



## Peace Poem

Think of the soldiers who once fought  
 They could have been as young as you  
 But who knows, who knows, who?  
 So the next time you go to the cemetery  
 Maybe today or the next day  
 Think of the soldiers who once fought  
 And remember  
 Peace is nice  
 War is not

By Heather Henry, 11

## Court stabbing leads to suit

KATHLEEN GRIFFIN  
 Staff Reporter

Det. Robert Wiche has filed a \$6-million lawsuit against his own force claiming lax security at the Newmarket Courthouse was a contributing factor in the June attack in which he was stabbed four times in the neck and shoulder. The lawsuit also includes Const. David Kingston, who took a slash to his right forearm trying to protect Wiche, Kingston's wife Jennifer and members of Wiche's family who witnessed the stabbing outside courtroom 103 last June 9.

The papers were filed late Friday and names York Region Police, the York Region Police Services Board, Police Chief Bryan Cousineau, acting Chief Peter Scott, the 15-year-old Markham teen who pleaded guilty in the attack and the teen's parents. Wiche was charged with manslaughter in the shooting death of Faraz Suleman, 16, on Markham's Trafford Cr. in June, 1996. Suleman was behind the wheel of a stolen Jeep and court heard he had rammed Wiche immediately prior to the shooting.

Wiche was at court for his preliminary hearing when he was attacked and stabbed from behind by the youth, who is well-known to the Suleman family. He pleaded guilty to a charge of attempted murder and was sentenced to two years in custody and one year probation.

Wiche was cleared of the manslaughter charge at the end of the preliminary hearing, which resumed in August after his recovery.

The suit cites a 1995 police report, outlining security concerns in the courthouse and prompted by a letter from provincial court Judge E. Earle-Renton, was ignored.

Wiche claims because several recommendations for improved security arising from this letter were ignored, he is entitled to punitive, exemplary and aggravated damages, as is Kingston, and both their families.

York Region Police Association president Paul Bailey said his members support Wiche "100 per cent."

Bailey said under the present provincial workers' compensation scheme, while lost income as a result of injury is covered, it does not provide for damages nor for care required by family members. He said both Wiche's and Kingston's injuries are serious, long-term and will require further treatment, likely surgery.



# ATTENTION

## YORK REGION SEPARATE SCHOOL PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS



All York Region Catholic elementary and secondary school teachers (including French language teachers) are on a legal strike. All regular classes will continue to be cancelled, and we thank parents for finding alternate child care arrangements and for not sending their children to school.

We know that parents are concerned that their children have already missed two weeks of classes due to the illegal provincial strike. Parents are urging both the Board and teachers here at York Region Separate to get back to the bargaining table, and we are committed to doing just that. Negotiations are now in the hands of provincial mediators, and we are ready and willing to return to bargaining so that we may bring this situation to a speedy resolution.

### Main Issue - Restore Salary Increments:

The Board has offered to set aside virtually all non-monetary issues to concentrate on the teachers' main concern to restore a kind of pay scale called increments. Prior to social contract, all teachers automatically received an increment in their wages every year until they got to the top of their salary scale.

The Board regrets that ALL of its employees lost salary during the three years of the provincially-imposed social contract.

Other boards in the province have restored these increments to teachers -- but it has always been a shared responsibility. While this Board has worked hard to improve its financial position, this Board can least afford to absorb the *full* costs of restoring teachers salaries to pre-social contract days. This would cost the Board approx. \$8.4 million in the first year of the contract alone.

### The Board Offer:

The Board has agreed to the independent Fact Finder's recommendation to pay for one of the three lost increments at a cost of \$7.6 million over the next 4 1/2 years.

The Fact Finder has said that it is up to the teachers to follow the example of most other teacher groups in Ontario and to "engage in useful negotiations with the Board about what kind of working condition changes that they can tolerate in order to restore their [salary] grid." The Board realizes that a give-and-take approach will be needed from both parties in order to restore the final two increments.

The Board extends its appreciation to all our Catholic school communities for their patience and understanding.

Current information about negotiations is posted on our Hotline at (905) 713-1211 or (416) 221-5051, ext. 7040 or you can visit our web site at [www.yrccsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrccsb.edu.on.ca). The Teacher's Union can be reached at (416) 492-4200 or (905) 773-2037.

Susan LaRosa  
 Director of Education

Tina Rotondi Molinari  
 Chair of the Board

The York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board  
 Le Conseil des écoles séparées catholiques de la région de York

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