

THE LIBERAL

\$1 INCLUDING GST / 32 PAGES

Sunday, April 10, 2005

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Growth challenges smaller classroom

Where we were, Part 2 of a series

BY CHRIS TRABER
Staff Writer

From the first settler children learning by the glow of a late 1700s' hearth to today's students absorbing information awash in the blue hue of a computer screen, public education in York Region has both been the victim and beneficiary of rapid change.

Since the construction in 1802 of S. S. # 1 East Gwillimbury, the first known public education building in York at a time when schooling was voluntary and informal, through to 1871 when the School Act made it mandatory for children aged seven to 12 to attend school 100 days a year, the face and pace of education has accelerated exponentially.

Marion Wells was in the school system as a student and teacher.

She attended Summitview Public School in Stouffville from 1941-52.

"Some of the students who started together in Grade 1 went through together to Grade 13,"

See MANDATED page 3.

LAWLESS IN THE CLASSROOM



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Singer-songwriter Gregg Lawless practises a routine with Grade 5 Wallingford Public School students last week. Mr. Lawless and class were getting ready for a performance at the Markham Theatre for Performing Art April 27. Ten other York Region classes will also perform.

Adscam allegations not fact: MP

BY ROY GREEN
Staff Writer

Canadians should remember scathing testimony by advertising executive Jean Brault about political corruption in Ottawa may not be fact, Richmond Hill MP Bryon Wilfert says.

"Those are allegations an individual has made and it's not appropriate for me to comment on allegations," Mr. Wilfert said of testimony at the Gomery commission.

"Obviously, I'm disgusted by anyone who would do anything illegal and the prime minister has made it very clear that anybody who breaks the public trust, whoever they are, should

be charged. Nobody's above the law."

Mr. Wilfert said the Liberals supported lifting a public ban on Mr. Brault's testimony because the party believes Canadians deserve to know the truth.

If Mr. Brault's accusations of the abuse of taxpayers money by the Liberal government are true, it may be a case of collusion between individuals at the expense of taxpayers and the Liberal party, He added.

Meanwhile, Conservative MP Peter Van Loan said outrage over allegations of government corruption won't result in a quick election call. At least not yet.

"The issue isn't when an election will be;

we've already had one election that came too soon," the York-Simcoe MP said Friday, a day after Justice John Gomery lifted a publication ban on testimony from Mr. Brault.

Mr. Brault painted a scathing picture political corruption and flagrant abuse of taxpayers' money by the governing Liberals.

"Everyone I've talked with so far wants to get to the bottom of this scandal; to hear more evidence that this government has completely lost its morals. It's now obvious to everyone the (June 2004) election was called to avoid this information getting out before an election.

See TESTIMONY, page 11.

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