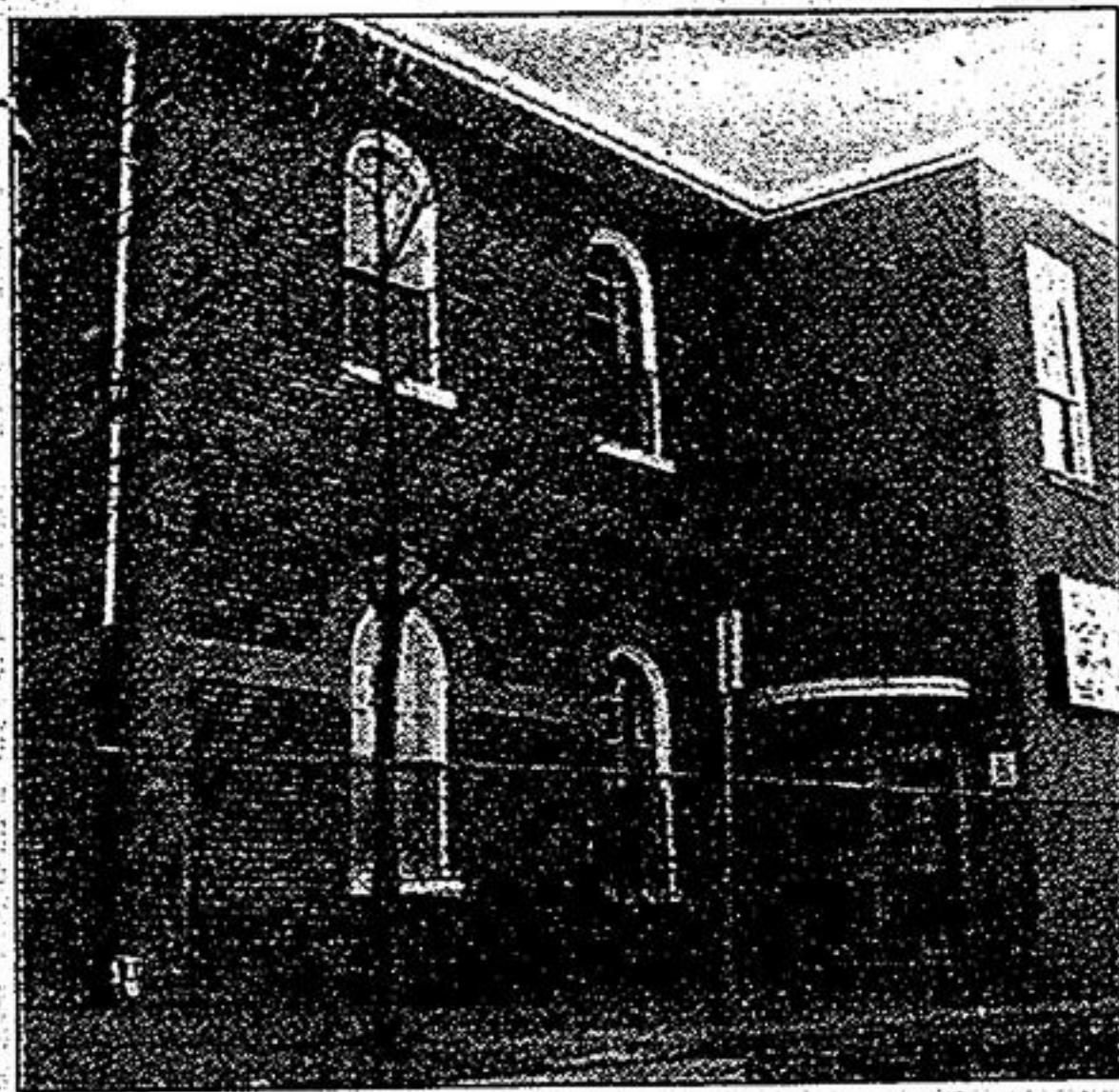


AT THE SCHOOLS

PIECE OF HISTORY



SCHOOL PROFILES

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

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<http://www.franklinstreet.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca>

- Principal Josette Sassoon
Vice-Principal Mary Louise Icely
- 2001/2002 school council:
Don Hill, co-chair
Patti Furlani, co-chair
Beth Vandenburg, secretary
Susan Schielke, treasurer
Neil McRuer, member
Nancy Taylor, member

Tara Elliott, member
• Sian Kuun, volunteer parent to manage pizza lunch program
• Student population: between 580 and 600

Approximately half of the students in this dual-track York Region District School Board facility are enrolled in the French immersion program, which began in 1985.

