

## After 20 months of hassling, arbitration board is named

After almost 20 months of arguing and disagreeing the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) District 11 and York County Board of Education have gone to binding arbitration.

The arbitration board is made up of three men: Bruce Stewart of Hicks, Morley, Hamilton, Stewart and Storie (Toronto) will represent the York County Board of Education; Douglas Knott from the Ontario Men's English Catholic Teachers' Federation will represent the teachers and the chairman will be Kevin Burkett of the Ontario Labor Relations Board.

The teachers' contract expired August 31, 1978, and since then the battle has been hot and heavy.

In February an impasse was reached and a Fact Finder was appointed to try to solve the differences, but was unsuccessful.

In May the teachers met to take a strike vote and the result was a Work To Rule Sanction, which took effect June 27 and continued for the rest of the month.

Negotiations throughout the summer months didn't help the situation and Labor Day weekend both sides met again to try to solve their problems so school could resume.

The teachers and board reached a tentative agreement on that weekend, but the board understood the teachers agreed to "as normal a day as possible for the first day of school", although they were still working to rule.

By mid afternoon of the first day, September 4, phone calls from upset parents and students poured into the board offices in Aurora and an emergency Board meeting was called for that evening.

The teachers also had a mass meeting that evening, but were unable to come to an agreement.

The Board decided to close the schools until both sides could come to some sort of rational agreement, and the schools stayed closed for Wednesday and Thursday.

More meetings Thursday evening brought about an agreement in all but monetary issues and the teachers were allowed back to work.

Since neither side was in agreement on the monetary issues, it was decided to put those issues to an arbitration board for a decision.

In October the negotiations teams for both sides almost came to a decision that would have meant no arbitration and a contract for the teachers complete with acceptable monetary issues, but the teachers voted by a vote of 257 to 251 not to ratify, and the battle was on again.

Finally binding arbitration was called for and both sides set about finding a representative.

The arbitration board began hearing both sides of the disagreement Monday in Toronto and once both sides have presented their case, the board will then meet in private to come to a decision.

How long it will take, no one can guess.

It could take as long as 60 days or a decision could be reached shortly.



Marge Montgomery (left) vice-president of York Central Hospital Auxiliary presents the Ina Pocknell award to Lorean Hall of Kings Cross Estates.

Miss Hall is planning to further her career in a medically related field. The award was presented at last week's general meeting.

### 300 so far

## Rotary items pile up

Richmond Hill Rotary Club is currently the owner of two cars, grass seed, a TV set, clothing, paintings, numerous services and many, many more items — more than 300 in fact.

Members are counting down to the days when they will auction everything off, December 6 and 7, on Classicomm, Cable 10 from 6 to 11 p.m.

Proceeds will go to the York Centre for Learning Disabilities.

Ed Nokes, the Rotary Club member in charge of publicity, is eager to make sure all residents in the Classicomm viewing area know how to take advantage of the bargains being offered.

He explained that the week of the auction a special supplement will be issued with this newspaper, listing the items and time they will be auctioned off.

Six to eight items will be available every half hour by calling one of the 12 telephone lines at Classicomm's studios — if yours is the highest bid at the end of the time allowance, the article is yours.

Chargex and Mastercharge facilities will be available for your convenience.

Bids will be tabulated over each half hour period on the screen and you may bid as many times as necessary to get the particular thing you want.

If you are a successful bidder, just call at the Classicomm studio on

Newkirk Road to pick up your prize.

Some of the major items, such as the two autos and the television set will be open for bidding over the two nights of viewing, and a few of the larger items will have a modest reserve bid.

Mr. Nokes said the club is very pleased with the response from area merchants and businesses, and added enthusiastically, "it promises to be a great couple of evenings — and all for a very good cause".

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## Fact finder selected for elementary talks

The Education Relations Commission has appointed a Fact Finder to work with the York County Board of Education and its elementary school teachers in negotiations.

Both sides came to an impasse recently and the Fact Finder was considered necessary.

He is David Moore, a graduate of McGill University with a B.Sc. and holds a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto.

Mr. Moore has assisted in negotiations in many areas of the Province including Grey, Hastings and Prince Edward Counties.

The Fact Finder will prepare a report on the negotiations identifying the outstanding issues. He is expected to present his report within 30 days setting forth the positions of both sides in the negotiations.

His report may or may not recommend terms of settlement, but once both sides have received it, they have up to 20 days to reach an agreement before the report is made public.

If the Fact Finder's report meets with disapproval by either side in the dispute, they will go back to negotiations.

Monetary issues are not of paramount importance between the elementary teachers and the board.

The big problem is pupil-teacher ratio and that alone could drag the negotiations on for a long time.

