

Yellowknife Catholic Separate School System 1952-2002

As the eighties began, Yellowknife had a number of new and important issues to deal with. Despite all the growth over the years, the city was faced with an accommodations crisis. All available houses, apartments and mobile homes were gobbled up, rents began to rise and there was no relief in sight. Real estate agents estimated 1,000 people had moved into the city in two months, mostly for mining jobs. Giant Mine's sudden decision to close its bunkhouse added to the problem. The city wanted to get out of the housing business and thus started a move that resulted in the loss of several of the accommodations areas that were so important to the development of Yellowknife in the early years.

As the city chose to close several trailer parks that it owned. The Dump Trailer court, formally known as the Peace River Flats Mobile Home Court, was the first to get the axe in August of '81, with the rest to close by 1984. In fact, in the early eighties, skilled workers with jobs in YK were leaving because they couldn't find a place to live.

Along with the loss of the accommodations from the early years, Yellowknife lost one of its original characters when Tom Doornbos died in 1981. On November 1, he was returning to his home at the Mary Murphy home from an evening stroll around the downtown area when he began having trouble walking and collapsed on the sidewalk. He died shortly after at the hospital, presumably from heart failure. People such as Mr. Doornbos were reminders of the hard work, dedication and spirit that has always been characteristic of Northerners and something of the color of the city and its connection to the past we lost with his passing.

Personal Memory

One day in 1977, I was exploring Yellowknife with a group of grade 4 students for signs of local history. We were making note of names we found on buildings, street signs etc. We would do later research to determine for whom they were named and when. At one point, Mr. Doornbos approached me and asked what I was doing. I explained it to him and he thanked me for doing this work.

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Then he shook my hand and said, "You have a very important job there. These young ones are our future." I've thought many times how lucky I was to have had that opportunity to shake hands with early Yellowknife. I also appreciate now, how this old gentleman continued to see Yellowknife growing into the future.

There were other signs that Yellowknife was moving into a new era. The years of gold mining prosperity finally caught up with us. As the environment had become an issue everywhere, the tons of poisonous arsenic stored underground at Giant mine had to be dealt with. (A by-product of refining the gold) Giant Yellowknife mines came up with a plan to sell lethal arsenic trioxide to the United States. Plans and construction began on loading and storage facilities at the mine. Mine officials estimated they would be able to sell the daily 12-ton arsenic trioxide output to an American firm. That issue has yet to be put to rest.

In April, workers and mine management had been negotiating with the aid of a federal conciliator for several months, as they had been without a contract since the end of the previous October.

Pickers set up a tent, wood stove and school bus at the mine entrance to help them through the day at minus 20 degrees C. Unionized Con mine employees, members of United Steelworkers local 802, went back to work May 19, ending a strike that started April 7.

By the 1980's not only was Yellowknife no longer isolated, it was felt that we now needed a southern city with which we could "twin". Kapuskasing, Ontario, was a first choice, then Toronto. We finally we ended up with the Ontario mining community of Kirkland Lake. (We tried to get Clint Eastwood's Carmel by the Sea as a Twin but Clint wouldn't go along.)

In 1984 Yellowknife celebrated its 50th anniversary. Old timers came "home" from all over the country to reminisce and see what changes had taken place since the early days. Most were amazed at the facilities, the communications, the size, the energy and the diversity of the town.

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The original founders, and the first generations of Yellowknifers were into their retirement years as the eighties rolled around. True to the spirit of sharing and community commitment, The Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens launched a \$250,000 fund raising campaign to help buy furnishings and specialized equipment for the new 30 unit, 8 million senior citizens home that was under construction on a lot beside the entrance to Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. This special concern for fellow citizens shows most definitely that the pioneer spirit of Yellowknife is still strong and the Baker Center, which is now in full operation, is a tribute to the citizens of Yellowknife past and present.

By the eighties, tourism was becoming a very important issue for Yellowknife. Where people had flown to Yellowknife in the fifties looking for work, many tourists were now coming north to experience the great outdoors; such as it is, at campgrounds such as Prelude, Reid Lake and Long Lake. Along with the highway traffic, Yellowknife was now becoming a popular place for Japanese tourists to visit. Continuing with diversity, NWT's first French Language newspaper, L'Aquilon made its debut in YK the eighties, an indication of the growing numbers and strength of

Yellowknife's Francophone population.

By 1986, Con mine was showing her age, Cominco Ltd confirmed that it's Yellowknife gold mine was on the auction block. Although Con has been a valuable asset for many years, it no longer fit into Cominco's long-term business strategy. Mining continued to be important but in the eighties, we began to consider seriously that the end was coming for our founding industry.

While all this change was happening, the Separate School Board was changing, growing and responding as much as ever. One of the most significant educational issues at the time was the introduction of computer technology to education. Leading the way in this new phase, the Separate School got it's first bank of computers in 1981 and despite all the worry and controversy of at the time, computer technology has prospered in and with the education system, so much so that the whole System can now be considered "high tech", much to the benefit of teachers, students and administrators.

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In addition to technology, the System established French Immersion programs in the early eighties in St Joseph School, now appropriately named Ecole St. Joseph School. The dedication, hard work care and concern of the first team of French Immersion teachers laid a foundation that still continues and provides a valuable addition to the multi cultural fabric of Yellowknife.

For the first time in it's history, the Catholic System hired its own superintendent when Mr. Cully Poston was hired in 1981 to oversee development of Catholic education in Yellowknife. Prior to this, an arrangement with the Department of Education and the Public Board allowed the District #1's superintendent to fulfill some of the essential chief administrative roles for the Separate School.

Other additions to the Catholic System in the eighties included the implementation of the Whole Language approach to language development. Also, a holistic and inclusionary approach to teaching/learning was adopted that brought into the classroom children with "disabilities". Up to this time, such children were not provided the opportunity to be in school with their peers.

This very warm approach has been an exceptional way for the Catholic System to respond to the needs of the community. It has contributed greatly to the warmth and personal touch that of the Catholic schools, their students, teachers and administrators and the system as a whole.

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Schools Study the Role of Computers

by Steve Stockermans November 1982

Yellowknife schools are drifting into the computer age amidst uncertainty. Although the technology has been accepted as inevitable to the workplace, the role they will play in the schools remains cloudy. Whether computers will increase the quality of education, or fall to a game playing role, they are nevertheless considered vital training for tomorrow's world.

