

Guests from France

DICKSON'S HILL — The staff, students and parents of students at Dickson's Hill Public School are looking forward with much anticipation to a visit from 21 children from Strasbourg, France.

It's first program of its kind in York Region, perhaps Ontario. The boys and girls, accompanied by a teacher and three parents, will arrive May 7 and remain three weeks. They'll be billeted in area homes.

It all began as a pen-pal project, explains staff teacher Michael O'Reilly. The pupils decided to take it a step further and meet their Canadian friends personally, he says.

The Strasbourg students raised between fifteen and twenty thousand dollars.

Their Dickson's Hill hosts are equally excited. Various fund-raising projects are planned so they can show their guests a good time. Trips proposed include visits to Niagara Falls, the CN Tower and Ottawa.

The Strasbourg children are ages 10 and 11, equivalent to Grade 6 here, Mr. O'Reilly explains.

At this point, it's not an exchange, he says. He notes because Dickson's Hill is totally French Immersion, their guests should feel "right at home".

"It'll be a wonderful experience for them and for us," he concludes.

Piano lesson tax?

Protest filed

A tax on piano lessons? Ridiculous says Louise Clarke, President of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers Association, (Markham Branch).

A figure of 18 percent has been mentioned, Miss Clarke said.

"Many parents are upset over this," she stated.

A meeting with Markham Riding MP Bill Attewell is set for this Friday at 10:30 a.m., in his constituency office at Unionville.

Miss Clarke says all teachers regard music instruction as an education with credits available in Grades 12 and 13 in addition to course majors at university.

She said the teachers' protest will be supported by a lengthy petition.

Toot for trains

STOUFFVILLE — Inadequate use is being made of CN and CP rail service, particularly in the Golden Horseshoe area surrounding Metro Toronto.

This is the feeling of an organization calling itself the "Think Rail Group" with membership located mainly in Southern Ontario.

They want to improve facilities now available in an effort to lessen traffic congestion leading to and out of Toronto.

The report, over the signature of J. van den Afdel of Burlington plus correspondence from the Town of Fergus, won support from Whitechurch-Stouffville Council, Feb. 14.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury suggested improved train service could help relieve congestion at Pearson International Airport and lessen the need for a second facility in Pickering.

Councillor Doug Alles said the present infrastructure (highways) were being taxed to the limit. This, he said, could be eased through improved passenger and freight transport by train.

Councillor Margot Marshall said train travel remains very popular in Europe. "In North America, it's a matter of education," she stated.

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