



Any differences there might have been between these two men disappeared last Tuesday night at Holy Name Separate School in King. Larry Pelliccione (right) was elected chairman of the Separate School Board on a ballot of three nominees. His number two man is Georgina Trustee Frank Kelly. (Liberal photo by Steve Pearlstein)

Separate Schools

Pelliccione named new board chairman

It doesn't hurt when you're nominated for chairman of the board by a man who has held the post for five years and new Chairman of the York Separate School Board — Larry Pelliccione — is glad he'll still be able to call on the experience of Jack McDermott.

Mr. Pelliccione, trustee for Markham, was elected at the board's inaugural meeting last Thursday at Holy Name School in King.

About 100 people turned out to watch him defeat Richmond Hill Trustee Con Thompson and fellow Markham Trustee Leo Wigglesworth, for the position.

Frank Kelly of Georgina, took the vice-chairman's spot in a clear majority over Newmarket Trustee Kathy Taylor.

Mayor Margaret Britnell was present and said she hoped the town could carry on the "great co-operation it has received from the school board in the past two years".

She also extended greetings from former Regional Chairman Garfield Wright, who also expressed the hope good relations with the Catholic School Board would continue.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Pelliccione said he'd like to be able to lead the board as effectively as Mr. McDermott had during his tenure.

"The York Separate School Board is second only to the Dufferin-Peel Board in pupil increases," said the new chairman.

"We are one of 11 growing school systems in Ontario and we now have 1,400 more students than in 1976. Our biggest challenge has been to meet the needs of increasing enrollment when there are declining numbers in most systems and the province is undergoing a period of financial restraint."

Mr. Pelliccione went on to list some of the board's accomplishments over the past two years. The board has made capital

expenditures for additions onto Holy Name in King, St. Paul's in Newmarket, St. Charles Garnier in Richmond Hill, St. Luke's in Thornhill, and for a science room at St. Robert's High School in Thornhill.

It has also recently completed construction of a new school — St. Bernadette in Sutton.

"We made some good progress in teacher negotiations and now we're one of the few boards who has a two-year collective agreement with the federation," said Mr. Pelliccione.

Progress, he said, was not limited to buildings and contracts. Several areas in school programs improved significantly: family life and religious education, new psychologists for the special education department and better programs for the learning disabled and trainable retarded.

He also noted St. Robert's produced a

championship volleyball team this year and it was also the first time Separate School students won the County-wide science fair and made it to the national finals.

"Through all that we do, we never lose sight of the fact the needs of our children are our most important function. Our biggest immediate challenge will be to make the best possible use of government grants to meet those needs," he said.

The committee structure for the next term is as follows: management committee: Frank Kelly, Con Thompson, Kathy Taylor, Elio Bellon, Leo Wigglesworth, Jack McDermott, Ernie Nyitrai and Tony Diodati. Education committee: Tim Byrne, Father Francis Robinson, Father Don McLean, June Mallon, Rita Zanatta, Dan DiRocco and John O'Mahoney.

The first regular board meeting is January 16, 1979, at 8:30 p.m.

Sex education

School board is a long way from implementing guidelines

It appears a new program on sex education and family life studies the York Board of Education has begun to devise will have a long way to go before it reaches students and teachers.

That's the indication from one of three local school trustees, the head of a Richmond Hill church and a former trustee. All feel their views reflect the consensus of opinion among parents and interest groups in the community. And it is likely the sentiment is echoed around the region.

"Our biggest complaint," said Rev. Robert Quick of the Richmond Hill Free Methodist Church, "is the guidelines given to the committee of teachers and professionals to design the course are far too broad. Our group (he heads the Right to Life group of Richmond Hill) would like to see more specific direction taken in the area of moral responsibility and interpersonal relationships and less emphasis on actual aspects of sex."

He pointed out one of the board's own studies showed an increase in awareness by students of such things as birth control methods and factual knowledge of sex served only to increase sexual activity.

Rev. Quick said the second issue, the one that probably upset parents most, is the failure of the board to bring a finished curriculum to the parents before the course is implemented, to allow for public input and comment on its appropriateness.

"The way it is now, the only time parents will have any say about the course is after it is drawn up and implemented. When their child has been exposed to it they will be allowed to decide to continue with the course or have the student withdrawn — nothing in between," he said.

Beverly Breslow agreed the board didn't handle the issue the best way it could.