Dave Wind, chief systems and computer services of the Government of the NWT, says, "Computers are playing more and more of a role in society, but I can't foresee any 1984 movement." "The traditional ways of doing things die very slowly. People will be able to get along quite nicely without any computer knowledge, but if they have a basic orientation about them, a general literacy, then they would be more at ease and be able to assimilate the technology."

Computers In School

Catholic schools are in the forefront of computer studies, thanks to St. Pat's high principal Vince Dumont. In 1981 when Dumont arrived in Yellowknife, he realized there was a need for computer education and with the co-operation of the board, teachers and the Alberta Ministry of Education; he has a program in place for this year. The school has 15 computers in use in a classroom, and the demand to get in the limited enrollment course is high.

"If we could double our resources, we could easily double the number of students. The problem with computers is that you really need one terminal per student."

St. Pat's Elementary will be involved in computers next year, when enough suitable programs are bought or made. The high school students are writing programs for junior grades, and Dumont hopes that they will have enough to start a full program from kindergarten to grade 12.

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St. Joseph's do not have a computer yet, but there is "an ongoing investigation for future implementation" of a program. Principal Tony Florio said, "I would like to have computers tomorrow, but the decision belongs to the board."

Motivation Factor

Kids function much better at a computer than adults do. It's not new or threatening to them, say Dumont. They enjoy it. It isn't a normal dull class.

The 'Gee Whiz' Factor is helpful to the schools, according to Dumont. There is a fascination when you are working with a computer. It is a motivation for the students. We don't have very many absentees from this course, and maybe it'll help kids stay in school longer."

But Lawrence Lau, (Sir John Franklin High) warns that television once was hailed as the savior for education, but now it is only regarded as the idiot box.

"We must be careful that the computer doesn't go the same way.

And we must also be careful that the computer doesn't replace the basics. So many kids are watching television that they rarely read. And the pocket calculator may be preventing students really learning the basics of math. There can be too much dependence on technology."

Dumont supplies an analogy. "The computer is just a tool. To be productive, a tool must be properly used. Like using a hammer to spread peanut butter on bread. Sure it can be done but there are things that a hammer is so much better for."

Advantages

The computer combines the qualities of a personable teacher, an informative textbook and the visual aspects of a film or a live demonstration.

Computer graphics can be used to simulate experiments under perfect conditions; conditions that are extremely rare in a classroom.

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The graphics can show the movement of things the eye can't see, like air currents, the movement of atoms or the motions of the plants. The graphics can come in different colors and be replayed millions of times.

The programs can have a personality, which is relaxing. The machine will talk to you by name and gently tell you where you went wrong.

The computer can store massive amounts of information, on any level that the program is written in. And it can present questions at random, not like a list in a textbook that is easier to memorize than to understand.

Of course there are disadvantages too. Because computers can only be used one-on-one, the expense of outfitting a school is awesome. A computer system needs a terminal, a disc drive, and a printer. St Pat's bought their Commodore PET terminals for \$2000 each. The three dual disc drives that serve up to eight terminals, cost \$4000 each.

The printers are not cheap either. In contrast, the Apple II computer at Sir John and the public schools comes only in a terminal and disc drive unit costing \$5000 each. There is no agreement on the best computer hardware for schools. St Pat's Commodore PETs are far more economical and according to Vince Dumont, the only advantage the Apple II has is color graphics, which he doesn't consider imperative.

The public schools and Sir John say the Apple II is better suited for student needs. Lau notes that the British Columbia department of Education and many US school districts are involved in the Apple II. It has color graphics and an abundance of programs written for the machine. The PET computers do not have access to the majority of computer programs but Dumond feels that is only a short-term situation.

"There is a large gap in high school educational programs for all computers, but there is an increasing number coming onto the market all the time. Right now there are plenty of good programs for the Commodore, and I'm sure many more will be developed. "

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The Working World

David Wind, the government computer chief says, "Everyone should have computer literacy, just to know what it is all about, since they are so prevalent." Especially for people entering the job market, " Wind advises. "You should be able to say you've had some experience with them. Jobs range from a data entry clerk who doesn't need any special education, to the operators, and programmers and then to the highly technical and well-paid systems analysts and data management. It's possible to work your way up the line, but it's very slow. Getting a university or college course under you belt is a better way to start. .

Continuing Education

Wind adds, "I strongly advocate that the continuing education department of the school board offer a program for adults on the fundamentals of computers. People want to know what it's all about. Committee member Hunt says, "It has also been stressed to make sure that it is available to the public in continuing education courses.

A National newspaper has written that computers "will become the engine of the integrated electronic office" as soon s we accept them.

Computers are here, and growing, but as a society we are only beginning to accept them. Old traditions do die hard with an old generation, but for kids raised on 'Tron' and video games, computers aren't a trend, they are a fact of life.

Evolution moves on generation by generation.

Project Gemini to exchange 36 students from St. Pat's

The grade seven children of St. Pat's school have begun a campaign to raise \$12, 000.00 for an exchange program with students from Kitchener, Ontario. Tom Murphy, a teacher and coordinator for the project said Project Gemini is to teach the differences in life styles between the two communities and enable the students to have a better understanding of Canadian identity.

The students are preparing a package containing material such as pen pal letters and tourist brochures and are working on videotapes to exchange between schools. If the students can raise the money about 36 will travel to Kitchener next January.

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The average age of the students will be about 13, the ideal age to go according to Mr. Murphy. The student will probably go for ten days and will be billeted with people from the community.

The fundraising will actually begin April 22, when the students hold \$2,000 bingo in the Katamavik room of the Explorer Hotel. Later this spring, they will hold a raffle for a boat and motor as well as get involved in the spring clean up. The students will also operate a concession booth in the Bay Store parking lot this summer.

“The students are doing the work, and the parents are managing the money”, said Mr. Murphy.

There are now no grants available to the students, he said. They haven't yet approached the city or service clubs for donations. Mr. Murphy said he and the students want to approach these clubs only after they have proved they can raise some of their own money. We want to do it first, we want to do our own work, he said.

Separate School Board Candidates

Novr.1981

Elaine Berthelet

My husband, Paul and I have resided in Yellowknife since 177. Our son attends St Joseph's School. I have served for three years on the Parent Advisory Committee of St Joseph's School and actively participate in the Yellowknife Marriage encounter Group. I am in active member of the NWT Registered Nurses Association and am past chairperson of the Nursing Practice Committee.

My experience in program development as Chief Health Programs, Department of Health will enable me to provide leadership in policy development effective planning and efficient budget utilization. I will ensure that our Catholic curriculum will prepare our children for the challenges of our rapidly changing environment. I believe consultation between the school board, teachers and parents is essential to effective operation of our Catholic system.

