

Local artist wins award for book on Indian legend



Shirley Day, formerly of Stouffville, is making a name for herself in the art world and in book publishing. A recently published book, "Star Maiden, An Objibwa Legend of the First Water Lily" contains her sketches. The book was written by Pat Robins of Cedar Grove, and recently received the Collier Macmillan Prize for Juvenile

Literature. The author and the artist will be present this coming Friday from 7-9 at John Lord's Books. Mrs. Day also has a display of her art work at the Whitechurch-Stouffville Library throughout the month of January.

School boards called 'whipping boys'

School tax bills could be possible

BARRIE — The province is experimenting with separate tax billing by school boards, Education Minister Tom Wells said here last week.

His comments came as the provincial cabinet met with school board and municipal officials from four regions, including York, to discuss

tight, new controls on the economy.

Mr. Wells said school boards have become "the common whipping boy" of the municipalities in any discussion of restraint in spending.

The statement touched a sore note for one Aurora councillor.

"Why the hell don't they send out their own

tax bills," asked Councillor Jack Williamson.

The education minister said several areas are experimenting with separate tax billing but noted that such a scheme would increase cost to the taxpayers.

Friday, York public school board officials said there are no plans for

separate billing within the region.

They cited the minister's stance that such a program would be more costly than the present billing system.

Of the \$230 million or eight per cent increase in provincial aid to local governments, school boards will receive \$151 million or about two-thirds of the total hike, last week's meeting was told.

During a press conference following the Barrie meeting, provincial treasurer and minister of economic and intergovernmental affairs Darcy McKeough said the higher increase to school boards allows for costs that are not as controllable as those at the municipal level.

"The municipalities have much more discretion than the school boards do," the minister noted.

Mr. McKeough explained that school boards are committed to

staff salaries to a much higher percentage than municipalities.

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New school use policy Some fees eliminated

AURORA — Policy 39, York Region public school board's formula permitting community use of school facilities, was expected to receive a mixed greeting when introduced during the board's first regular session of the year here Monday night.

The revised policy eliminates fees for community groups, Gary Adamson, the Markham trustee who engineered the revisions, explained in an interview prior to the meeting.

Not that all community groups will avoid paying a fee for the use of school facilities.

But the only cost will be for what the board terms "out of pocket expenses for external uses on weekends and school holidays."

Mr. Adamson said the effect of the policy is to charge a group for use of a caretaker on weekends when the caretaker would not normally be at the school.

"What we're trying to do is get people to schedule most of their use during the week when a caretaker is normally at the school," he explained.

If approved, the new policy will create additional cost for the board.

A report presented to trustees Monday night set community use of schools costs in 1975 at \$221,000 with revenue of \$33,000.

This year board officials estimate the overall cost will jump to \$237,000. Coupled with the loss in revenue under the no-cost policy proposed Monday, the board would have to assume an additional \$49,000 in expenses.

Mr. Adamson admitted the recommendation could face a rocky road to approval due to financial restraint being urged for all levels of government.

"I'm worried about this thing because it's a straight money situation," he confessed prior to Monday's meeting.

He noted, however, the proposal merely represents a shift in, rather than additional, tax burden.

"The money either comes from the municipal government or you can pay it through the board of education," he said. "We are assuming the financial burden directly on the educational tax."

When spread across the entire region the burden is practically nonexistent, the Markham trustee stressed.

"It's less than \$1 per household," he said. "We're not in education to raise money. The schools belong to the people. We're returning the schools back to the people where they belong."

Under the policy introduced Monday, a community group is defined as an organization consisting of 85 percent local membership.

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License revoked after 'failing to remain' charge

YORK REGION — An Uxbridge town works employee who failed to remain at the scene of an accident June 14, on Main St., Stouffville, was convicted in Newmarket court last week and fined \$100.

James Machesney, 39, father of three children, pleaded guilty to the charge laid by York Regional police and told the court through his

counsel that he had not been aware of the seriousness of the accident when it occurred.

Police said property damage resulted from the accident at Main and Montreal Streets, but no injuries were reported.

Counsel for Machesney told the court his client works as a truck driver for the municipality of Uxbridge and the conviction will

mean a loss of his job. He said Mr. Machesney regretted his act, and added that the consequences to his family will be severe.

"This is a serious offence," observed Judge Ian Munro. He commented, "There are so many people who try to avoid prosecution this way."

Mr. Machesney's licence will be suspended.

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