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Repairs and renovations to the steeple atop St. Mary Immaculate Church in downtown Richmond Hill are continuing. Workers have a bird's eye view of the community from their lofty perch, several stories above the ground. (Liberal photo by Bruce Hogg)

Italian class extends school

The York Region Separate School Board reversed a March decision Tuesday and endorsed Italian instruction during an extended school under the Heritage Languages program for students at St. Peter's in Woodbridge.

A close vote of 7-6 in what has become an emotional and a political issue, also allows any of the Separate Schools in the region to implement a similar program.

A minimum of 75 per cent of the community must favor it and there must be at least 25 interested students in the language.

The population of St. Peter's is about 97 per cent Italian and the overriding sentiment in the community was to have the language and culture taught during school hours as opposed to Saturday mornings.

The decision didn't come without a battle.

Frank Kelly, trustee for Georgina and East Gwillimbury indicated his feelings against the in-school Heritage Languages months ago when he was part of a special committee set up to consider it.

He clashed several times at the meeting with King Trustee Elio Bellon and both men were cautioned by the chairman to keep personal views out of their statements.

The program will add a half hour onto the board's present five-and-a-half hour (including recess) day and will be taught in two or more sessions as outlined by Superintendent Franl Bobesich for next September.

Contrary to normal board policy, a brief speaking against the program was heard from Peggy Paterson and Gwen Landolt, both of Woodbridge.

Generally, decisions are not made the same night the board receives presentations. In this case, those who opposed Italian instruction had the last word.

Mrs. Paterson asked that the whole community be considered in the decision — not just St. Peter's school. She felt it would be unfair to isolate the one case.

"All the children will be affected. We understand the Italian parents' wishes but will we accomplish all of their needs if we

implement the program during the day?" she asked.

She said because of ethnic factors and cultural ties to Italy, children coming from Italian homes would be slowed down in their assimilation into Canadian society if the language was taught in school.

"The money could be better spent on areas like remediation, for slow learners, classes for bright children, enriched English and special education," she said. She also suggested using bilingual (Italian-English) teachers to help cope with young students of Italian extraction, who know little English.

Both women agreed the Heritage Language program on Saturdays was a good concept.

Mr. Kelly came prepared with

a brief of his own and quoted statements made in the committee and correspondence he had received from constituents. The committee was struck last December to consider the program.

"The Separate School Board should be ashamed of its French Heritage Language program — especially now that they are thinking of relegating it to the number three spot," he said.

He read from a letter signed by Superintendent Frank Bobesich and Director John Zupancic affirming that no other language would be implemented into the full curriculum before French instruction got the full attention of the board.

"It would be the Christian thing to do to ensure the basic needs of

Our Lady of Good Counsel in Sharon and other schools in the region are met, before we consider the request of parents at St. Peter's for an optional language program," said Mr. Kelly.

Because of the way the Saturday morning classes work, the board should be able to realize a savings in teacher costs with the in-school instruction.

Taxpayers would pick up roughly 20 per cent of the tab and they have been assured time would not be sacrificed from other important core subjects like English or mathematics.

Under the grant system, the board will get 79 cents on every dollar spent for the Heritage Languages and according to Superintendent of Business Administration, Ed Joyce,

ratepayers will pay only slightly more than \$3,000 for Italian instruction at St. Peter's.

Larry Pelliccione, trustee for Markham said he wouldn't want his own daughter to take on another language, though he agreed with broadening her knowledge of French.

"However, a majority of ratepayers in Vaughan have indicated they want the Heritage Languages during the day. I think it's our moral responsibility to acknowledge their wishes, so in this case I would have to vote in favor of it," he said.

A \$5 materials fee will be charged to each pupil, to a maximum of \$10 per family, as is done in the current Saturday classes.

Incentives offered to Ford

By ALF STONG
 MLA - York Centre

The Ontario Legislature has now recessed for the summer, and on the last day of the session the Minister of Industry and Tourism told the House of certain negotiations which had been taking place concerning the location of a new \$500 million plant of the Ford Motor Company.