Muriel Betsina

For the last 22 years I have lived in Yellowknife and during this period all of my 7 children have attended St Pat's elementary or High School.

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I am very concerned with the apparent non-involvement of the school board with the needs of students and parents alike.

As an alcohol fieldworker for the Tree of Peace Friendship Center, I am often contacted and consulted by concerned parents and students who encounter problems with the educational system. As response to my involvement, the people of the valley requested and nominated me to run for a position with the school board. And I have accepted this challenge and if successful, I will ensure their viewpoints and representation on all matters, which concern the educational development of our children.

John Dalton

John Dalton an active member of the community for 10 years. A counseling specialist with experience in staff relations and negotiations; Extensive experience e as a board member for a cross cultural society, international youth group, former chairman St Patrick's Parish Council, chairman Finance and Planning Committee and member of executive committee Stanton Yellowknife Hospital.

Totally committed to the principals and philosophy of Catholic education; committed to re-establishing the integrity and openness of the board; committed to establishing spending priorities to ensure the basic quality of education and specialty programs; dedicated to the development of an adherence to policies and procedures dedicated to the development of a responsibility committed board and school district.

J A (Al) Dusseault

I have been a resident of Yellowknife since 1945. I am a Federal Civil Servant, am married and own my own home. My son John attended St Patrick's School from Kindergarten to Grade 12 as is now attending Queen's University.

Having service on the Catholic School Board for several years, I am standing for re-election because I believe my experience will prove valuable in providing the continuity in the direction of the rights of the Catholic Education System.

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Peter Hart

I believe that the family, school and church are all essential elements in the development of the total child. If these do not work in harmony, the child suffers.

It is the board's role to bring together these three elements to assure that a cooperative venture is the result. The policies and direction provided by the Board must encourage this cooperation in a free and open atmosphere.

I am a nine year resident of Yellowknife with four children currently in St Pat's elementary and junior high.

I have been involved in many parish and community activities including Marriage Preparation courses, Marriage Encounter, Minister of the Eucharist, Bingo Manager, Cub Leader and Executive and coach with the Yellowknife Ski Club. I began with the territorial government in 1973 as the Supervisor of Computer Service and am currently policy to the Minister of Energy.

Seamus Henry

I was born and educated in Northern Ireland, came to Canada in 1968 and became a citizen in 1973. I have lived in Yellowknife since August 1976 and am presently building a new home and operating a small business.

With my own business, my time is flexible to dedicate more time to the school board. I have been involved in most parish activities - Marriage Encounter, Marriage Preparation, Chispazo and Spiritual Enrichment programs. I have found since becoming a school trustee in February 1981, that it is the complete circle of parish involvement.

I have one of three sons entering the system and my wife is a graduate of St Patrick's School. I believe in the values reinforced in her education and would hope that our children will benefit from the same.

Maurice (Moe) Lefebvre

I am a five year resident of Yellowknife, married with two school age children, employed by Transport Canada as Airport Manager. I was educated in the Alberta Catholic School System.

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I have completed a ten-month appointment to the Board, and look forward to the opportunity to continue with the Board's work - primarily in the Special Education programs.

I believe in Catholic education and am prepared to devote the time and energy required for maintaining and improving the present system. As a Board member, I am always ready to hear parental concerns and to take appropriate action.

Claire Moisey

I have been a resident of Yellowknife since June 1977. ON December 1, I will be resuming my work as a pediatric practitioner in the Family Medical Clinic.

I am committed to the mental, physical, spiritual and intellectual well being of all children. I have a keen interest in and will work toward the growth and expansion of existing programs in special education.

I feel particularly honored and proud to have as running mates, George Oldfield, Al Dusseault, Paul Shauerte and Maurice Lefebvre. These men have shown great courage in standing up for Catholic principles in the face of great adversity.

George Oldfield

I am a 10-year resident of Yellowknife, married and have six children three of whom have been educated at St Patrick's School. I am purchasing manager for the City of Yellowknife and have served on the Catholic School Board for 8 years.

I have always been concerned that the children of our Catholic Schools receive the highest quality of education possible. This includes a good religious program, which can only be assured if our system has teachers, administrators and trustees who are prepared to follow the teaching of the Catholic faith. I ask for your vote so I may be a part of that team.

If I am privileged to serve you again, one of my first priorities will be to endeavor to promote a better working relationship between teachers, administrators and trustees, which in my opinion is most important.

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Anthony (Tony Rykes)

Born 35 years ago in Amsterdam, Holland, came to Canada in 1952 I have a solid, Catholic education including 2 years in the Oblate seminary in Ottawa I supported and promoted Catholic education as a volunteer catechist in BC. I spent two years in cross cultural teaching positions in Papua, New Guinea

Following these experiences, I wish to continue the practical application of Christianity, the essence of which is co-operation and community

My involvement as a board member in promoting Catholic education will be an excellent way of applying these Christian principals

I invite every interested person to attend the public forum on December 6

Paul Schauerte

As of January 1, 1982, I will be a seven year resident. I am employed as Administrator of Court Services for the NWT. During my three years of service on the School Board, I have tried to uphold my responsibilities to ensure all children in our school system receive a good solid Catholic education.

The Eighties

With active participation on several committees we have a record of accomplishments:

- Set up Special Ed Classes for children with learning disabilities
- set up and Extended Primary Class
- made renovations to St Pat's High
- are reviewing the plans to extend St Joseph's School
- hired our own superintendent
- are reviewing a religious program for Jr and Sr High students

Election Puts New Blood into Separate School Board

December 16, 1981

Three new faces, John Dalton, Peter Hart, and Elaine Berthelet take their place on the Yellowknife Separate School Board as a result of Monday's elections. Three incumbents were defeated.

All were members of the five-man slate that ran as a team: Moe Lefebvre, Paul Schauerte and George Oldfield. Al Dusseault was the only member of the team to be elected. DR. Clare Moisey, who ran for the first time on the five-man slate, was also defeated.

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Dusseault said he kept his campaign publicity to a minimum. He left the candidates' forum before the question and answer session and he did not respond to questions posed to candidates in Yellowknife.

He said he's been in Yellowknife since 1945 and based his campaign on personal contact. "People know I'm committed to what I say. He said the composition of the new board is healthy. John Dalton, Peter Hart, Elaine Berthelet and incumbent Seamus Henry were also elected.

