

Questions

Dear Editor:

The fact the Stouffville Christian School may be afforded the same opportunity to accept government funding as Catholic schools, raises several interesting points.

Will the same government-imposed rules apply?

Will those rules remove the uniqueness of the school?

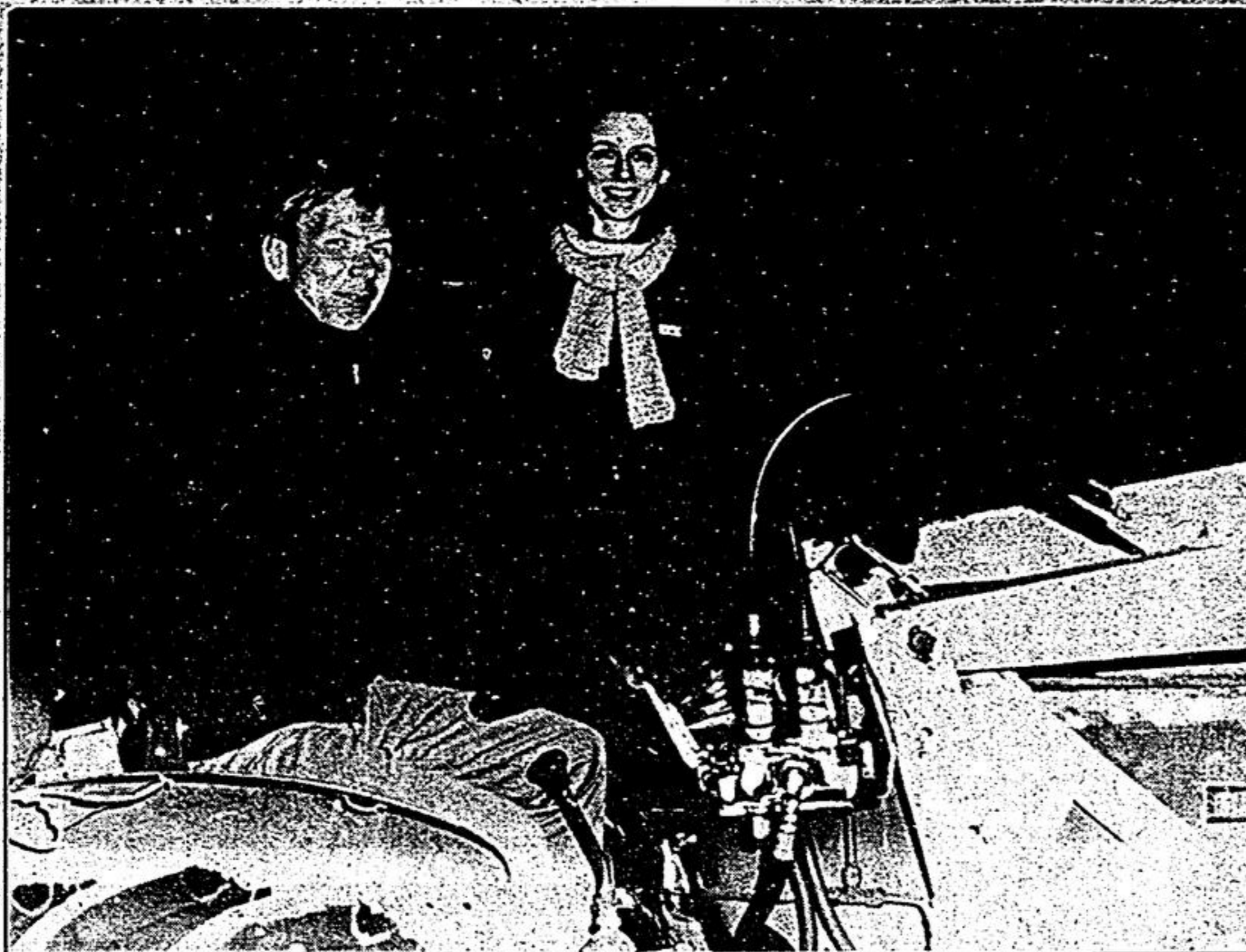
Will the school be part of the public system with an independent name?

These are issues the Christian School Board will have to consider carefully.

While lack of funding and subsequent fees may make it prohibitive for some students to attend, this is more than compensated for by the high level of academic and moral instruction provided.

To erode these, would destroy the school. The trustees will want to make sure this doesn't happen.

Sincerely,
Helen Davey,
R.R. 1, Claremont



Welcome guest from Finland

It's a small world. Back in 1979, Carolyn Davidson, 19th Avenue, R.R. 1, Stouffville, spent ten weeks with the parents of Paavo Keritula near Joutsa Finland, about 210 km. from Helsinki. Last weekend, Paavo was Carolyn's guest at the home of her parents, Alex and Lillian Davidson. Carolyn and brother Grant showed Paavo some of the sights of both city and country, including a view, Saturday, from atop the CN Tower. Paavo, (shown here with Carolyn), said the farm fields and farm equipment are much larger here than in Finland, a major agricultural difference between the two countries. Paavo left for home on Wednesday.

---Jim Thomas

'Your Life'

A stranger in your town?

By MARGARET FOTH

Do you know anyone who has recently moved? How might you help that person become better acquainted with your area?

Moving to a new home can be particularly difficult because everything is strange. Traffic patterns are unique to every town or country. One-way streets and left-turn-only lanes appear out of nowhere. Try to remember a time when you have moved or travelled to a new community. What kinds of things helped you in learning your way around?

