

BILL & BEV DUNNE

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada

Separate high students receive awards

Thirteen students of the St. Joseph's Roman Catholic high school in the city received awards and scholarship last week.

Julie Johnson of the city was presented two of the most notable awards. She received the Dr. B. Hoogewerf award for the highest matriculation average in grade 12 academic achievement, presented by Father Neil Corbett and the P. V. Croken scholarship based on a high academic standing in the city schools and as an aid to university finances. The scholarship was presented by Mr. P. V. Croken.

Ann Wynia received the senior high Citizenship Shield for being the best pupil chosen from grades 10, 11 and 12 based on moral, scholastic and social contributions to the school. The award was presented to Miss Wynia by Mr. W. Dunne.

Miss Wynia also received from Mr. Dunne the most outstanding Girl Athlete Medal for her contributions toward intramural and inter-school sports.

The J. Pronovost award was granted to Louise Borle for her high grade nine average, by Mrs. Miller. Miss Borle also received the

Catholic Women's League award of \$25 for her grade nine academic standing. Mrs. P. Keroack presented the award.

Miss Borle was also a joint winner with Kathy Thompson for the junior high Citizenship Shield for being the best pupil in grade seven, eight or nine based on moral character, scholastic endeavour, co-operation and loyalty. The shield was given to the girls by Mr. Glendinning.

Miss Borle and Marilyn Scheunhage received the junior high girl athletic award, based on contribution to intramural and inter-school sports.

The most outstanding boy athletic medal based on contributions for intramural and inter-school sports was presented to Robert Moberley by Mr. Dunne.

Mr. Moberley also received the Redemptorist Father grade 10 achievement award based on initiative and progress irrelevant of class standing, from Father Corbett.

The Sisters of Holy Cross grade 11 achievement award based on initiative and progress irrelevant of class standing was received by Ed Reid from Sister Eileen.

The Rene Perra award for grade nine achievement based on initiative and progress irrelevant of class standing was presented to Louisa Sewepagaham by Mr. Hasiuk.

Linda Pearson received the Catholic Women's League grade eight achievement award based on initiative and progress irrelevant of class standing from Mrs. P. Keroack, while Barry Adam was presented with the Gerard Campbell grade seven achievement award by Joseph Docherty.

Jeanette Holloway received the Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire award of \$25 for her grade 11

high average, from Mrs. L. Dobson.

The Knights of Columbus grade 12 achievement award based on initiative and progress irrelevant of class standing was presented to Elaine Day by Mrs. J. Dean.

The junior high boy athletic award based on contribution to intramural and inter-school sports was presented to Ian MacPhee by Mr. Dunne, while the Mary Stephenson Memorial special award for best achievement in swimming lessons went to Mark Pelletier also presented by Mr. Dunne.

DUNNE — Funeral services were held on February 22 at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Grande Prairie for Cheryl Lynn **Dunne** who passed away at her home on February 19. Cheryl was 2 years and 11 months old.

She was born at Trochu, Alberta and moved to Grande Prairie in August of 1968 where she resided with her family until the time of her passing. Left to mourn her loss are her parents Bill and Bev **Dunne**, 2 brothers, Terry and Steve; 1 sister Donna all of Grande Prairie; grandparents Pat & Irene **Dunne** of Castor, Alta., Mrs. Billy Ford of Bezanson and great-grandparents William and Ida Ulmer of Castor, Alta. She was predeceased by one grandfather Mr. Charlie Ford in 1970.

The funeral service was officiated by Rev. Fr. Naphin and pallbearers were Ron Sheehan, Tom Glendinning, Harvey Hasiuk, and Gordon Mackey.

Place of interment was the Glenn Leslie Cemetery.

Arrangements were made by Lynch's Funeral Chapel of Grande Prairie.

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TEACHER SPIEL — The city Alberta Teachers' Association local sponsored a 32-rink three-event bonspiel in Grande Prairie with the Bill Dunne rink (top photo) taking the first event. Rink included Gordon Mackey (left), Alice Mackey, Bev Dunne and skip Dunne.

They won Swan City Buses trophy. Second event was won by Joe Quinn rink (bottom photo) with skip Quinn (left), Miriam Whipple, Paula and Brian Bell. Third event was won by the Jack Higa rink which included Dave Collett, Ellinor Townsend and Jane Wiebe.



First event - skip Bill Dunne (left), third Bev Dunne, second Bill Lees, lead Pat Lees.

Dunne *takes mixed title*

Bill Dunne and his rink defeated the Brian Boyd foursome 11-5 last night in the first event final to win the annual Grande Prairie mixed bonspiel and a total of \$48 in cash.