French immersion students come from eight schools in the East Community Education Area, while the English-speaking students are mainly from the old town of Markham flanking Hwy. 48, north of Hwy. 7. Eighty per cent are bussed.

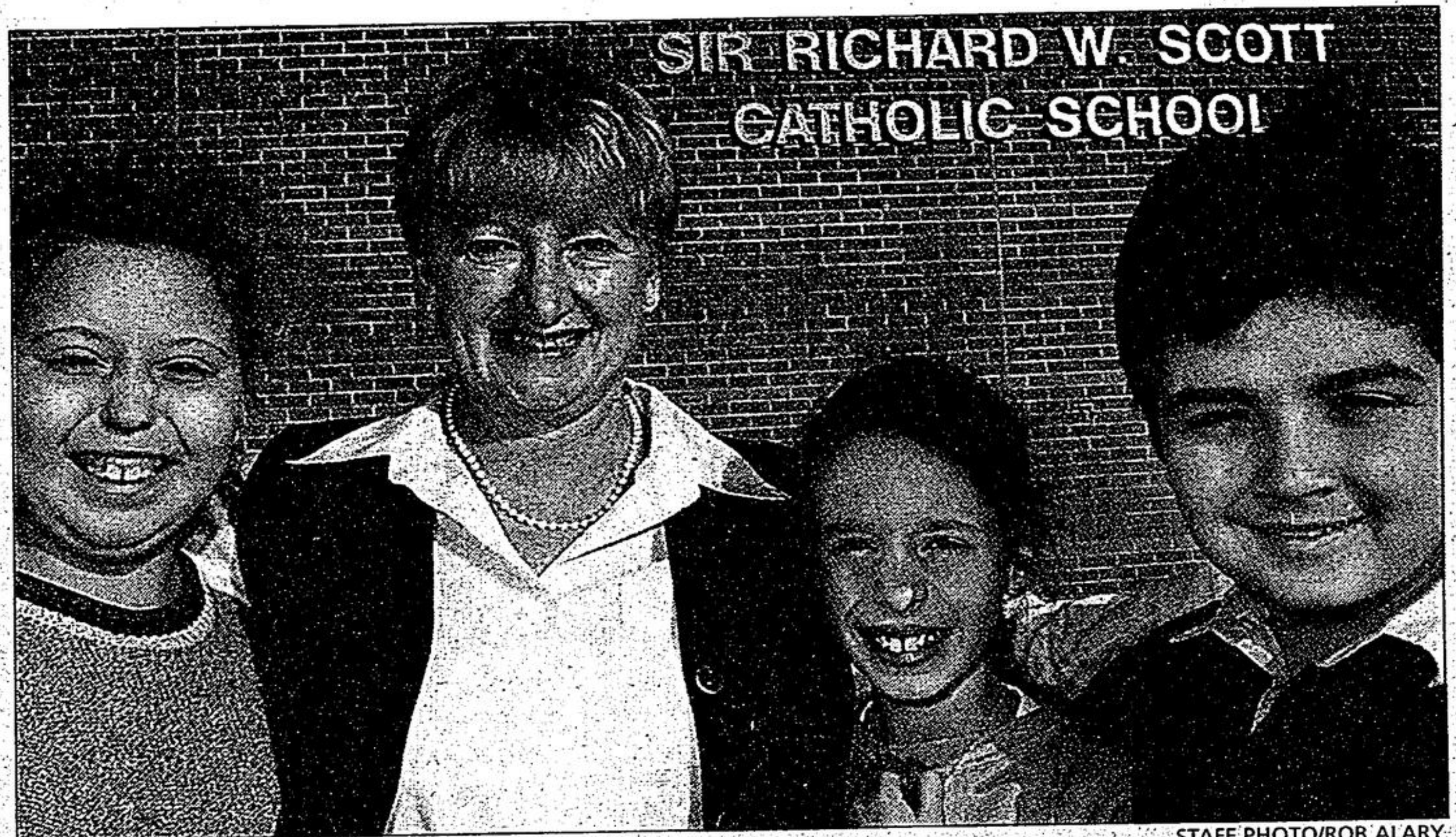
In 1846, the fresh-faced Markham youngsters excitedly heading to their first "real" school went to the same location as today's Franklin Street students.