"Sex education should be handled as a formal board policy and I think the whole matter will come back to the board. The guidelines are very broad — they literally allow the committee to do

what it thinks is best in this very touchy area. I think the aims should be more definitive," she said.

Mrs. Breslow claimed she isn't prepared to go on a one-person crusade. She said she wants to hang back and allow the formation of a new Richmond Hill education

group to take a stand on say on education issues.

Rev. Quick touched on the real problem: "This is the most sensitive subject that'll ever be dealt with. Rightly, it's not the education system's responsibility, but the parents'. The board feels some of them don't do their job properly, that's all."

Police News Briefs

BATHURST STREET FATALITY

At about 11 p.m. on December 12, Silva Urban, 41, of Downsview was driving southbound on Bathurst Street in Richmond Hill when she was involved in a collision with a car driven by Sherry Patricia Biggar, of Steeles Avenue West in Willowdale.

The first car flipped onto its roof and then hit a third vehicle driven by Theodore Scott, 48, of Goulding Avenue in Willowdale. All three victims were taken to York Central Hospital, where Ms. Urban was pronounced dead at 11:30 p.m.

Ms. Biggar was admitted to the intensive care unit with major injuries and Mr. Scott was treated and released.

Police have not laid any charges in connection with the accident.

BLACK GOLD MISSING

Sometime between December 9 at 1 p.m. and December 12 at 8:30 a.m., Maynard Fuels on Eureka Street in Unionville was entered by means of a key. At that time, 60 cases of motor oil worth about \$1,600, were stolen.

GREASE WAS THE WORD

While Gordon Bazzard and his family slept at their home on Royal Orchard Boulevard in Thornhill on December 11, he was awakened by the smell of smoke at 11:30 p.m.

The family left the house quickly and called the Markham Fire Department.

Firefighters attended the scene and extinguished the \$10,000 blaze. An investigation showed the fire had started by leaving a stove element on, which ignited a pot of grease.

BIG MAC ATTACK?

Sometime between 8:30 and 9 p.m. on December 11, the front windshield of a car belonging to Mark Simpson of Markham Road in Richmond Hill was smashed. It was parked on the lot of the McDonald's Restaurant on Yonge Street in Richmond Hill. Damage was worth \$150.

PUNCH, SCOOP AND RUN

On December 17 at 8:30 p.m. a man walked into the Hillcrest Sunoco Station on Kennedy Road in Milliken and asked the attendant for change from a \$5 bill. When the employee reached into the cash register the man punched him in the side of the face, knocking him to the

floor. He then grabbed all the money from the till and ran.

The suspect was last seen driving on 14th Avenue from Kennedy Road in a dark 1969-71 Chevelle. He is described as: male, 6' to 6'1", 210-215 pounds, wearing a black balaclava with red trim and a Ski-Doo jacket.

BEER BOTTLE BARRAGE

While Christopher Stalker of Fred Varley Drive in Markham was driving eastbound on Highway 7 through Markham on December 8, a beer bottle was thrown from an approaching westbound car and struck his windshield. The resulting damage was worth \$100.

FACTORY GUTTED AT AURORA

Between 10:30 p.m. and midnight last Tuesday, a fire started at the south end of the Aurora Scale Company on Edward Street in Aurora. The premises is owned by Dick Hefner of Courtland Avenue in Toronto.

The Aurora and Newmarket Fire Departments attended the scene and put out the flames, which did \$100,000-worth of damage. The building was gutted and cause of the fire has not been determined.

GOLD STRIKE AT THE DRIVE-IN

York Regional Police are investigating a suspect who is alleged to have stolen 350-400 gold and silver chains worth \$7,000 from a Flea Market run by Ahmed Elsayed of Jane Street in Downsview, at the Dufferin Drive-In in Concord. The theft occurred at about 11:30 a.m. on December 17.

HOLD-UP AT THE PONDEROSA

On December 13 at 11:30 p.m., Peter Agnew of Willowdale who is the assistant manager at the Ponderosa Steak House on Yonge Street in Richmond Hill, left the premises with the day's receipts totalling \$957. At that time, he was approached by a man armed with a .22 calibre sawed-off rifle. He demanded the money and left the scene on foot, travelling west on May Avenue.

The suspect is described as: male, 20-30 years-old, 5'11" to 6' tall, having a slim build and no accent. He was wearing a dark balaclava with light-colored stitching around the eyes, a light brown hip-length ski jacket and dark pants.

Season's Greetings
from the Merchants
of
Markham Place

Markham Place
A Trizec Development
Don Mills Road/Steeles