Earlier in the 32-rink spiel Dunne had defeated Jim deRoaldes in the semi-final while Lee Merlo ended fourth after losing to Boyd in the other first event semi-

final.

Winner of the second event was the Don Richards-skipped Chinook Heating foursome. They downed Pat Gorman 9-4 in the final.

Third in the second event was taken by Brian DeLeeuw while fourth went to Gerry Campbell. Richards won \$32 for his win.

Bob Doerkson's York

Hotel foursome clipped Norman Drysdale 7-6 in the third event final to win top money of \$32.

Third in the third went to Doug Stenbert while fourth was won by Mel Peters.

The mixed was to be the last spiel of the season in the city rink but now a truckers' spiel is planned to close the season.

Deny city open drug trade area

By JOE DARY
of our staff

PEACE RIVER

A probation officer's report which says drugs are easy to get in Grande Prairie has come under fire from school officials in the city.

The report, prepared by Peace River probation officer Terry Doddsworth said students in junior high schools were being exposed to drugs and that hard drugs, such as cocaine and heroin, were readily available in Grande Prairie.

His report also blamed parents and teachers for not knowing enough about drugs.

Mr. Doddsworth had earlier talked with principals in Grande Prairie.

Bill Dunne, principal of St. Joseph's

high school, and Dave Collett, principal of the Composite high school, both said they would like to personally meet with Mr. Doddsworth and discuss his report with him.

Similar comments were aired by Hans Intscher, Montrose junior high school principal, Derek Taylor, public schools superintendent and Dennis Grant, separate schools superintendent.

Mr. Dunne and Mr. Intscher said their discussions with Mr. Doddsworth dealt with drugs, but both said there was no problem in the schools.

"I've got no idea where he (Mr. Doddsworth) received his information," Mr. Dunne said. "That's not what I told him, and in any event, if he found something I didn't know about, he should have had the courtesy to meet with me."

Mr. Intscher added Mr. Doddsworth appeared to have a preconceived idea that there was a drug problem in Grande Prairie and nothing he could say could convince him of the facts.

"His report took everything in the wrong perspective, and I doubt some of his statements," Mr. Intscher said. "I'd like to sit down with him and discuss his report."

Neither school official said they had seen the report, adding they wanted to study it.

RCMP officials in Grande Prairie said on a per capita basis, the city was on the same level as other centres in the province.

But they disputed claims that heroin and cocaine were available here.

Edmonton veteran takes GP women's spiel

By GARY HICKLING
of our staff

Veteran Betty Fenton of Edmonton outlasted Audrey Hennig of Grande Prairie 12-8 yesterday to win the city women's bonspiel.

Fenton, scoring two points each time she got on the scoreboard, broke open an 8-8 tie with two points on the ninth end when she held last rock, and then notched two more in the 10th, with last rock against

her, as Hennig stubbornly but vainly fought for the equalizers.

The game was nip and tuck all the way. Hennig opened a 3-0 first-end lead, but Fenton came back with deuces to gain a 4-3 edge after three ends. Hennig tied it in the fourth and then fell behind 6-4 after five.

The Grande Prairie team scored three in the sixth end for a 7-6 margin, but Fenton again counted two to make it 8-7 after seven. Hennig tied it

again with a single in the eighth, before Fenton counted two more for a 10-8 lead heading home.

Fenton curled third Bev Matoga, second Hilda Crerar, and lead Joan Ford, to win the Hudson Bay trophy in the 56-rink spiel which started Thursday night in the city.

Shirley White of Beaverlodge picked up third in the event while fourth went to Amy Carter of Sexsmith.

The Liz Haddow rink of Dawson Creek skipped by Edna McPhail coasted to a 12-6 victory against Grande Prairie's Alice Hennig to win the Wyvern Industries trophy in the second event.

A tired Hennig rink couldn't keep pace with McPhail, Lee Trail (third), Haddow (second) and Ruby Mitchell (lead) whose singles kept chipping away to lead throughout the game.

Mae Gorman of Grande

Prairie picked up third in the event while fourth went to Helen Ellis of Grande Prairie.

Bev Dunne of the city made her last shot of the game to clinch the Grandeur Draperies trophy with a 9-7 win against Onogh Currie of Grande Prairie in the third event.

Dunne with third Alice Mackey, second Phyllis Holmes, and lead Lorraine Glendenning led 8-7 coming home then salted it away with Dunne's final shot.

Dunne knocked out third place Rita Boyer in the semi-finals while Currie advanced after defeating Genie Krupka.