Then known as S.S. # 17 and later S.S. # 15, the school was a brand-new frame building. There were blackboards on the walls and schoolwork was done on slates by the boys who came in short pants and the girls who wore long dresses. The first teacher was Mr. Doherty, who taught from January to April for a salary of 10 pounds, 10 shillings. In 1866, Adam Scott was paid \$400 annually, and received a pay increase of \$40 in 1868.

After a fire severely damaged the old frame structure in 1886, it was replaced by a four-room brick building which now forms the west wing. It was called Markham Village Public School and had

See REGION'S, page 15.

TEACHER OF THE MONTH



SIR RICHARD W. SCOTT
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

STAFF PHOTO/ROB ALARY

Theresa Spadafora (left), 10, and Michelle Santacrose, 9, flank their teacher Lois Brisbois. The Sir Richard W. Scott Catholic Elementary School instructor was nominated by student Celestino Canto (far right) for the York Region Newspaper Group Teacher of the Month award for her work with special needs students.

Teacher focuses on ability rather than disability

Award-winning teacher has special place in students' heart

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

Markham's Lois Brisbois has won the first York Region Newspaper Group Teacher of the Month award.

Nominated by Grade 4 student Celestino Canto, Ms Brisbois' Sir Richard W. Scott Catholic Elementary School class will be treated to a pizza party on us and her name will be entered into our 2002 Teacher of the Year contest.

The veteran instructor oversees an intensive support and assessment class for children with learning disabilities at the 14th Avenue-Ninth Line school. Her students range from Grades 3 to 7 and each spends a portion of their day learning strategies and coping skills that will help

them succeed in regular classes through high school. The program runs over two years.

'Kids come from other schools to Sir Richard Scott to be in her class. She teaches us in a special way so that we understand.'

Celestino joined the class in September and his teacher has had an amazing impact.

"Ms Brisbois teaches kids like me with a learning disability. Kids come from other schools to Sir Richard Scott to be in her class. She teaches us in a special way so that we understand. Since I've been in her class, my grades are better and I don't hate school anymore. Ms Brisbois is kind and patient and

helps us to beat our disability so that we can succeed in our future," Celestino's nomination read.

When he learned his words had earned Ms Brisbois the January nod, Celestino was thrilled.

"Oh, thanks, thanks," he said. "She's real nice. She brings in things from all over the world, jewels and pebbles and stuff and gives them to the students. She has a stamp collection and we get to read newspapers. My grades have improved a lot."

Celestino said because of Ms Brisbois, his grades have improved to Bs.

Sir Richard W. Scott principal Veronica Robinson described Ms Brisbois as an exceptional teacher.

"Lois is very supportive of her students and works tremen-

See STUDENTS', page 15.

Youth news team selected

Editors at York Region Newspaper Group were overwhelmed by the outstanding response from young people eager to make up our At The Schools news team.

Editors from each of our newspapers poured over remarkably talented opinion pieces, well-balanced news stories, compelling photographs and impressive illustrations from students who attend schools across York Region.

The selection process was invigorating, exciting and tough.

To think so many young voices in our communities want to join us in comprising our At The Schools section reinforces our belief that youth take ownership and pride in their communities and have opinions that count.

Here is our news team for the At The Schools section.

Reporters: Paula J. Lam of St. Augustine Catholic

High School in Unionville; Camilla Cheung of Aurora High School and Samantha Vartiamaki of Westmount Collegiate Institute.

Opinion writers: Wolfgang Franke of Unionville High School; David Weisz of Vaughan Secondary School and Nicole Senyi of Aurora High School.

Photographers: Keri Knapp of Markville Secondary School; Sharon Jarvis of Markham District High School; Michael Rajzman of Thornhill and Mitchell Sendel of Lester B. Pearson and Janice Wong.

Feature writer: Larra Baker of Aurora High School

Thank you to everyone who entered.

News team members will be asked to join us at The Liberal office in Richmond Hill Tuesday, Jan. 29 at 4 p.m. for a story meeting for next month's At The Schools section. Confirmation will be sent next week.

York Catholic District School Board

Notice Regarding Financial Statements

The York Catholic District School Board's complete audited 2000-2001 financial statement package, auditor's report, notes to the financial statements and annual report are available on our website at www.ycdsb.edu.on.ca.

Or, call for a package at (905) 713-2711, (416) 221-5050 or 1-800-363-2711

York Catholic District School Board

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