He said the new board would do its best to educate children in the Catholic faith. Ann Costache and Irene Simons are the other two board members.

George Oldfield said he was sorry to be defeated but he said he would support the new board. "It's not time to, start criticizing. It's time to get together and work for the betterment of the children in the schools."

John Dalton said the changes in the make-up of the board would mean a more open and accountable board in the new year. He said there were a lot of strong feelings around during the campaign and that all these will have to be respected. The Board will be facing a rebuilding process, he said.

Looking into the election of a chairman for the new Board and a study of the Coady report to see if it should be released to the public will be two items of business to be dealt with early in 1982, Dalton said.

Peter Hart said he will put a number of motions forward to the Board's January meeting to change the format of meeting to allow more public participation in the Board's work. He said he would also like to see more information coming out of the board to improve the dialogue that goes on between the Board, teachers and parents. He expected these ideas to be received favorably by the board.

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Now that he will be in a position to read the Coady report, Hard said he will look at it to see if all or some of it should be made public. He said the former board did not have a formal legal opinion on the report and this was something else he wants to get done. Streamlining the Board's administrative procedures is another concern of Hart's with the new board.

Elaine Berthelet said she is pleased with the membership on the Board. She is confident it will work effectively with the electorate in providing direction to the district. Her priority is to create more communication between all people involved with education in the Separate School Board.

John Dalton led the count with 309 votes. Seamus Henry was next with 287 votes. Peter Hart and Elaine Berthelet were not far behind with 279 and 278 votes respectively. Al Dusseault racked up 250 votes. Dusseault and Henry were the only incumbents returned to the board. Muriel Betsina, who said she was not going to run, still garnered 130 votes.

Separate School Board Candidates

Doug Ouillette 1984

I am a candidate for the position of trustee on the separate school Board. I have three children that will be entering the school system starting in 1985. As a concerned parent, I feel it is extremely important that our children receive a good moral and spiritual education, as well as the finest academic instruction we can offer.

It is essential to have a good line of communication between the teachers, parents, administration, and school board. This communication would ensure that our school system operates efficiently, and that the academic, physical, and spiritual needs of our children are met.

Our schools must challenge the students to strive for excellence in this ever-growing world. With human knowledge increasing daily, we must ensure that these young minds have the best possible facilities to allow them to explore their own potential.

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A strong religious education is extremely important. Our children are the future. They must enter the world with high spiritual and moral values.

I look forward to the opportunity to represent your concerns on the separate school board and I would appreciate your vote on Dec. 10.

My family and I have been residents of Yellowknife for 13 years and I have been active not only in the school district but the community as well. I have been a member of Parish Council and served for five years on the hospital board of directors and am a current member of the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre board.

I am asking for your support to return me to the school board for a second term. During my first term I held the position of chairman for two years and was active on many of the committees.

I feel there has been much accomplished but there are also many things I wish to still work towards. Three years ago we began our French Immersion program as a pilot project.

I would now like us to extend this program to the grade six level. There is also a great need to develop programs for the student who requires non-academic subjects by expanding our industrial arts program.

Our schools are full and we have to expand our facilities at St. Joseph's, St. Patrick's Elementary and high school in order to meet our current need and also those of the future. Our Catholic school system currently spends a great deal of funds in the area of remedial and special education for which we do not receive adequate funding. We have to continue our efforts to acquire a fair grant structure so that we can provide the quality and range of programs in our schools.

As a Catholic system we have to be able to review and develop programs to meet the needs of our children. A Catholic Family Life Program has been developed and will be implemented throughout the system when our Religious and Catholic Family Life Coordinators position is filled.

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I feel that my management experience and knowledge of the government systems and procedures has, and would continue, to be of assistance to the board. I would ask that on Dec. 10 you would support me by voting for John Dalton for separate school board.

Noel O'Sullivan

I have been a resident of Yellowknife since 1968. I married Minnie in 1970 and our two children, Christopher and Natalie, attend St. Patrick's Elementary School. Employed with Giant Mines since 1968, I currently hold the position of General Mine Foreman.

I am an active member of St. Patrick's Parish, holding office as Chairman of the maintenance committee for two years. An active member of the Knights of Columbus since 1981, I have chaired the bingo committee since 1981 and have held various executive offices including that of Grand Knight for two years. As well, I am involved in various community affairs such as coaching juvenile soccer with an interest in most other sports.

First and foremost, I will work for the efficient administration of all separate school board activities, striving for optimum usage of our resources to ensure that the children in our schools have educational opportunities — both academic and spiritual, of the highest quality.

Specifically, I believe that our system requires a full-time religious coordinator to continue the development and implementation of a relevant and meaningful spiritual component into school programs — in consultation and liaison with our Parish Priest and our Bishop.

Furthermore, I strongly support the involvement of parents in the process of formal education of our children through more frequent and open parent-teacher and parent-school board contacts.

Also, I feel that our teachers need and deserve our support and assistance in professional development opportunities to enhance their professional talents and capabilities for the greater benefit of our children

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Seamus Henry

As I was in Ireland visiting family last week I was unable to respond to the reasons I was running for a seat on the separate school board. I offer the following:

I am married to Linda, who was educated in the Yellowknife separate school system; we have four children, two of whom are attending St. Joseph's.

I have been a trustee for the past four years and have:

- *the best trustee attendance record at school board meeting meetings in the past four years.*
- *worked hard for the people I serve.*
- *Addressed the Spring Conference of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees Convention March, 1984*

I was chairman of the board's negotiating team for four years. About 85 per cent of the school board's district budget is spent on staff and benefits. Therefore, it is imperative that, while employees are fairly remunerated, funds be in place to look after expansion of programs to ensure the continuance of the high standard of education and where possible increase quality.

If re-elected I pledge to work as hard in the next 3 years as I have done in the past four years.

Pat Moore

I believe an effective Separate School Trustee should:

- have a good understanding of the educational process;*
- be committed to the concept of religious education as an integral part of the educational process;*
- possess sound business background and judgment;*
- be capable of operating effectively in a' group decision making environment;*
- recognize the need for the separate schools to respond to the traditions, heritage & culture of the student population.*

I offer the following:

- Professional teacher training with experience in the Ontario Separate School Systems. I have in depth understanding of the educational process.

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- Eight years of senior management and administrative experience within the NWT co-operative system which has provided me with the business and decision making skill required of a trustee.
- President of the Board of Directors of the Borealis Housing Co op in Yellowknife
- Representative of the private sector on several advisory boards to government.