HOWIE IN FOURTH

A tired Em Howie rink played four games yesterday but won 7-2 in seven ends against Betty Sinclair to capture the Don's Mens Wear fourth event.

The Howie rink, skipped by Marie Henning, took an early 3-0 lead after the first end and then held Sinclair at bay for the remaining six ends. Pearl Wilson was second and Anne Bryan lead for the Howie rink.

Marion Braunburger of Sexsmith picked up third while Rena Kyle of Beaverlodge was fourth.

Linescores:

FIRST EVENT

Fenton 022 020 202 2	12
Hennig 300 103 010 0	8

SECOND EVENT

Haddow 113 103 011 1	12
Hennig 000 030 300 0	6

THIRD EVENT

Dunne 201 104 000 1	9
Currie 020 020 210 0	7

FOURTH EVENT

Howie 301 101 1	7
Sinclair 010 010 0	2



Staff Photo by Gary Hickling

Betty Fenton (second from left) shares laugh on accepting Hudson Bay trophy from club president Audrey Hennig, whom she defeated in the final. Other Fenton rink members are Bev Matoga, Hilda Crerar, Joan Ford

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Students right into computers

By ELAINE DOGHERTY
of our staff

"Floppy disk", "software", "video-display terminal", "controller", menu and "kill" are all part of the computerese St. Joseph's high school students have adopted with enthusiasm.

The Grande Prairie Catholic school board invested in three micro-computers this fall, one located at St. Joseph's, one in the board office and a third that circulates among all the schools.

"About 100 students have used the computer so far and all are very enthusiastic," said St. Joseph's principal Bill Dunne.

"We are at a very exploratory stage now and by the end of the year all 333 students will have been involved in various ways. Students are introduced to computer language, how to operate it and what computers can do on a very basic level.

"By next year we hope to have a full course in computer familiarity — our goal is have a class in computer science eventually," Mr. Dunne said.

"But, it's like typing. You need access to a terminal (to learn) and we aren't ready with only one micro-computer."

He said about 15 micro-computers in the school would be enough to run a computer science course, along with a host of other programs.

MORE THAN AIDE

"Computers are more than just a teaching aide," said Mr. Dunne. "They can check answers, reward or tell the students they have an incorrect answer."

But though they can show you how to do something, they can't do the job of a teacher.

"I don't think computers will ever replace teachers but I can see them being more widely used," Mr. Dunne said.

One of the machine's primary uses is drilling students. A computer will never get tired or bored with a student who takes longer than most of the others.

That function can be used in language studies, math, reading and testing.

Fifteen avid computer buffs meet one evening a week with Mr. Dunne to learn more about how computers operate and how to program them and to play games with them.

Computer games, including math games, guessing games and even a Las Vegas type game, are fun to play and Mr. Dunne says that's what learning is all about.

"The days are gone when student's sit in a corner hunched over books memorizing. These games are fun and the students learn how they can make their own game programs, which is a learning experience."

ALREADY GENERATIONS

Although the first computer was produced only in 1946, there have already been several generations of such machines. The first generation used vacuum tubes. These were succeeded by computers using transistors and the present micro-computers use silicon chips.

"The price has come way down," Mr. Dunne said. "Ten years ago you would have needed a building the size of

St. Joe's to hold one, now they are small units that are easily transported.

It's getting to the point where people can afford computers at home and, "Just like in home ec. and industrial arts, we believe we should have instruction in the things people use at home," Mr. Dunne said.

Assistant Schools Superintendent Pat Maguire said that this year, staff and students will see what computers can do and to if they are of valuable use.

"At the present time there appears to be quite a bit of interest in schools for computer instruction," he said. "It's a matter of teachers becoming aware of the possible uses of computers."

Continued

Continued

"I can see a gradual expansion of inventory over the next couple of years. The price has become affordable just recently — you're looking at about \$2,000 for a unit for a classroom.

"Our problem now is getting suitable available programs," Mr. Maguire said. "Most of the programs available are

virtually useless. B.C. and Saskatchewan are doing a lot of work developing educational programs but Alberta is lagging behind.

The micro-computer located at the board office is used for family lists, storing details about students and for part of the board's financial information.

"There is a great deal of

keen interest about the computers in the system," Mr. Maguire said.

He said schools will have to make decisions before budget time about the importance they place on developing more extensive computer courses.

"If the schools think it's important the board would be supportive in looking at further expansion."



St. Joseph's student Shawn Bennett (Grade 9) tries out the school's new micro-computer while teacher Karen Miklos (left) and classmate Dion Lux look on.

