

S.S. teachers unhappy

By Greg Coates
YORK REGION — Separate school teachers in York Region will take a strike vote Wednesday (today), unless a contract settlement can be reached.
 The teachers have been without a contract since Aug. 31, 1984. They'll vote on the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board's latest offer.

at St. Robert Catholic High School and correspondence officer for the teachers' executive, the latest offer is almost exactly the same as the one rejected in January. An overwhelming 88.8 per cent of the teachers voted against it.
 A report released by separate school board chairman Celeste Pelliccione states the terms of the settlement represent an overall increase in cost to the board of six

per cent for the 1984-85 school year. Included in the terms of the offer is an increase of 1.5 per cent on the salary grid retroactive from Sept. 1, 1984 and an additional three per cent compounded effective Feb. 1, 1985.
 The maximum of a teacher in the highest category would increase from \$42,404 (as of Aug. 31, 1984) to \$44,331 effective Feb. 1, 1985. This represents an increase of 4.45 per cent.

In addition, Mrs. Pelliccione said the board has restored all teachers to the proper placement on grid caused by the restrictions imposed by the Inflation Restraint Act, corrected inequities which occurred in the placement of beginning principals on the principal grid, and offered a letter of understanding not to raise the pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) above 18.6 to one for the 1984-85 school year.

Mr. Jarvis said a letter of understanding has no legal binding.

"We want PTR clauses in the agreement so the board can no longer offset deficit costs by increasing class sizes which is what they've done up to this point," said Mr. Jarvis. "We're talking about quality of education which has been going continually down because of overcrowding in the classrooms. The 18.6 to one still hasn't returned to the level of 18.4 to one two years ago."

Mr. Jarvis predicted the teachers will reject the contract and respond by giving the negotiating team an overwhelming strike mandate.

"We hope the board will finally realize the teachers are adamant in their quest for quality education for the students and their needs will be met by new/serious negotiations," he said. "We would rather negotiate than have to strike."



Ballantrae's twin bundles of joy

Ballantrae's population was increased by two, March 14, with the arrival of Shannon Blanche and Stephanie Jean, twin daughters of Rick and Sandy Rose, Aurora Sideroad. Shannon weighed 7 lbs., 2 oz., and Stephanie 4 lbs., 15 oz. They were born at York Central Hospital, Richmond Hill.

—Jim Thomas

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King still king

By Don Atanasoff

YORK REGION — Despite a proposal that might have saved \$1 million in construction costs, Regional Council voted against moving the seat of government from Newmarket to Richmond Hill.

Citing its central location and proximity to major population centres, Richmond Hill Mayor Al Duffy made a strong bid Thursday for moving the Region's proposed new administrative centre to his municipality.

A major point of the Richmond Hill presentation, made by architect Joe Bogden, was the potential saving of \$1 million to the Region in construction costs. Richmond Hill has already planned new municipal offices, a library/art gallery, a hotel and convention centre, and a cultural centre at Major Mackenzie Drive and Yonge Street.

"This complex would give a symbolic presence to the Region," said Bogden. "And it could save \$2 million by building on one site instead of two." (The \$2 million saving would be split by the Region and Richmond Hill.)

Richmond Hill Planning Commissioner Bill Power, in a lengthy pitch to council, backed Duffy's remarks on population. He added that five of the nine municipal offices in the Region of York were closer to Richmond Hill than to Newmarket. Power also cited the close proximity to Metro Toronto and to the Ontario Government offices at Queen's Park.

In concluding the presentation, Duffy noted the seat of Regional Government in Richmond Hill would promote three things — "public interest, public involvement and public convenience."

However, lined up against Richmond Hill's effort was Regional Chairman Elfred King, Mr. King, who earlier issued a report to council, gave several reasons why the Region's administrative centre should remain in Newmarket.

King cited the historical background, accessibility to staff, members of council and the public, proximity to other public services and the courts, and sufficient space for current and future requirements.

King said the Region already owns 12 acres of land on Yonge St. in Newmarket and the money for construction is in the lot-fee account. He said that it would be appropriate to move on this subject at this time.

Mayor Duffy, knowing that the cards were stacked against him, attempted to buy some time for his proposal by asking that the decision be deferred. He asked that a consultant be hired and a public meeting be set.

However, Mr. Duffy's lost his bid and a motion to send Mr. King's recommendation to the afternoon council meeting was passed. In the afternoon session, council approved building the new administrative centre in Newmarket by a 12-4 vote.

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