

Diane Fassel, a former teacher on the staff of Orchard Park, Stouffville, has returned as the school's vice-principal. Previously, she held a similar position at Prince Charles Public School in Newmarket. "It's like coming home," she told The Tribune. —Jim Thomas

Vice-principal at Orchard Park "Like coming home"

By JIM THOMAS
STOUFFVILLE — "It's like coming home."
In reality, she has.
Diane Fassel's back at Orchard Park, Stouffville, as the school's new vice-principal.
A native of St. Catharines, Mrs. Fassel received her elementary and secondary school education there. Later, she attended Queen's University, Kingston and Brock University, St. Catharines. She's presently working on her Master's degree out of Niagara University, Lewiston, New York.
A young-looking 37, it's hard to believe this vivacious Holland Landing mother of one has 16 years' teaching experience locked up behind her smile. Positions have included five years with the Toronto Board of Education, J.L.R. Bell Public School, New-

market, Aurora Heights Public School and Orchard Park.
She also served as an itinerant diagnostic teacher with five schools on her call list.
Prior to her v/p appointment at Orchard Park, she held the same position at Prince Charles Public School, Newmarket.
"I was happy there," Diane admits, "but I'm pleased with the move." She appreciates the "closeness" of the Stouffville community and the interest parents show in their children and the school.
The increased enrollment at Orchard Park opened up the new post, Diane explains. She hopes to lighten the principal's load and take over when he's away. She'll also assume a teaching role in Grades 3 and 4 and co-ordinate

activities in the intermediate division.
Mrs. Fassel envisions a principal's position a few years down the road. She says the York Region Board is extremely fair in this regard, displaying no discriminatory leanings. "This board is open-minded and forward-thinking. Appointments are based on merit."
She says at least half the vice-principals in York Region are women. "I applaud the board on its hiring practices."
Mrs. Fassel isn't planning a change in residence. The drive from Holland Landing to Stouffville only takes thirty minutes, she says.
Diane considers herself fortunate. "It's a case of being in the right place at the right time," she says, "it's nice to come home."


Our 'community'

By DAVID HOUSTON
A Community is defined as a group of people living in common circumstances, working and playing together to develop a better way of life.
What we see on the Pickering Airport Site is such a Community, but one living in fear and uncertainty. A Community that has developed slowly under very difficult conditions.
In the beginning we were a fragmented Community, divided between the two groups. The former owners were still hurtling from the destruction of their community and resented the influx of "outsiders".
Over the years we have overcome these problems and have learned to live in harmony. We are no longer a transient group but consist mainly of long-term tenants who are trying desperately to build a solid community.
We involve ourselves in the normal routine of community living. We talk, we visit and we play. But when it comes to school, church, clubs or organizations, some of us find ourselves travelling to other communities because our own insecurities have not allowed us to establish these things within our own boundaries.
The use of our community centres and other common buildings has been taken from us and rented out to others. We somehow feel more secure joining established groups in other areas. It's a false security as we are not really part of those communities. True security will only be realized when people can plant roots and grow

Most of us are either raising or have raised children here and would like very much to continue to do so. We would also like to see our own children remain here to work and raise families of their own.
So what do we see as the future for the Pickering Airport Landsite if the tenants are permitted to become owners of these properties? We see the solidifying of a struggling community. We see the building of churches, schools and shopping facilities. We see the formation of clubs and organizations. We see monies that we are afraid to spend being used to upgrade our properties. And mostly we see a community of happy families growing and developing in love and harmony, secure in the knowledge that they belong.
To uproot the many families that comprise this community, a community that has overcome overwhelming odds and emotional stress to develop a sense of being would indeed be a travesty of justice.
Let us not repeat the horrible upheaval of fifteen years ago. We cannot put back together the hearts and homes of a former community that was so completely destroyed through an error in judgement by a previous government, but we can make a conscious decision not to allow history to repeat itself.
We believe it to be in the best interest of not only our families in general but the country as a whole to redevelop this area from its current solid base by allowing the existing tenants the first option of purchase on these lands.




Norma Stone, left, is the education officer for the Airport Community Centre. She is talking to a tenant of the Airport Community Centre, Mrs. [Name obscured].



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