Dunne appointed

St. Joseph Catholic High School principal Bill Dunne has been appointed to the position of acting assistant superintendent of the Grande Prairie Catholic school board for the coming year.

Mr. Dunne has had several years' experience in both the teaching and administrative fields. He holds a Bachelor of Physical Education degree from the University of Alberta and has been teaching for 22 years.

He will assume his duties Aug. 1.

Mr. Dunne is replacing Patrick Maguire for the year. Mr. Maguire will be acting superintendent while superintendent Dennis Grant takes a sabbatical leave to further his education.



Caroline Letourneau leads a 1980 Grade 1 French immersion class in Alberta.

Immersion program tops

Immersion education refers to the use of a language in formal classroom instruction which is not the language of the child's home environment. This method of second language acquisition appears to be the most effective method known and is fast gaining popularity from St. John's, Nfld., to Victoria, B.C.



Marie Stevens

The aim of total-early immersion, which is the type of program offered by both Grande Prairie school boards, is to teach all languages by Grade 3. The children are able to communicate comfortably in both English and French. It should be mentioned that the Alberta curriculum is followed as it is in the regular English classroom but that the language mode for instruction is different.

In order to help offset the cost for the provision of literary and audio-visual materials, the federal government provides cost-sharing grants to school boards which assume them in the start-up of the program. The Catholic school board received this grant last year and will continue to receive it for the 1981 and 1982 school terms. The parent at the Alberta education department education language services branch and Sylvia Lundy at the Centre de Documentation consult with school boards and individuals over the curriculum and literary needs.

INTEREST, SUPPORT GOOD

In Grande Prairie, there are approximately 180 children enrolled in early total French immersion. In September 1980, five kindergarten and two Grade 1 classes were introduced by the Catholic school board at St. Gerard school, where Marie Stevens is principal. The following September, the public school board began two kindergarten classes at Parkside school. The interest and support of both programs has been tremendous.

From the outset, a cultural experience has been an important part of the program. Claude Savier to the curriculum, writes the student's immersion experience, and gives the teachers and students a chance to interact in a festive atmosphere.

In the fall, the children from both St. Gerard and Parkside celebrated the Feast of St. Michael. The children were highly-decorated and enjoyed pulling and eating delicious taffy.

Bonhomme Carnaval led the parades for the winter sports day recently, and we will soon be celebrating the arrival of spring with a Cabane à Sucre.

PARENTS PLAY A PART

Parents play a significant role in a French immersion program. They have made a conscious and deliberate decision to enroll their child in such a program and they will provide the necessary positive encouragement and reinforcement. The child will need to make this an exciting educational opportunity.

A visit to the city library, a Saturday morning viewing of a film sponsored by the Cine Club, a chance to listen to French records will assure the child that what he is doing at school is also valued by his or her family and community. The local chapter of the Canadian Parents for French is presently involved in setting up a summer day camp for children aged 5-12.

None of these opportunities could be made available to Grande Prairie's children if it wasn't for the willingness of both the Catholic and public school boards to listen to the requests of parents and to meet the challenge of second-language instruction.

We have also been fortunate to have qualified and dedicated teachers who have brought the French language to life in their classrooms.

Learning a second language is a rewarding experience, one which more than 10,000 Alberta children can witness. If you are interested in providing positive instruction and are considering enrolling your child for kindergarten or Grade 1, contact either of the school boards and they will gladly answer your questions.

GP ETV a prize winner

By RILEY BUNNE
Assistant Superintendent
GP Catholic School District

The Grande Prairie educational television (ETV) station operates every school day on Cable 4 over Northern Television's channels at St. Joseph high school. The consortium has hired a full-time coordinator, Jackie Epp, and a part-time assistant, Terry Bunne, to operate the station. Whenever Cable 4 is operating, one of these two is at the studio.

A multi-source of taped programs is provided for Cable 4 by ACCESS, the Alberta Educational Communications Corporation.

As well, two programs are produced daily at the studio. One Place After School is telecast daily from 4-5 p.m. It is primarily a program for elementary students. The hosts and behind-the-scenes technicians are Grade 6-12 students from St. Joseph. This program has received publicity by other stations in Alberta and some have decided to copy the same format.

The other free show is the school hour on Thursdays at 8 p.m. This program is live on television about what is happening in the school system. Hosts for this show are Dorothy Dault and Bill Dunne.