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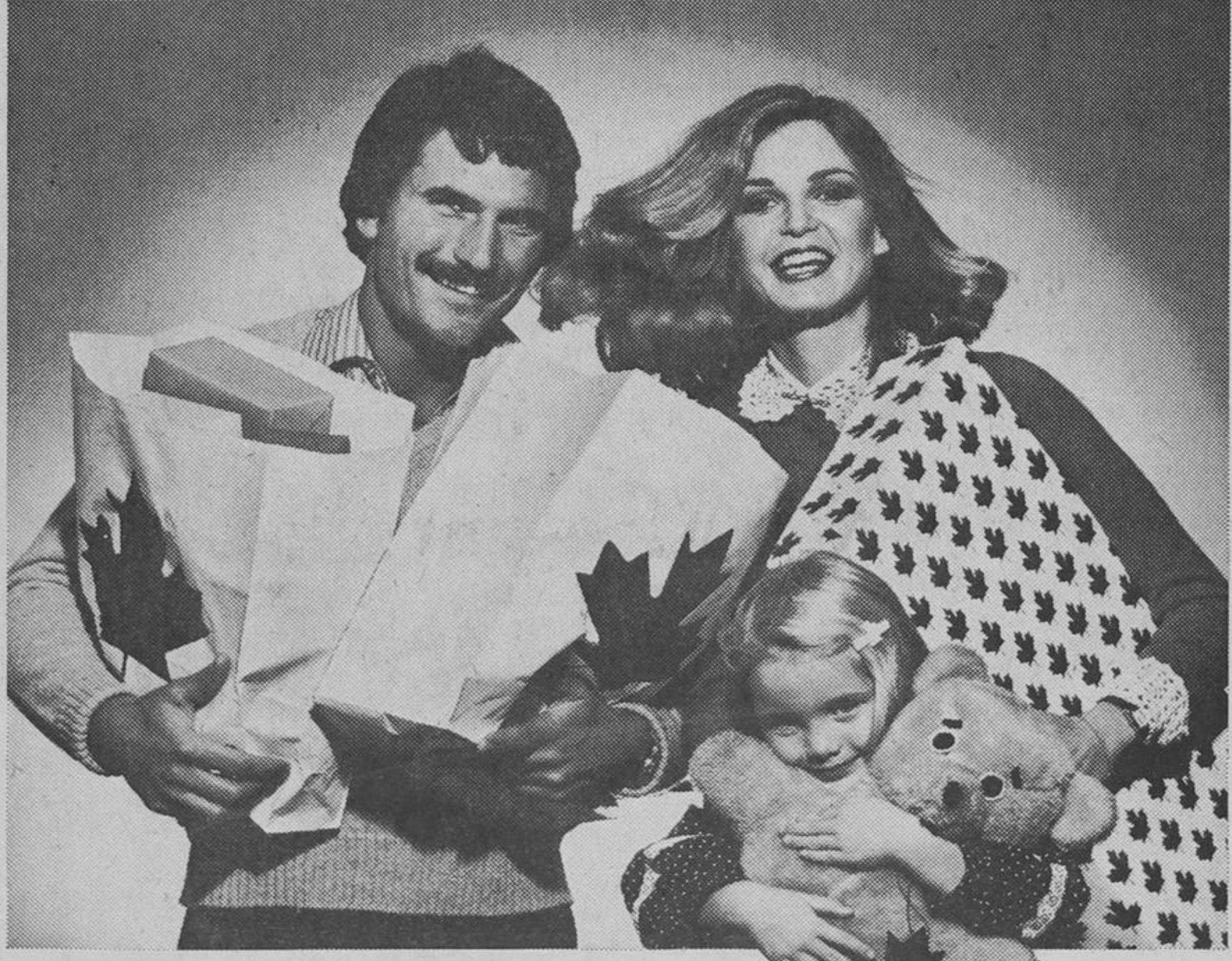
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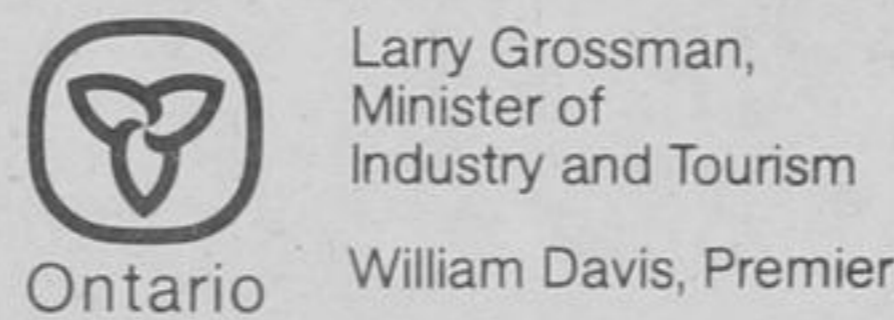
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