One of the first things some newcomers look for is a church or an organization to which to belong. But very often they spend many Sundays or evenings attending different places to find the one they feel most comfortable with. One way you can offer help is to invite them to go with you. In that invitation you might discover other ways you and your friends may be able to meet the needs of a new family.

Some friends of mine moved to a new area and were not sure which church to attend. Deb and Joe had a few in mind and were prepared to visit each until they found the one they were comfortable with. The first Sunday, one of the couples in the Sunday school class invited them to come to a "small group" meeting later that evening. In this personalized environment, they learned to know a variety of people much better than just shaking hands on a Sunday morning. From that Deb and Joe decided they need look no further for a church home.

Another couple I know moved during the early summer months hoping to get settled before the start of school. Unfortunately, Pat and her family found it difficult to find a permanent place. The real estate market was booming and neither rentals nor houses to buy were in abundance. The first six weeks the family "house-sat," but then they were without a place to live. The church Pat and Rick were attending found them temporary residence until they could locate permanent housing.

A street map book which listed hospitals, schools, places of worship, streets, parks and recreation, and shopping areas was a lifesaver during this time. Soon they were finding shortcuts like old-timers. If you know someone new, make sure they receive such a guide; or better yet, offer to take a newcomer along with you to shopping centres and grocery stores.

Often, by asking a few questions, you can soon find out what kinds of interests the newcomers have. If you are not particularly interested in something they mention, maybe you could introduce them to one of your friends who shares the same interests and thereby widen the newcomer's circle. It also may be helpful for newcomers to meet others who have recently moved.

Another idea is to contact your local Chamber of Commerce. Many offer a newcomer's packet for a small fee that includes information on tourist attractions, community life, housing, transportation, commerce and maps. If you're planning to move to another area, your local Chamber of Commerce can give you the address and phone number of the community you are moving to so you can send for information ahead of time.

New people find helpful information in a library and you could offer to take them there. When Karen was "new," Lisa gave her several brochures that listed continuing education classes in that town. Lisa wanted to take a class as well. Karen and Lisa found one they were both interested in and decided to drive together.

Finding a family physician, dentist, or orthodontist becomes another difficult decision. Often a newcomer will need a doctor shortly after moving into a new area—adding to the stress of relocating. If a newcomer asks you to recommend a doctor, take an extra step to write down your doctor's name, address, and phone number. The newcomer may not decide to go to your physician, but if she has the information and spelling in front of her, it makes life a little easier.

You might be the link a newcomer needs to help them feel at home. Anticipate questions and fears they are experiencing. Remember the things you found helpful when you made an adjustment to a new area and try to offer the same kind of help.

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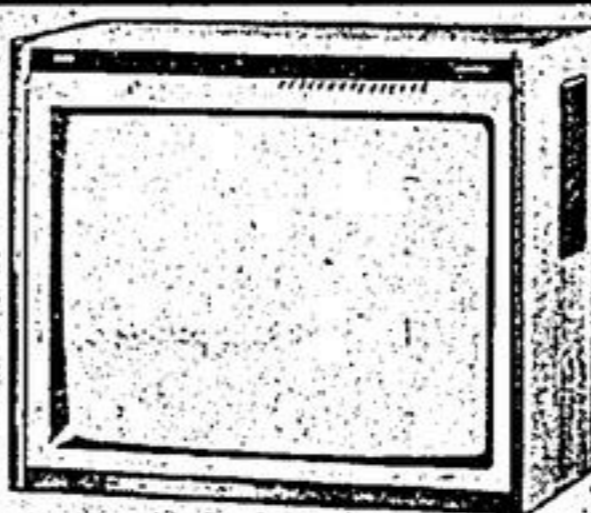
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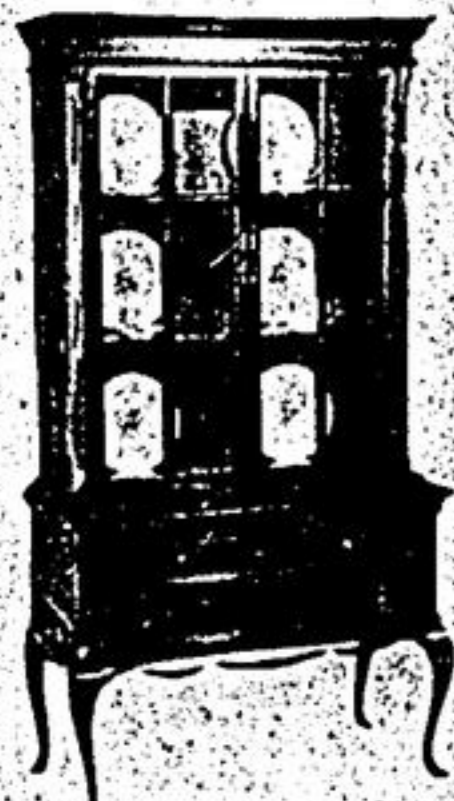
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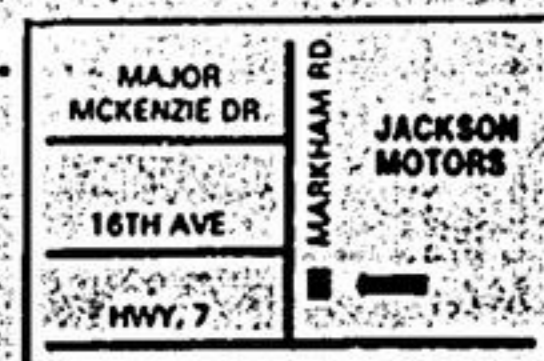
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