A new program by ACCESS called Project Outreach is also being carried on Cable 4. It features a live telecast from Education Weekends and Wednesdays from 6-7 p.m. with the special feature of free telephone calls. The program has, as mentioned, no charge. These programs are delivered via satellite and are picked up by the receiving dish at St. Joe's studio and relayed over channel 4.

The variety of telecasts of an educational nature makes Cable 4 a viable TV watching alternative for Grande Prairie residents.

With the knowledge and availability of Mr. Epp, the technology of TV arts and production has flourished in Grande Prairie schools in the past few years. With her help, students in Assiniboine and St. Edward both won major prizes for productions they did. Other city schools are currently involved in producing TV tapes, becoming more knowledgeable about being on camera, and about the technology necessary to televise a program.

The students at St. Joseph use the studio facilities for part of their regular course in communications.

An special feature for Education Week in the city, Cable 4 is re-broadcasting recent episodes of the School Show at 3:30 p.m. daily.

This educational station features programs of an educational nature for students and adults alike. One example of the adult series is being shown Thursdays at 9 p.m. It is Father Spicer talks about the Bible. Another adult education series concerns computers. The new series (adult series) is very popular with students and adults.

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Kateri principal selected

Bill Dunne has been selected as the principal designate for the Kateri Mission School, slated to open in September of 1983.

Mr. Dunne has been in the Grande Prairie Catholic school system for 14 years, 12 of those years spent as principal of St. Joseph's Catholic School.

Mr. Dunne is currently acting superintendent of schools and will remain in this position until the new

school located in Mission Heights opens next fall.

The new kindergarten to Grade 9 school will likely have an initial enrollment of 300 students, said superintendent Dennis Grant.

"The slowdown on the Mission Height's development will mean that the students will have to be bussed. We are very overcrowded at the present time so the school is very necessary.

"It's also important to build new schools in areas that aren't near other schools. In five years the location will be perfect. In the long range it's the best choice," said Mr. Grant.

Mr. Dunne said this morning that he is looking forward to the new challenge.

"It will be interesting getting a school set up, staffing it, laying down the philosophy and doing the planning," said Mr. Dunne.

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Kateri Mission School is a beauty

By ELAINE DOGHERTY
of our staff

Principal Bill Dunne's opening statement that there are over 300 students in the new Kateri Mission Catholic School was just about drowned out by what seemed like all 300 voices and 600 feet changing classes outside his office door.

The principal's office is freshly painted, sports new furniture and doesn't have the lived-in look of papers piled here and there yet.

A small picture of the school's namesake, Kateri Tekawitha, a cross and a chart showing which

teachers are teaching where are the only things up on the office walls so far.

"It's been busy around here. Last minute details and some construction touch-ups are still being worked on. I haven't had much time to worry about education," he said.

"We are getting there now. It won't be long before things straighten out. It smells like

paint because there is still some painting going on," he added.

Rather than sitting in the office and talking about the school, Mr. Dunne proposed a tour.

FOCAL POINT

Across from the office is the school's focal point, an interior courtyard, and Mr. Dunne pointed out its

features with obvious pride.

The courtyard is complete with unistone paving, small trees and ornamental plants and is flooded with sunshine from a cross-shaped skylight and other windows riming the high ceiling. Park benches scattered here and there add to the impression that the courtyard is a place to relax and share time with classmates.

A large library overlooks the courtyard on one side and several classrooms surround it on the other side. These rooms have large windows on the courtyard side which adds to the open, airy feeling of the school.

Other features Mr. Dunne pointed out were two spacious science labs, an Industrial Arts room divided into four sections for ceramics, woodwork, metals and plastics which also includes a paint room, darkroom and small engine room, and a home economics room equipped with four kitchens.

"One of the kitchens has a commercial-size gas oven, grill and stove. It's been designed so it can be locked off from the other rooms in the school and can be used by the public for functions in the gym for instance.

"There is also a moveable wall in one of the classrooms that can be taken out to create one large meeting room," he said.

The school gym has bleachers for 400, basketball baskets that can be lowered automatically, a screen that can divide the gym in half and a large stage used largely for band instruction.

LITTLE EXTRAS

"All the little extras were included that make the school so useful and efficient," Mr. Dunne said. "There is even an office for the priest and one for the counselling of students."

Other features that make Kateri the city's most up-to-date school include a special paper room for teachers where they can organize their work, an in-house computer system to record all student records, a special dust collection system for the Industrial Arts section, ample storage space for gym

equipment and room for extra tables and chairs and water fountains and a sink included in all the classrooms.

The school's design also allows for up to eight additional portable classrooms to be added on when needed.

