



Teller Verna McLarty shows Bruce Plunkett the workings of the computer during the Villa Hospital's annual visit to Richmond Hill's Royal Bank. Villa residents usually do their banking at the hospital through the Royal Bank

but each year they take a trip after regular banking hours to see what happens to their money at the other end. (Liberal Photo by Bruce Hogg)

Heritage Language program reserved for Saturdays only

The Heritage Language program will continue in the York Region Roman Catholic Separate schools on Saturday mornings but will not be incorporated into the students' everyday agenda.

In a heated discussion last Tuesday, the board okayed continuation of the special Saturday sessions but turned down a recommendation to implement the program during regular school hours.

Whitchurch-Stouffville and Georgina trustee Frank Kelly was vehemently opposed to bringing it in to the regular program.

"Any further implementation of the Heritage Languages Program (other than Saturday morning) without consultation with the communities and parents involved, I think, is a total disregard of the taxpayers' best interests," he said.

Mr. Kelly, a member of the Heritage Language committee, felt he had never endorsed the entire recommendation. However, committee chairman Larry Pellicione believed Mr. Kelly had not only agreed to the recommendation but had seconded the original motion.

Mr. Kelly remained adamant and the board settled in for a two-and-a-half hour haggling session over procedures.

The question arose that if Mr. Kelly did not sanction the recommendation, then it could not truly be considered as one coming from the committee. Chairman Jack McDermott, in an unorthodox move, ad-

joined the meeting for 15 minutes, in order to allow the committee to come to a consensus.

The board voted to recommend only the first part of the committee's proposal.

Mr. Kelly was clearly against having any part of the program run during the regular school day.

"What we are talking about is taking time away from subjects that are the most important. There are conclusive facts that show our students entering university and not being educated properly. Somewhere, somebody has a record of those facts," he said.

He felt that in implementing the Heritage program during the day, valuable time would be detracted from the basic subjects that are being stressed more and more nowadays.

Mr. Pellicione couldn't agree, saying there are no facts either for or against the Heritage program.

"We have findings from briefs submitted by both sides (for and against) and there is evidence the program is a good one. However, it has never been conclusively proven that children given Heritage Language instruction suffer any losses in other courses,"

he said. The Heritage Language Program Committee, consisting of five trustees, four principals and two administrators, has existed since December, 1977. Since then, it has had six regular meetings, received considerable public input in the form of presentations, briefs, surveys and general community interest and spent time at schools where the program has been fully implemented. The group has given careful study of the program as it relates to staffing, supervision, timetabling, financing,

space availabilities and reactions from students, parents and teachers.

It also looked at the federal policy with respect to multiculturalism and the provincial concept of the Heritage Languages.

One of the highlights of the one-day event is a trip to the sugar bush; a family outing to the Kortright Conservation area. Buses will leave frequently from the Maple Arena for a very nominal fee of 50 cents return. The tour includes a first-hand look at the maple syrup process — from birth to bottle — and an excellent opportunity for a family outing.

There is an antique show, sugar bush tours, bake sale, arts, crafts, pony rides, fish pond and a puppet show. And if that isn't enough to keep you entertained, the well-known York Lion's Steel Drum Band will be on hand to fill the Maple

arena with music. The festival's radar-timed puck shooting contest, sponsored by York Regional Police (who, incidentally will be bringing Sparky the Safety Car along with them) drew over 200 entries last year, and the popular event has proven itself beyond all expectations.

The Maple arena is located just north of Major MacKenzie Drive on Keele Street.

And yes, there is free parking. Last year over 7,000 visitors enjoyed the festival. And there is a lot more to it than just pancakes and maple syrup.

Maple is scene for maple syrup this Saturday

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Your interim tax bills were mailed on February 28, 1978 with payments due on the following dates.

FIRST PAYMENT DUE MARCH 31, 1978
SECOND PAYMENT DUE JUNE 30, 1978

If you have not received your bill please contact the Treasurer's office, 297-1900 immediately.

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