It seems that Ford had been offered some considerable financial incentive to locate the new plant in the United States, and the Canadian Government had recommended that an incentive be offered to persuade the company to locate in this country - an incentive to be financed jointly by the Federal Government and the Government of Ontario.

Apparently the Ford Company originally wanted \$30 million and the Federal Government had expressed a willingness to pay three fourth of that cost,

provided the Government of Ontario paid one quarter.

However, the Ford Company increased the required amount to \$75 million and the Federal Government had now proposed that Ontario and Ottawa pay \$37.5 million each.

The Ontario Liberal position was pointed out in a letter to the Prime Minister, "the economy of Ontario and of Canada is heavily dependent upon a healthy and modernized automobile industry and it is clear that we are in great need of this one-half billion dollar facility which would create 2,600 jobs."

"Furthermore, the fact that incentive arrangements have been offered by the Federal Government for a General Motors plant to locate in Quebec is being well publicized in Ontario and it is felt only fair that the same systems of assistance be made available in this Province

where, even in many areas of southern Ontario, unemployment is at least as high as it is in the Province of Quebec."

A special debate was held on this matter during which the Provincial Treasurer stated that the Cabinet had "agonized" over the decision to go along with Ottawa's first proposal.

In the Legislature, we Liberals expressed our concern that the Conservatives wanted to lose the new auto plant so that they could use alleged Federal favouritism towards Quebec - along with the French language issue - as campaign planks in a Fall provincial election.

In background papers released by the Premier, it was indicated that one State had offered \$115 million in incentives to an auto company, including new roads, traffic studies, a railway yard, re-zoning and 20 years exemption from property taxes.

Outside the Legislature, Stuart Smith said Ontario should not up the \$37.5 million to obtain the badly needed jobs, even though it is clear that Ford Company is "blackmailing" the governments.

"I don't believe the Feds are being fair to us, and I don't believe the Ford Company is being fair with us. I regret we are being held up to ransom but the (Ontario) Government is willing to dip its toe into the water (for \$18.7 million), and it should go all the way."

He believes that Ontario should accept the new cost-sharing arrangements "not because I agree with it, but simply because I fear Ford Motor Company would otherwise imminently decide to locate this vital plant in Ohio or Pennsylvania."

NUCLEAR SAFETY
 The Minister of Energy has informed the

Legislature that he intends to keep in closer touch with Ontario Hydro on future safety adjustments to nuclear power plants in Ontario.

He had, apparently, not been informed of the decision to impose a power reduction on the Douglas Point Nuclear Power Station by the Atomic Energy Control Board in 1977.

In response to Opposition questions, he said he was encouraged and reassured that such a move would be taken automatically as a precautionary measure, even if it were made without his prior knowledge.

Stuart Smith said the incident showed "a shocking refusal to inform the Government", expressing the view that the Province should have been made aware of the move so it could decide whether or not the public should be informed.