The City of Grande Prairie, as the major developer for the Mission Heights subdivision, has provided playground equipment, an outdoor skating area, football and soccer standards, as well as properly fenced and sloped grassed areas in the adjacent municipal reserve land.

"The students here now come from all over the city and surrounding area. As St. Gerard is totally French immersion now we have a lot of grade 5 and 6 students in the school.

"A lot of the students are from the county as they would have to be bused somewhere anyway."

Mr. Dunne said the grade 3 to 9 school has also relieved a lot of the pressure in other Catholic schools in the city which were all full to the bursting point last year.

The majority of students attending Kateri will eventually come from the Mission Heights subdivision which is just being developed.

There are 12 full-time and four part-time teachers at Kateri for 308 students. There is a support staff of five.

"The name of the school was chosen from a school board contest several years ago. Teachers, students and parents were asked to submit possible names and we shortlisted that to 14.

"Kateri was chosen from this list. She was a Mohawk who is now one step away from being the first native North American to be made a saint," Mr. Dunne said.



Kateri Mission Catholic School principal Bill Dunne.

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Longtime educator **Dunne** is retiring

By HOLLY RADAU
Herald-Tribune staff

If you've attended a Catholic school in Grande Prairie in the past 24 years, the name Bill **Dunne** is very likely a familiar one.

After being employed as a teacher, administrator and principal with the district, **Dunne** has decided to take early retirement when school ends this June.

Dunne, principal at St. Clement school, said he and his wife Bev have no immediate plans for his retirement.

"We'll stay here for a while," he said. "This is home."

He was first employed as principal at St. Joseph's High School, where he stayed for 13 years. **Dunne** went on to be the district's assistant superintendent for two years before becoming principal at the then-new Kateri Mission School.

He stayed at Kateri Mission for six years and is now in his third year at St. Clement.

Dunne has had an educational impact on two generations of students in the system.

"I've got teachers teaching in my school that I taught," says **Dunne**, who began his own teaching career 35 years ago in Torrington, in Central Alberta. His university specialization was in physical education.

The use of computers is one of the many changes that have taken place in the classroom during **Dunne's** tenure and one he's embraced as eagerly as most students. **Dunne** teaches a computer class this year and boasts the school's computer lab is one



BILL DUNNE
... 24 years in system.

of the best in the region.

Superintendent Dennis Grant said the district will miss his positive attitude and leadership abilities.

The **Dunnes** have three children, one of whom is a teacher at St. Joseph's High School.

Chomyc, Dunne join race

Veteran trustee and first-time candidate vying for school board

Herald-Tribune staff

The school board election battles picked up steam Tuesday after a veteran and a first-time nominee joined the fray.

Public school trustee Ken Chomyc announced at Tuesday's board meeting he will run for another term.

The board chairman said he decided to run because he thought the district needed a veteran hand.

"We have a new superintendent, a new deputy superintendent and I'm the only guy on the board with experience," said the eight-year member.

"There's some changes in education and they're going to need the support of somebody with some experience."

Chomyc was the only incumbent trustee returned to the board in 1992.

The biggest challenge facing the new board af-

ter the Oct. 16 election will be dealing with the change to school-based management, he said.

He was satisfied with the board's performance last term which included striking a two-year collective agreement with instructional and non-instructional staff and the recruitment of its first new superintendent in 27 years.

Chomyc, 43, is the general manager at Snapper's bar and has four children attending school in the public district.

Meanwhile, former teacher and principal Bill Dunne also declared he'll run for a seat on the Catholic board.

The computer salesman at HiTech Business Systems said he wanted to offer his experience in education and technology to the Catholic system.

"The school district has committed a large portion of its budget to technology," he said. "My interest and experience in this area should be beneficial to the board."

He said the next board's priority should be

continued prudent money management.

"The biggest issue in the past has been getting equalized finances which I think has come to pass. I've always liked working with budgets and I've had experience at the school level."

Dunne, 58, retired from teaching in 1992 after spending 24 years in the district and 35 in education.

The longtime Grande Prairie resident also served as Catholic school board assistant superintendent from 1981 to 1983 and principal of St. Joseph's, Kateri Mission and St. Clement schools.

Dunne has three grown children who graduated from St. Joseph's Catholic high school.

As of Tuesday, the public, Catholic and Peace-Wapiti trustee races have three declared candidates each.

The election is Oct. 16 and prospective contenders have until Sept. 18 to file their nomination papers.

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Swinging through the PC jungle can daunt

LIONEL FREY
F o r E n c o r e

Swinging through the personal computer jungle is not the easiest of journeys.

