

## Grs. 1, 2 could lose French next year

From page 3  
 the elimination of 40 minutes of French per day and redistributing it to English, math, science and technology, have any significant impact on any of those courses?"

Ryan argued that for children to get a solid footing on a second language, they need to learn it as early as possible.

"I started French in Grade 4 and I can't speak a word today," Ryan said. "If you wanted to see how French should really be taught, go into a Grade 1 immersion class."

Parent Fran Sutton, also a member of Canadian Parents for French, pointed out that Grade 1 teachers told her they try to incorporate music and other subjects into the French program to make it a continuous learning process.

"Some of the program in English-language program is carried over into French," said Sutton. "The mother tongue is enhanced by second-language training."

However, the board's associate director said the board can't offer the program without provincial funding.

"There is no program and no money," said Joe Allin. "Therefore, I feel obliged to recommend to you the program be discontinued. Grade 1 to 3 is an optional program in the minds of the ministry."

The board had originally considering phasing out the program.

But a new staff report suggests cancelling the program at the end of the current school year, now that the province has removed a 1980 guideline that required boards to phase out core French programs.

Phasing out the program would cost the board money for textbooks and other material - funds that must be

taken from the new per-pupil grant. Cancelling the program immediately would affect 10,000 students now in grades

1 and 2. Board director Bill Hogarth told trustees that at a recent meeting involving 17

school boards, all but one were moving to a French program for students in grades 4 to 8.

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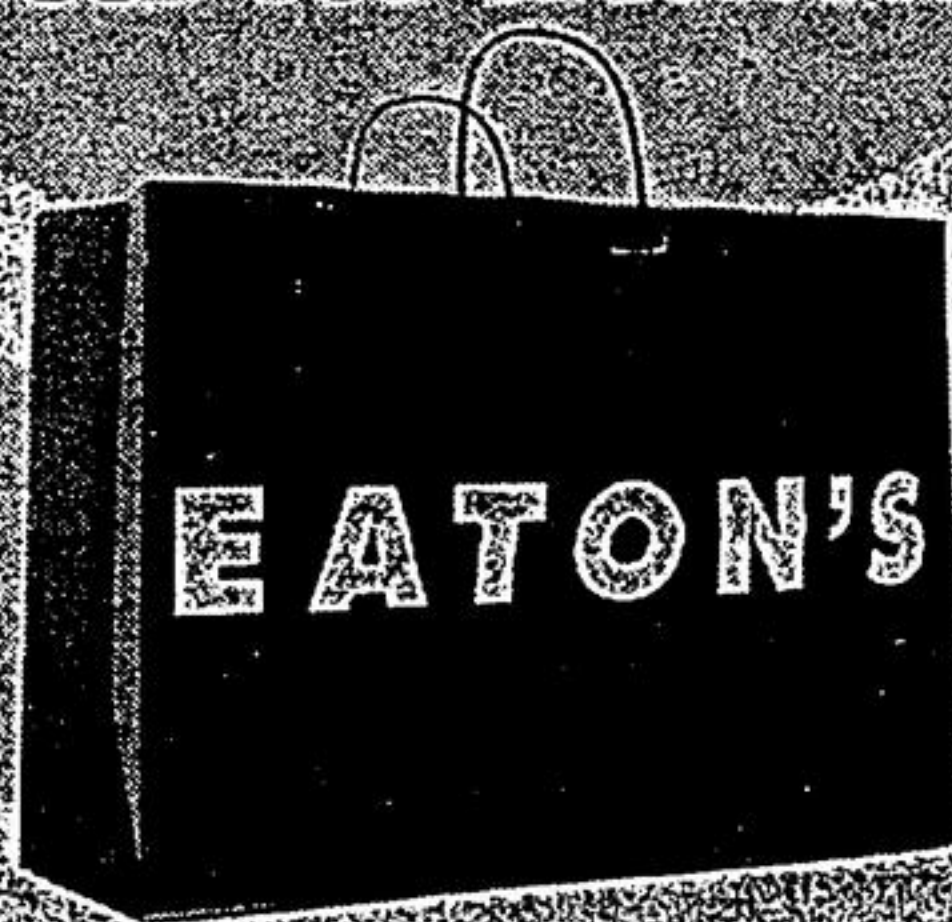
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**VON**  
**General Meeting**  
 The Victorian Order of Nurses - York Branch will be holding their Annual General Meeting on June 8th, 1998 at the Branch Offices, 3190 Steeles Avenue East, Markham, Ontario at 5:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Brenna Wright at 905-477-2755 if you will be attending.

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 of  
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**BLUE HILLS ACADEMY RESIDENCES**  
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