I am presently on the Separate School Board. My four children attend the separate schools. My background provides me with the knowledge and skills required to work with the other trustees in running an effective school system.

Separate School Board

Eugene Kenny: Kenny was appointed to the Separate School Board in September 1982 to fill a vacancy and is a member of the board's finance committee. He is currently a consultant with the GNWT finance department with 12 years of accounting and financial management experience, including operating his own management consultant firm in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Kenny and his wife Marilyn have been in Yellowknife since September '81, and now the eldest of their three children is in St. Joe's French immersion kindergarten. Kenny is 32 years old, born and educated in Newfoundland. He earned his accounting diploma in 1970, and his R.I.A. in 1975. Kenny is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Toastmaster's Club and the Society of Management Accountants.

One immediate issue that must be addressed by the Separate School Board is how to maintain the present standard of education in the current economic environment.

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I believe that our schools offer an education that is at least equal to any offered in Canada. The supporters of our Catholic school system have been accustomed to this high standard and have every right to expect it to continue. However, if we are to continue to provide the 700 students in our school with the same high quality of education in the future, we must take decisive action in the area of Financial Management and Policy Development. It is in this area that I have been involved over the past couple of months as a member of the board's Finance Committee.

It is in this area in particular that I intend to be actively involved, if elected, during the next tow years. Since we are living in an unfavorable economic climate, it is essential that we have sound management and thorough financial planning if our current standards are to be maintained. Since I am a professional accountant with 12 years experience in Accounting, Financial Management and Consulting, I believe that I can make a positive contribution to this process.

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I believe that it is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to provide strong leadership in the formulation of policy and long term planning but the participation of all -parties concerned must be encouraged. It is only by such an open and co-operative approach that, we can guarantee our children maximum benefits.

Separate School Board December 4, 1985

Eugene Kenny: Kenny was appointed to the Separate School Board in September 1982 to fill a vacancy and is a member of the board's finance committee. He is currently a consultant with the GNWT finance department with 12 years of accounting and financial management experience, including operating his own management consultant firm in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Kenny and his wife Marilyn have been in Yellowknife since September '81, and now the eldest of their three children is in St. Joe's French immersion kindergarten.

Kenny is 32 years old, born and educated in Newfoundland. He earned his accounting diploma in 1970, and his R.I.A. in 1975. Kenny is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Toastmaster's Club and the Society of Management Accountants.

Pat Moore

Pat Moore is an eight year resident of the NWT, the last six in Yellowknife where four of his five children attend a separate school. He a founding member and president of the Borealis Cooperative Ltd. currently developing a 50 unit housing project in Yellowknife. He also a founding member of the Yellowknife Direct Charge Co op, the chairman of the Public and Business Administration Advisor Board reporting to the minister of Education and is a trustee on the District No. 2 Separate School Board

Moore has four years of teaching experience in an Ontario separate school and in a religious community in Manitoba. He is acquainted with the workings of boards through his eight years of business management within the NWT co ops, from the local level to senior administration.

Yellowknife Catholic Separate School System 1952-2002

George Oldfield

Oldfield, his wife Mary and their family have been member of St Patrick's Parish since coming to Yellowknife 11 years ago.

He is the purchasing manager of the city. Four of their six children went to St Pat's.

Oldfield is a member of the Knights of Columbus, and Deputy Grand Knight of the Father Gathy Council. He has been on the Separate School Board for eight years, two as chairman and four as vice chairman.

Jockeying for positions

Seeking school board jobs

Thirteen school board candidates, 10 for the public schools and three for the Catholic schools are running in the Yellowknife school elections this year.

Four candidates are contesting the three, three-year positions for public school board trustees, including incumbent Diane Doyle who is seeking a third term in office.

The other candidates are self-employed planner, Richard Bushey, Anna McKay and Don Halpenny, who ran in last year's election.

The separate school district has two positions to fill for two years and three 'candidates in' the running. Tom Liss and Nonie Mikeli, who 'who is the mayor's secretary, are both running as is Cheryl Ann Dolan who has been filling a position created by the resignations of Pat Moore and George Oldfield who have left Yellowknife.

Yellowknifer, November 20th, 1985

Yellowknife Catholic Separate School System 1952-2002

November 1988

10th Birthday

Students, teachers, were on hand to celebrate the 10th anniversary of St. Joseph's School.

Father Gabe Duchaussois conducted the mass before an audience that included special guests Joe Handley, Deputy Minister of Education, and Linda Jardine, Chairman of the Yellowknife Catholic School board.

Father Duchaussois, an Oblate Priest associated with St. Patrick's parish, christened the school when it opened in 1978.

St. Pat's Highlights

A lot has been happening at St. Pat's this week. Gym classes started skating this week, and except for a few minor problems (little things like ice melting) everything has been going well. The first day we used floor hockey sticks, but now we can bring our own and things have been getting a little sticky.

Of course the start of a new school year means we have to practice fire drills, just in case. We have it down pat now but the first time one teacher, Mr. Bishoff, thought the bell was just to start a class and the grade 11s didn't get out until he heard all the other students in the halls.

On Wednesday we saw the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and there was nothing phony about it. Everyone enjoyed the performance that was a 50 minute series at dance music from around the world. (We also enjoyed the time we missed from school).

This week was student council elections. Campaigns ran Tuesday and Wednesday, and the speeches and votes were on Thursday. Our new president is Pat Dowler from Grade 12, and Virginia Franchi is our vice-president, Brenda Polson is treasurer (now we know where to look for the money). Cameron Wilson and Gilbert Peuch are Sports reps and Bernice Kalinko is secretary. John Huston and Lela Billo are social reps.

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St Pat's High - lights December 1980

On Friday, December 4, St Pat's held a Christmas dance with music supplied by Northern Nights. Thy gymnasium was well decorated by the set up committee. The music was good and the dance was successful.

After some delays in starting and some changes to the executive, we now have an active student council, which meets at lunch hour once a week to plan activities for the student body.

Our new council consists of:

President	Virginia Franchi
Vice President	Joanne Erasmus
Secretary	Daniel Morin
Treasurer	Ken Shauerte
Sound Convenors	Lucy Azzolini and Debbie Coles

In closing we would like to congratulate Val Conrad and Marlene Villebrun, who were presented with bursaries of \$50 each by Mrs. Esther Braden of IODE

Keep smiling, see you next week.

Newsletter Editors Harvey Walsh and Darcy Beck.