According to Dave Ramage of Micro Computers Plus, many consumers are almost at a loss the moment they walk into the store.

"One thing I see is people coming in with their neighbors telling them what they need," says Ramage.

"If you were buying a car, would you look at what your neighbor is buying?"

Ramage says the biggest favor that someone can do for themselves when buying a computer is to know what they plan to use it for before they start fielding terms like 'megahertz' and 'random access memory' — or RAM — from a salesperson.

Ramage says many first-time buyers quite often use money as their first measuring tool leading them towards a particular purchase, which doesn't always result in the best bang for their buck.

"Their main idea is to get something introductory and see if they like it or not," Ramage says of the neophyte purchaser.

He says yet another segment of people don't know what they'll use the computer for, but they just know that it's time to get one.

At that point, he talks to the customer about various software options that they may choose to utilize in their home, gradu-

ally leading them through the dense technical maze.

Bill Dunne, sales representative with Hi-Tech Business Systems, agrees that the best place to start is to determine if your home computer will be used for work or play.

In many cases, this determination results in more detailed specifications — and more precise costs.

"Any computer store will tell you that one of the major concerns for prices is the speed of the computer," remarks Dunne.

At the low-end of the price scale is the 166 pentium — one of the slower computers on the market.

Moving into more posh neighborhoods, a 400 MHz is about as fast as they come.

According to Dunne, the new Macintosh G3 is also making waves in the industry for its fleetness.

"Even the PC magazines are saying the new G3 is faster than any pentium chip," says Dunne.

Put in plain English, the difference between a 166 and a 400 is the number of specific functions the computer can perform in the span of a second.

Ramage compares it to a traffic cop directing traffic at an intersection, with the 400 being able to address 400 different approaches to the intersection in that 1 second interval.

Group this information with other tid-

bits like memory capacity, printer, scanner, and software options, and you can determine to a reasonable extent the system that will most likely suit your needs.

Again, this all rests on the purpose you've decided to purchase a computer for in the first place.

Also, as time moves on, what is a computer without at least considering whether you would like to surf with it or not.

"Anything out now that you would buy will get on the Internet with no problem," says Dunne, noting the proliferation of the Internet.

Ramage can rattle off a number of customers who use the Internet for a variety of reasons — from checking their stocks and mutual funds to finding out what's happening on the other side of the world.

"We do sell a lot of Internet in every walk of life," says Ramage, indicating that individuals well in their 80's frequently shoot the curves on the Net.

Ramage admits that time is an enemy to any computer shopper, citing a three-year window between a new computer being worth something to the point where it is obsolete.

"Sometimes, upgrading works fine and you just want to do that one more thing," offers Ramage.

"If they don't understand why they're upgrading, then we're in trouble."

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Dunne stands for re-election

Herald-Tribune staff

Bill Dunne is letting his name stand for re-election as trustee of the Grande Prairie Catholic School District.

The retired teacher was first elected three years ago to the school board. That experience is an asset, Dunne said, as the school board faces some big issues in the next three years.

"I still have a great interest in education," Dunne said.

The area's population growth will translate into a need for more schools, he said.

"I think that will be bigger than people realize," he said of the board's building program.

Dunne has served on several board subcommittees: growth and



DUNNE

development, computer technology, transportation, education consultation, religion ad hoc and communications.

tee and we didn't have that three years ago," Dunne said.

The long-time Grande Prairie resident said the committee put out a large information package for the public last fall and the year before worked to develop communication between schools. And each trustee has been partnered with a school.

development, computer technology, transportation, education consultation, religion ad hoc and communications.

"I've been chairman of the communications committee

"I think there has been communication," he said.

Dunne's key concerns include lobbying the government for more education funding, basing decision-making on the value of an issue to the whole school system, relating all issues to how they affect students, help the board and government realize the pressures teachers face, and working with school councils to increase parent involvement in education.

"I believe in a TEAM approach — Together Everyone Achieves More. Trustees must be willing to listen and work for the good of the whole school district," Dunne said.

Dunne and wife Bev have lived in Grande Prairie for 30 years. All three of their children graduated from the Catholic school system.

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Bill Dunne

Occupation: Retired teacher/administrator and part-time employee at MicroAge/HiTech

Age: 61

Family Status: Married to Bev with three grown children

Incumbent: Yes

Bill Dunne has just completed his first term on the separate school board and he's coming back for more.

The retired teacher spent 37 years in education including 24 with the Grande Prairie Catholic School District as an educator, school administrator and assistant superintendent.

"I still have a big interest in education," Dunne said. "I feel trustees should always have the best interest of the student in mind while making decisions."

