

Core schools will be built in York

Its three top priority schools will be 'Core Concepts', the York Region Separate School Board has decided.

The schools to be built in the new style are St. Francis of Assisi in the Woodbridge area, Our Lady of the Rosary in Glen Shields and the Milliken Mills school.

Some trustees expressed concern about the feasibility of the core concept, but Con

Thompson from Richmond Hill had the answer.

"Since the Ministry of Education wants us to consider the core concept for our new schools, and since the grants are the same as for a permanent all brick and mortar structure, maybe if we agree to go ahead and build the cores, the grants would be forthcoming more quickly".

The core concept is a school with a main brick and mortar structure which would include a gymnasium, washrooms, administration centre, library and some classrooms. To that main section are added a number of modules, which would be used as classrooms.

Ed Joyce, business administrator for the board, explained that the holding or first school in any community would have a core capacity of 650 pupils. The magic number 650 would grant a double gymnasium.

All other schools in the same community would probably have a core built for a capacity of 400.

The desirability of building core concept schools is in the future. If the number of pupils at any school increases or decreases the modules could be added to or

subtracted from the school.

And in the event that a school is no longer needed in a certain area, the core could be sold to the community as a community centre.

He explained the new method of building schools would ensure that in the future there would be no more white elephant schools that no one could ever use again.

Other boards have tried to sell schools to be used as a nursing home or some other project, but have failed.

But the new cores could in the future be put to some good use in the community.

Some trustees were concerned about the new idea, because all they could visualize was a bunch of portables somehow attached to the main building.

Again Mr. Joyce solved

that problem by explaining what the cores and modules look like and how there are Ministry guidelines about the quality of construction.

He told the trustees he would be willing to take any who wanted on a visit to see a core concept school, and that they would find it difficult to tell where the core ended and the modules begin.

The modules are not portables. They are built of quality materials and are designed to blend into the main structure as pleasingly as possible.

They are also insulated and have thermopane windows.

In fact, to build a core concept school will cost about the same as a permanent brick and mortar school.

Core concept schools now exist in the Region of Peel and the province of Alberta.

Town's finance commissioner is retiring

No time would be a good time for Richmond Hill's Commissioner of Finance, Bill Rice, to leave, but fiscal year end and budget time are the worst.

After 12½ years with the Town of Richmond Hill Mr. Rice will be moving to Nepean, a city with a population of about 85,000 in the Ottawa-Carleton region.

He will become the Finance Commissioner of Nepean.

Mr. Rice's retirement was announced two weeks ago, to become effective November 23, 1979, but because it is budget time in the municipality the Commissioner of Finance will continue to work for the town as a consultant until January 4, 1980.

Richmond Hill is always early in its preparation of a budget, but Mr. Rice is busy now accelerating the process even more to pull everything together for

1980 before he leaves, so council can take advantage of information he has at his finger tips and his historical perspective in the municipality.



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