August 19, 1981

YK Catholic Schools History

The Yellowknife Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 2 was established on July 11, 1951. Throughout the early years the system encountered the normal problems of a young and struggling organization but with the help of the parish and diocese and the dedicated support of the residents of Yellowknife it has overcome the difficult times and is now a well-established and respected system.

Yellowknife Catholic Separate School System 1952-2002

Presently the system operates three schools offering a full range of educational services: St. Patrick Elementary School (K- Grade 6), 46th Street, St. Patrick's High School, (Grade 7 - Grade 12). and St. Joseph's School, Frame Lake South, (K – Grade 9).

In 1977 as a result of a new educational ordinance in the NWT the name of the system was changed to the Yellowknife Education District No. 2.

Teachers

The teachers employed at the Catholic Schools come from various parts of Canada and all hold valid Canadian Teaching Certificates issued by the department of education in their particular province. In addition, any teachers who are not from Alberta must have their teaching credentials evaluated by the Alberta Department of Education. This is a condition of employment and is also required by all senior high schools who teach subjects for credit based on the Alberta education system.

St. Patrick's Elementary

This school consists of grades K-6 with a student enrolment of approximately 200 –300 and a staff of approximately 15 – 18. The school facilities are modern and include a gymnasium, library-resource center, an applied arts center and a good supply of equipment and supplies.

Parental involvement is encouraged in the school in many ways, including:

1. *School religious celebrations;*
2. *Use of parental skills in activity days, ie. arts and crafts, cooking and painting, etc;*
3. *Provision of transportation for groups of students to the swimming pool, skating area, etc.*
4. *A Parent Advisory Council has been established.*

An active intramural program is followed at the school during lunch hour enabling all students who desire to participate in many different sports.

Mr. David Zyluk is the principal of the school.

Yellowknife Catholic Separate School System 1952-2002

Catholic Schools in Yellowknife

St. Patrick's High School

This school consists of grades 7 – 12 and the senior school 10 – 12 is a fully Alberta accredited high school. The enrolment of the school is approximately 150-200 students with a staff approximately of 15.

This school contains a wide range of facilities including a gymnasium, library, science room, home economics room, business education room, etc. and in 1980 underwent a million dollar renovation.

The colors of the school are green and gold and the school has a proud tradition of the “fighting Irish spirit”. The school also has a very active intramural sports program, and participates in a variety of interscholastic sporting activities. Over the years the school has earned a well-deserved reputation for excellence in its academic and fine arts activities and students from St. Pat's have always done well in such activities as debating, etc. and the school is renowned for its drama productions.

St. Joseph's School

The school consists of grade K – 9 and is a most modern and well-equipped school. The student enrolment is approximately 200 – 250 with a staff of approximately 15 – 17. The school facilities consist of a gymnasium, library-resource center, science room, home economics, industrial arts, and an art room. This is a beautiful and modern school and was built in 1977.

The program followed at the school is consistent in most aspects with that followed at St. Patrick's. The name of the school was selected by the board in recognition of the outstanding contributions made to the Catholic schools in Yellowknife by the Sisters of St. Joseph from London, Ontario. Sisters from this order have been working in the schools for 30 consecutive years.

Parental involvement is also very evident and a very active Parent Advisory Council exists to assist in the many aspects of the school. The school colors are red and gold and the school also has excellent intramural and interscholastic programs.

Yellowknife Catholic Separate School System 1952-2002

School System Administration

The overall responsibility for the operation of the school system rests with a fully elected board consisting of 7 members.

In 1981, for the first time in its history the board is very pleased to have its own full-time superintendent, Mr. J. C. Poston who assumed his duties on July 1, 1981.

The school board in recent years has been concentrating in the areas of special and remedial education and is pleased that in the 1982/83 year there will be five full-time teachers working in this area in the system.

John Madden – Senior Resource Room

Donna Longpre – Vice Principal

Vincent Dumont – Principal

Lois Pilot – Librarian

Nene Santos – Secretary

Jim Murphy – Maintenance

St Patrick's High

School Beat by Evan Walz, Dec 12, 1984

November has been a busy month for St. Patrick's High School. With activities like getting our school concession and foster child program off to a smooth start, organizing Challenge Cup games and completing and posting the school's activity calendar, student council was kept hopping.

Dances sponsored by our Travel Club were held on November 5 and 30. On Nov. 1 the Grade 10B class was involved in hosting a school Mass in commemoration of All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day and Remembrance Day.

On Nov. 26 our school held its first Faith Alive Program, where the students had an opportunity to choose and attend seminars on topics ranging from Pro-Life, Helping Senior Citizens, etc. Because of the success of this first program, our staff is planning a second Faith Alive Day to be held in early February.

Yellowknife Catholic Separate School System 1952-2002

This past week, the St. Pat's Debating Club sent one debater to the Western Canada Debating Seminar in Winnipeg. The school club (consisting of Aaron Herter, Cosima Herter, Tony Dowler, Michael Perrino and Evan Walz) held competitions to determine who would go to the Western Seminar:

I was chosen and attended the Seminar along with debaters from Sir John Franklin High School, P.W. Kaeser High School and Samuel Hearne Secondary School. As a result of the trip I will also be participating in a "Model United Nations Conference" to be held in Edmonton in late January or early February.

December promises to be a busy month for our school as well. We are now in the process of collecting for the Mother Theresa fund and this week are putting efforts to a special collection for the Ethiopian Relief Fund. Our student Council is planning to match all contributions for this fund to a maximum of \$400.

Next week we will be holding a contest to gather food for the

Catholic Women's League hampers.

On Dec. 14th our Travel Club will be holding a Christmas dance at the school.

Until next year, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the students here at St. Pat's.

St Patrick's Elementary School

Learning Their Language

by Bev Gray, 1989

Three aboriginal language classes have been taught at St. Patrick Elementary School since September. Kids from both school districts attend classes Monday through Thursday for an hour after regular classes are completed for the day. The students are taught by three instructors who are fluent in the mother tongues of Dogrib, North Slavey and Inuktitut.

The pilot project was initiated by the Department of Education and brought to fruition by Superintendent of Education for Yellowknife Separate Education District No. 1, J.C. Poston.

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“The program was new and exciting at the beginning the students were excited at the novelty of their own language. The children really enjoy what they are doing,” says Vera Pollock vice-principal of St. Patrick Elementary School.

“The kids are learning language and culture themselves through their own language. It’s a true integration of subject areas through the use of language.” The teachers of the languages put in a full day developing lesson plans for the day’s class.