HELPMATE INFORMATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

883-2234

JULY

883-2234

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			5 Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce, Monthly Luncheon. Summit View Gardens. Noon.	6 Richvale Writers Club meets at the Richvale Community Centre. 8-11 p.m.	7 Free puppet show for children aged 4-10 at Maple Library, 10.15 a.m. and Kleinburg Library 2 p.m.	8 Country Place Nursing Home bazaar. 18th Avenue. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
			The Liberal is 100 years old today.	Block Parent Assn. executive meeting, police station. 7.30 p.m. 881-5608.		Thornhill Recycling Depot, Bayview and Green Lane. 10 a.m.-noon.
			St. Vladimir's Bingo, York Farmers Market, Thornhill. 7.30 p.m.	Puppet show, Woodbridge arena, 10.30 a.m. and Concord Community Centre, 2.30 p.m. Kids 4-10.		Richmond Hill Recycling Depot, Elgin Mills & Leslie. 10 a.m.-noon.
			Counterweight at Richmond Hill Library. 7.30 p.m.	Yoga at Richmond Hill United (9-10.15 a.m.) and Thornhill Holy Trinity (8.45-10 p.m.) Churches. 884-2671.		Richmond Hill Recycling truck is at Richmond Heights Plaza from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
			Richmond Hill Legion Bingo, Legion Hall, Ohio Road. 7.35 p.m.	Thornhill Recycling Depot, Bayview and Green Lane. 7-8.30 p.m.		
			Dr. Krankheit's Energy Medicine Show. Town Park, 1.30 p.m. 883-5112.			
9 One Parent Family Association, Richmond Hill Branch, is holding a picnic at Bruce's Mill. Meet at Mr. Donut at 10 a.m. Further information, call 494-4698.	10 Legal Aid clinic, 7-10 p.m. 884-9148. Markham Bridge Club, Thornhill Community Centre. 8 p.m. Viqueen's Exercise Club. 7.30 p.m. 773-9010. Yoga, Richmond Hill United Church. 7.15-8.30 p.m. 884-2671.	11 Richmond Hill - Thornhill Chapter of One Parent Families Assn. monthly meeting, Thornhill Community Centre. 7.30 p.m. Counterweight at Richmond Hill Library. 7.30 p.m. Richmond Hill Legion bingo. Legion Hall, Ohio Road. 7.35 p.m.	12 Parent Concern Group. Call Joyce 884-3503. 8-10 p.m. 8888 St. Vladimir's church bingo. York Farmers Market, Thornhill. 7.30 p.m. Counterweight at Richmond Hill Library. 7.30 p.m. Richmond Hill Legion bingo. Legion Hall, Ohio Road. 7.35 p.m.	13 Thornhill Community Centre Library; native Indian mask workshop. 2 p.m. Widows and Widowers general meeting, Victoria and Grey, 8 p.m. 884-2594 or 889-3421. Markham Bridge Club, Thornhill Community Centre. 8 p.m. Weight Watchers, Concord Community Centre. 7.30 p.m. Yoga at Richmond Hill United (9-10.15 a.m.) and Thornhill Holy Trinity (8.45-10 p.m.) Churches. 884-2671.	14 Richmond Hill Naturalist Club meets at the Blue Flame Room of Consumers' Gas building, Elgin Mills Road East at 8 p.m. Further information call 832-1117.	15 Richmond Hill Recycling Truck is at Hillcrest Mall from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thornhill Recycling Depot, Bayview and Green Lane. 10 a.m.-noon. Richmond Hill Recycling Depot, Elgin Mills & Leslie, 10 a.m.-noon.
16	17 Legal Aid clinic, 7-10 p.m. 884-9148. Markham Bridge Club, Thornhill Community Centre, 8 p.m. Viqueen's Exercise Club. 7.30 p.m. 773-9010.	18 Puppet people at Thornhill Community Centre Library. 2 p.m. Thornhill Amateur Radio Club. 8 p.m. 881-2891. Parent Concern Group. Call Joyce, 884-3503. 8-10 p.m. St. Vladimir's church bingo. York Farmers Market, Thornhill. 7.30 p.m. Counterweight at Richmond Hill Library. 7.30 p.m. Richmond Hill Legion bingo. Legion Hall, Ohio Road. 7.35 p.m.	19 Puppet show for pre-schoolers at Gallanough Public Library at 10.30 a.m. Markham Bridge Club, Thornhill Community Centre. 8 p.m. Weight Watchers, Concord Community Centre. 7.30 p.m. Thornhill Recycling Depot, Green Lane and Bayview. 7-8.30 p.m. Yoga at Richmond Hill United (9-10.15 a.m.) and Thornhill Holy Trinity (8.45-10 p.m.) Churches. 884-2671.	20	21	22 One Parent Family Association golf tournament. Call 494-4698. Richmond Hill recycling truck is in Oak Ridges from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thornhill Recycling Depot, Bayview and Green Lane. 10 a.m.-noon. Richmond Hill recycling depot, Elgin Mills & Leslie. 10 a.m.-noon.