



Blair Day, principal at Brother Andre Catholic High School, made several remarks during the opening ceremonies last week. Students are housed in a relocateable building at the present time with the new permanent building starting construction in the near future.



A large crowd of local dignitaries and York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board members were on hand last week for the opening of Brother Andre Catholic High School. Also on hand were the student body.

Enrolment fluctuates at area schools

Eight area school enrolments are down and 12 are up according to first-week attendance numbers obtained by the Economist and Sun.

The figures available, with last year's totals in brackets are as follows: Markham District High School — 2,150 (2,169); Unionville High School — 1,085; Brother Andre Catholic High School — 211; Dickson Hill P.S. — 322 (606); E.T.

Crowle P.S. — 637 (537); Franklin St. P.S. — 660 (724); Highgate P.S. — 726 (637); James Robinson P.S. — 592 (599); John XXIII Catholic School — 589 (517); Kateri Tekawitha — 650 (769); Milliken Mills P.S. — 744 (672); Mother Teresa C.S. — 730 (703); Parkview P.S. — 593 (533); Reesor Park P.S. — 754 (693); Roy H. Crosby P.S. — 340 (315); St. Joseph's Separate School — 388 (400); St. Matthew C.S. — 580 (216); St. Benedict's C.S.

— 429 (348); St. Patrick's Separate School — 360 (357); Unionville P.S. — 560 (582); William Armstrong P.S. — 441 (448); William Berczy P.S. — 548 (480).

Boundary changes, new French immersion classes and additional grades account for some of the wide differences in totals from last year.

This year's totals are expected to increase at many of the schools as stu-

dents continue to enroll.

Portable classrooms reported to be unavailable at the start of school in last week's Weekender are starting to arrive.

Highgate Public School Principal Norman Barnard said his portables have arrived and are in the process of being assembled. The students are expected to move in by the end of next week.

Rayner seeks re-election to Ward 4 council seat

Ward 4 Councillor Al Rayner will seek his first full term this fall.

Although he has only been on Markham Council for 18 months, he feels the experience he has gained will help him to serve his constituents well in the future.

Mr. Rayner won a by-election in his ward in April, 1984, when a shuffle of council made the seat available. Tony Roman, who was mayor at the time was appointed regional chairman, and Regional Councillor Carole Bell took his place. This left a vacant region seat which was filled by then Ward 4 councillor Bud Bonner.

Among the issues for ward 4 are: the construction of Hwy 407, mail delivery in Raymerville, redevelopment of Markham Mall, St. and the protection of Milne Park. Other issues Mr. Rayner mentioned included accommodation for senior citizens, building a sound barrier between the plazas on Hwy 7 where taverns are located and the residential neighborhood and helping new residents deal with developers.

One of the things Mr. Rayner is pleased to see underway is the reconstruction of Main St. He said the renovations to the old town hall and the new Markham Village Lanes shopping centre would make the area more viable.

One recent accomplishment was the opening of the new fire hall, which involved Mr. Rayner to a great extent, as chairman of the fire committee.

But the councillor said other improvements such as burying hydro wires, laying cobblestones on the boulevards and repaving the road should be done to enhance the street.

"We did it in Thornhill and in Unionville, now it's the village of Markham's turn," he said.



AL RAYNER
He'll run again

Before he became councillor, Mr. Rayner was a founding member of the Markham Heritage Area Ratepayers' Association where he also served as director and president for several years. He was involved in minor hockey and baseball for 11 years. He and his wife and two children have lived in Markham since 1968.

Beckett named new fire chief

Hail to the Chief — Beckett, that is. Ken Beckett, the former deputy chief of the Markham Fire Department, took over the helm on Monday, after serving acting chief for the past several weeks. "I felt quite good about getting the job, it's a challenge for me," he said.

Chief Beckett has been a firefighter in Markham since 1961, when he was taken on as a volunteer.

Six years later he became the first full-time firefighter in the township. He became deputy chief in 1979.

The Unionville resident said he doesn't foresee any major changes in the department.

"I worked closely with Chief Smith, we had common goals," he said.

Chief Beckett is married and has three children.

French Immersion: 'C'est magnifique'

By STEVE HOUSTON
Staff Reporter

French Immersion students at Dickson Hill Public School are getting the message. "C'est le commencement d'une année magnifique." To others it means "This is the beginning of a great year."

For about 220 students in Grades 1 to 5, Tuesday marked the first day of total French Immersion classes at the school and Principal Bruce Paradine is expecting things to run smoothly.

"We anticipate that it will be a very successful program," Mr. Paradine said. "We are striving to do whatever we can to make it work."

Being the first immersion program in the Stouffville area, Mr. Paradine said there was some apprehension among parents and staff at the outset, but he added that the children should adapt rapidly.

He noted that many of the students at Dickson Hill are already familiar with the program after being transferred from other area schools. Students in Grade 1 are learning in a totally French atmosphere for the first time.

"When they enter the program it's

100 per cent French from the time they come through the door," he said. "At the Grade 1 level it's strange for them but they adapt very quickly."

The only other thing Mr. Paradine said parents were concerned about was the possibility of segregation between the French Immersion students and others in the English program.

He denied that any type of segregation would occur and said he can see the children playing together in the schoolyard from his office window.

"The children all come in the same doors and go out the same doors," he said. "From what I can see on the playground I don't anticipate any problems."

He added that he is also taking French courses to upgrade his speaking skills. And he said he welcomes visits from parents who may want to keep up on their children's progress.

"I want people to know that we are stressing the integration of the student body," he noted. "I've been confident in it from the beginning. To me it's a great opportunity for children to develop new language skills."



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Auto tools taken

Automotive tools and equipment were stolen from Ryan Brothers Limited Towing on Woodbine Ave. Aug. 25.

According to police, the break-in occurred between 8 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. when the locks on the main gate were cut.

The stolen goods are valued at \$1,799. Damage is estimated at \$60.

Snack bar entered

On Aug. 27 between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. the snack bar at Milne Conservation Area was broken into.

Police said entry was gained to the snack bar by forcing a south-side window. Nothing appears to have been taken. Damage is estimated at \$200.