September 15, 1989, By, Bev Gray

St Pat's attracts studentsfrom around the world

Most students in Yellowknife only travel a few blocks to get to school. Four grade 12 students at St Patrick's High school have traveled thousands of miles to attend school in Canada.

The four students are from Sweden, Colombia, Mexico and the Netherlands.

Three are here on grants from the Educational Foundation for Foreign Students and another applied to Intercultural Canada. The students were placed in homes where families were willing to sponsor them.

The education foundation told me they found me a family in Yellowknife says Tom Nygh, 18 from the Netherlands. "You could tell by the name Yellowknife that it was a small place," he says.

Two of the students, Cecilia Alvar, 17 from Mexico and Boris Ocambe, 16 from Colombia have never seen snow or felt the cold of winter. "I find the weather different," says Alvar. All four of the students speak English. Klas Anfalt, 18 of Sweden has studied English since elementary school, and Nygh studied it for six years.

"They teach bad English at my school. I learned by my own way," says Ocambo.

All four students said they had learned most of their English

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through American television.

They are all happy to be at St Patrick. I like it because the school is small. "At my school in Colombia, we had 3,000 students," says Ocambo Each student is staying with a different family in Yellowknife. "I feel comfortable and an accepted part of the family, I don't feel like a guest," says Nygh.

One of the students felt comfortable enough to ask the NNSL reporter to a dance at St Pat's on the weekend.

Foreign Student Exchange *By Bev Gray*

Students from Finland and Norway will be attending St. Patrick High School-this year.

Principal Vince Dumond says that more foreign students wanted to attend school in Yellowknife but finding families to billet the kids was a problem. Only five families could take the students.

"There were students who wanted to come from Australia, but we would have to find them housing which is a problem in Yellowknife," says Dumond.

O'Sullivan Elected Chairman

November 1989 by Bev Gray

Yellowknife Separate Education District, No.2 elected a new chairman and vice-chairman on Wednesday evening at their monthly board meeting. Noel O'Sullivan was elected chairman. He takes over from Mark Schauerte, who stepped down for personal reasons.

O'Sullivan commented that he was thankful for the way Mr. Schauerte handled the chair in his term. "I hope I handle it half as well."

Linda Henry now sits as' vice-chairman.

The board's vote resulted in a tie for the vice chairman position between Henry and Schauerte.

"In case of a-tie I would like to withdraw my name, Schauerte told the new chairman of the board.

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St Joseph's By Angie Meyer

Last week we started off a little slow but it grew exciting by the end of the week. On Thursday, December 10th, we had two people from a company in Toronto come and perform some pretty funny stuff. The company these people belonged to was called Mime Light. Yes the people were mimes. What is a mime? A mime is an act on a stage where people use either themselves or imaginary objects but are based on reality. They did 6 skits.

After the skits, a lot of people had asked questions on how they did a certain move or when they got started. Later in the morning, the junior high students went to a mime workshop where they learned how to mime. Most of the students found it quite easy.

Last weekend, there were the YK figure skating championships and the grade 9's especially would like to congratulate Angie Meyer for coming in second. She will be going to go to Hay River for Territorial and Arctic Winter Games (AWG) trials. Good luck from Allison and friends. *That's it til after Christmas. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year.*

St Joe's Ceiling

Territorial industrial safety inspectors may be walking around with their noses in the air fro the next few weeks, inspecting some suspended ceilings in new buildings. Acting territorial safety division chief Mike Hewitt says his men likely will look at some ceilings in new buildings following this week's collapse of a classroom ceiling at a Yellowknife school.

Two classrooms in the 1 1/2 year old St Joseph's separate school were ordered closed Wednesday following inspections, and the Yellowknife separate school board added they gymnasium to the closed list Wednesday evening during a regular meeting

The ceiling of the grade five classroom buckled Tuesday night, creating both a mess and a headache for school and separate school board officials.

Separate school board chairman Fred Nowicki, who tool part in several inspections fo the school's ceilings Wednesday, says he's

Yellowknife Catholic Separate School System 1952-2002

"wondering about workmanship" following the incident. During their Wednesday afternoon inspection, Nowicki, school principal Joe McDonald and territorial safety inspector John Whyte found that the ceiling of the grade four and five classrooms had not been "done in the same manner as the rest of the school." That discovery led White to slap the closure orders on both rooms. The inspection concluded that the other ceilings in the school were satisfactory.

McDonald explained to News of the North on Wednesday morning that the problem apparently lay with the ties, which hold the suspended ceiling to the beams. Some of the wires had been wrapped around the ceiling beams, but others had been put in with v-shaped nails hammered into the bottom side of the beam.

A number of those nails apparently couldn't hold the combined weight of the fluorescent light fixtures and the metal rails, which hold the ceiling tiles. McDonald said the ceiling collapse apparently occurred about 9:30 pm, Tuesday. A teacher working next door heard the noise and

reported the incident to school officials.

When the staff arrive for work Wednesday morning, McDonald said, the ceiling lights were hanging down along the back wall of the grade five classroom.

Nowicki says the problem with the gymnasium ceiling is only a potential problem, but the board is acting on the better side of safe than sorry policy. The problem apparently involves clips, which fit into the ceiling. Either they haven't been clipped in, or the building has shifted.

School maintenance workers are busy working on the gym ceiling, while the board is consulting with city hall about the specifications for the work. A meeting was held between the board and city on Thursday morning. Meanwhile, Hewitt says he's received a thorough report from Whyte, his industrial safety inspector.

He says inspections of the ceiling of other buildings may be forthcoming after a look at the ceilings of other buildings may be forthcoming after a look at the school plans to see if other similar

Yellowknife Catholic Separate School System 1952-2002

suspended ceiling have been installed in new buildings.

Nowicki said the separate school board has been in touch with the Edmonton contractor who was in charge of the school construction in an attempt to learn who actually installed the ceilings.

A Safer Place to Cross

Ecole St Joseph School Changes Drop off Zone

Parents and teachers are hoping some changes to the parking lot at Ecole St. Joseph School will make the short journey from the crosswalk to the classroom safer.

According to assistant principal Carole Forget, traffic along Range Lake Road and at the crosswalk adjacent to the school parking lot has been a longstanding concern.

Until this year, students had to wade across a busy two-lane drop-off area and then the bus lane before reaching the safety of the school's front doors. To contend with this problem, school administrators decided to reverse the direction of the drop-off lane, so students didn't have to risk walking into oncoming traffic while

parents were shuttling their children off to school.

