra penny is just crazy," she concluded.

Mrs. McClure said she thought the idea impractical at this time, listing her reasons which included need for acquiring better skill in the basic subjects of English, mathematics and spelling.

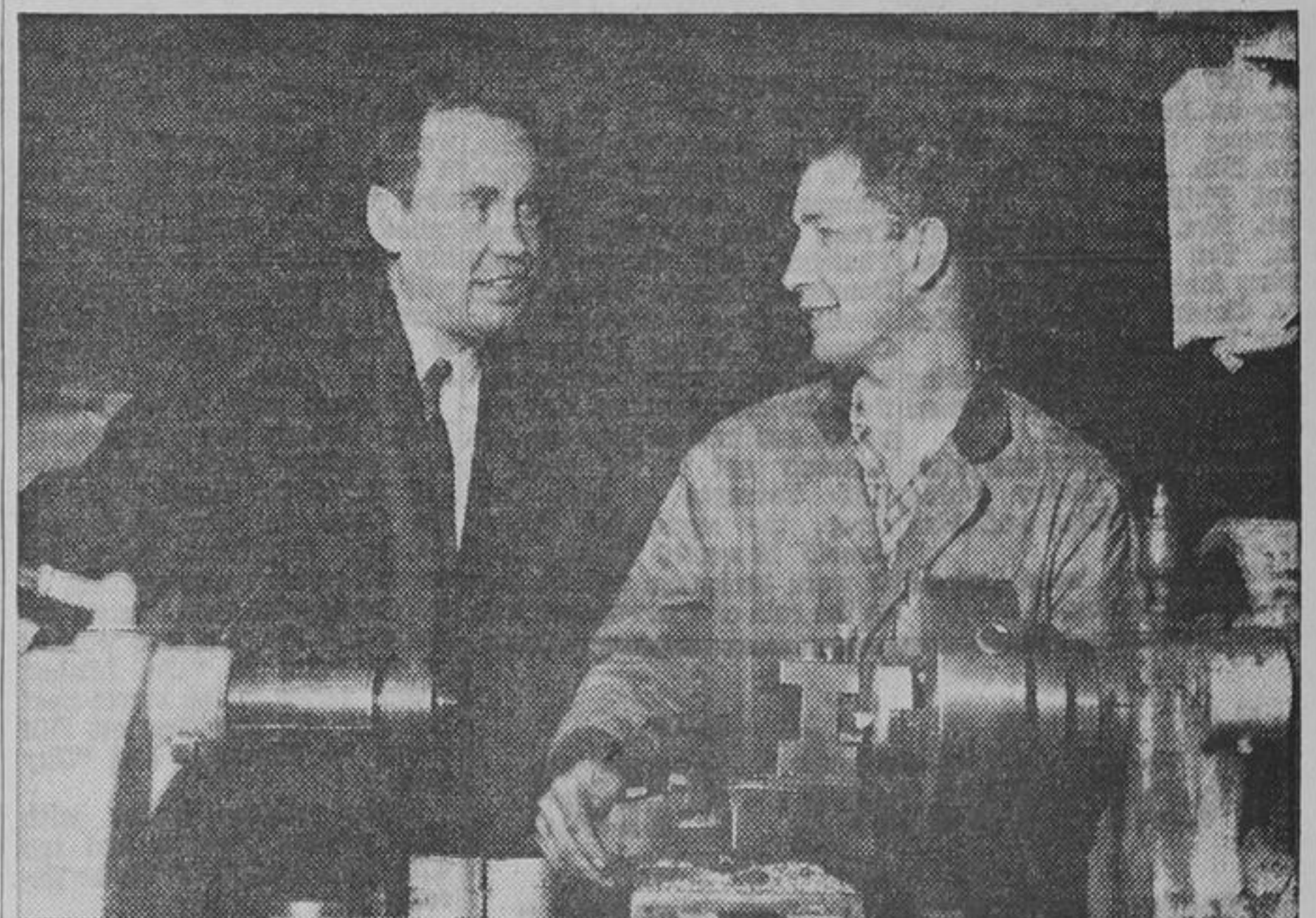
After a standing indication of the preference in the audience, which Chairman Kaiser reported as 50-50, but which from the press table looked to have a slight margin for those opposed to starting instruction in Oral French in September 1963, the chairman reported that "Last year I was in favour of this 100%." After hearing the opinions of educationists in our area, especially in Etobicoke, I am very much confused right now. This board is not going to avoid the decision on Oral French," he concluded.

Other members of the board declined the opportunity to state their stand on the question.

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(Inserted by North York Liberal Association)

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