"The idea now is that when parents drop off their children, they are let out on the passenger side, which lets out onto the sidewalk, and from there they are very near the crosswalk," Forget said.

She said arrows and stop lines on the drop-off lane leading from Woolgar Avenue help vehicles find their way. Before, parents drove into the drop-off lane from Range Lake Road, Even though there have been no accidents on the drop-off lane. Forget said parents and teachers felt there was enough of a hazard to make a change necessary.

"We're just trying to be proactive rather than reactive and having to change it after an accident takes place," Forget said. Even though drop-off access has been improved, Forget said the school would like to see even more changes to traffic conditions nearby.

"There's so much traffic on Range Lake Road, our Grade 8 class did a traffic survey," Forget said. "The results were brought to city council, because we want a traffic light there. Some people think we don't need it, but I've stood at the crosswalk for along time before anyone stopped. It's a 30 km (an hour) maximum not

Yellowknife Catholic Separate School System 1952-2002

minimum.

According to manager of public works, Greg Kehoe, the city expects to have a traffic light in place at the junction of Range Lake Road and Woolgar Avenue by mid-September.

St Patrick's Holds Awards Night *October 1989*

Grade 12 student Nicole Malloy was awarded the Governor-General's Medal for her 89 per cent academic average, at the St. Patrick's High School awards night Friday. The medal goes to the student with the top marks by national standards.

Malloy also received a \$1,200 scholarship from the Yellowknife Catholic School Board, along with Robert Hart, David Mah and Gail Rose, Mahendra Manickum and Loretta Solowy received \$700 scholarships, Elizabeth Vens received a \$500 scholarship, and Cheryl Schidlowsky received a \$300 scholarship.

Other awards presented Friday night include:

Grade 12 Medallions and Bursaries.

Gold (\$400, Knights of Columbus)	Nicole Malloy
(89%)	
Silver (\$200, Catholic Women's League)	Gail Rose (87%)
Bronze (\$100, St. Patrick's Parish)	David Mah (86%)

Grade 7-11 Medallions (St. Patrick's High School) top marks in each class for 1988/89.

Gold 7A	Camille Dumond
Silver 7A	Amy Dunn
Bronze 7A	Nini Varkonyi

Gold 7B	Michelle Dumond
Silver 7B	Melanie Murphy
Bronze 7B	Eric Clouston

Gold 8A:	Leah Campbell, Silver
Silver 8A:	Kelly McGee, Bronze
Bronze 8A:	Tanya Griffore

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Gold 8B: Gina Cheung
Silver 8B: Mathew Simms
Bronze 8B: Linda Cheung

God 9A: Jeannie Hickey
Silver 9A: Barbara Jonkisz
Bronze 9A: Steven Voytilla

Gold 9B: Kerri Malloy
Silver 9B: Ivan Tolentino
Bronze 9B: Coralee Hamer

Gold 9C: Jamie Dall
Silver 9C: Brent Gibeault
Bronze 9C: Stella Francois

Gold 10: Michelle Haener
Silver 10: Tina Jagpal
Bronze 10: Mike Mathison

Gold 11: Sherry Sian
Silver 11: Grace Lau-a
Bronze 11: Donald Prince.

Doug Finlayson Award

(Chamber of Commerce) for top standing in Math, Biology, Chemistry and Physics: Gail Rose

Grade 12 Subject Awards

English (Book Cellar) Nicole Malloy
French (French Cultural Association): Sherry Sian.
Social Studies (Northern Heritage Centre) Nicole Malloy
Physical Education (Giant Mine) Edward Pittman

Mathematics (Home Electronics): David *Mali*.

Religious Studies (Separate School): Nicole Malloy & Gail Rose

Chemistry (Henry's Camera): Gail Rose & David Mah.

Physics (YK Super A Foods): David Mah-

Biology. (YE.S. Electronics): Gail Rose

Work -Experience (Microage Computers): Cheryl Schidlowsky

Yellowknife Catholic Separate School System 1952-2002

& Michelle Leschasin

Computer (Tamarack Computers): Nicole Malloy.

Linda Gray Award

(Tree of Peace): for the native student who is the best role model

for other students:

Judy Whitford, grade 10, 1988-89.

Math-Science Winners (GNWT D.P.W.)

for top marks in each junior high grade in Math and Science

Grade 7: Michelle Dumond

Grade 8: Leah Campbell

Grade 9: Kerri Malloy

Board Notes

Aids Policy

Yellowknife Separate 'Education District No.2 board will soon be' drafting policy regarding the AIDS virus in the school district.

"It's only a short time before this is going to be on our doorstep," says. Noel O'Sullivan, chairman of the board.

The board will research the issue in order to make policies for staff and students who may become infected with the AIDS virus.

Joint meetings

Yellowknife' Education District No 1 and Yellowknife Separate District No 2 will have a joint meeting to discuss French immersion programs and the proposed high school to be built by District No. 2

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“The government is only going to fund one school and No 1 wants to build a high school,” said J.C.Poston, Superintendent for District No.2.

Aboriginal Language

Trustee Debra Simpson recommended to the board that aboriginal language instructors who are not trained as teachers take an instructional skills course at Arctic College. “That would help them get a handle on some situations,” says Simpson

NWT School-Trustees

Trustee Mark Schauerte moved that the Yellowknife Catholic School Board join the NWT School Trustee Association and pay the membership fees for the 89/90 fiscal year of \$1250.

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Silver 7B	Melanie Murphy
Bronze 7B	Eric Clouston
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Silver 8B:	Mathew Simms
Bronze 8B:	Linda Cheung
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(Tree of Peace): for the native student who is the best role model for other students: Judy Whitford, grade 10, 1988-89.

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A Safer Place to Cross

Ecole St Joseph School Makes Changes to Drop off Zone

by Mike W. Bryant, Northern News Services

Parents and teachers are hoping some changes to the parking lot at Ecole St. Joseph School will make the short journey from the crosswalk to the classroom safer.

According to assistant principal Carole Forget, traffic along Range Lake Road and at the crosswalk adjacent to the school parking lot has been a longstanding concern.

Until this year, students had to wade across a busy two-lane drop-off area and then the bus lane before reaching the safety of the school's front doors.

Yellowknife Catholic Separate School System 1952-2002

To contend with this problem, school administrators decided to reverse the direction of the drop-off lane, so students didn't have to risk walking into oncoming traffic while parents were shuttling their children off to school.

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Yellowknife Catholic Separate School System 1952-2002