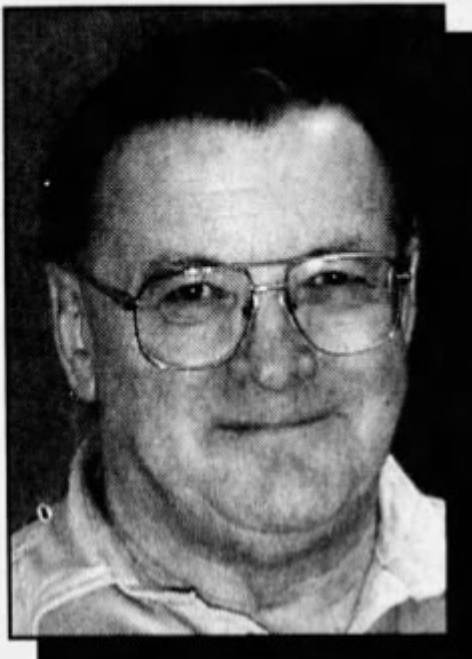
Dunne has also involved himself in the Knights of Columbus and as a member of the St. Joseph Parish and its personnel committee.

School construction, including a new \$20 million high school, another kindergarten to Grade 8 school and some school renovations, will be a major issue over the next three years, Dunne said.

Besides his previous experience on the school board, Dunne brings knowledge of curriculum and this district, time to devote to the board and a belief in the value of a Catholic education.

Dunne believes in the TEAM approach: Together Everyone Achieves More.

"We all must be willing to listen and work for the good of the whole district," he said.



Gymniks' new home might sit next to Johnny Mac Arena

Catholic board gives conditional OK

CLARISE KLASSEN
Herald-Tribune staff

The GP Gymniks are hoping to stick the landing of a site for their new facility next to the Johnny Macdonald Arena.

The Grande Prairie Catholic School District gave its conditional approval to the gymnastic club's proposal Monday and will enter into negotiations with the City of Grande Prairie over transfer of the land.

Most of the property on which the Phase I 22,000-sq. ft. gymnastics centre and Phase II 10,000-sq. ft. community gymnasium would be located belongs to the school district. The facility would be located on the north end of the Leisure Centre parking lot, between the tennis courts and arena.

The city is prepared to pay for a site for the Gymniks' new home, said recreational services manager Kay Kenny.

"It's part of the city's capital facility development plan," Kenny said. The municipality wants to work with local recreational groups to help them build their own facilities, in this instance that means helping the Gymniks find a new location.

"It would be a real asset to the community. They're providing something to meet the needs of the community," Kenny said.

The city wants to negotiate a land swap with the Catholic board, likely for land in or around the Community Knowledge Campus, proposed for the city's south end. The municipality is responsible for providing land for the new school, but has said it will not provide land to educate students from outside its borders. It needs about 90 acres for the campus which will include a new recreational complex, library and both public and Catholic high schools.

"We don't want a lot of money changing hands," Kenny said.

However, the school board is resistant to any talks involving the campus where its new St. Joseph Catholic High School is to be built, said vice-chairman Bill Dunne.

"I don't see it as a possibility," Dunne said.

Catholic district secretary-treasurer Grant Burge agreed.

"If we swap our land for theirs, we're effectively providing the school site ourselves and it's not our responsibility," Burge said.

The Catholic board has hesitations about the Leisure Centre site which trustees feel would become too congested with the additional gym, but decided not to hold up the process as the city and other stakeholders approve of the proposal, Dunne said.

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GYMNIKS' NEW HOME

...continued from front

The Leisure Centre site will benefit the other two school boards, but not the Catholics who are leaving the area when their own high school is built.

Dunne questioned why the facility wasn't built as part of the campus if the city is so committed to it.

"We're not opposed to the Gymniks," Dunne said. "We don't think

the city should be backing them as much as they are if they want this Community Knowledge Campus."

Kenny said the Leisure Centre is the first choice for the facility because of the city's long-term recreation plans. Those plans include turning the Johnny Macdonald Arena into a 50-metre pool with high dive tower and building two new ice surfaces down on the city's south end. That would turn the Leisure Centre into a total aquatics facility.

There is a lot of cross-training between gymnastics, swimming and diving, Kenny said.

The Gymniks would like to be building by this summer with the \$1.5 million first phase of the facility open in time for the 2000 Alberta Summer Games. The community gym, which would cost about \$750,000 would follow a

year later, said Gymniks president Nancy McCabe.

So far they have fund-raised about half of the first phase price tag through involvement in the Dream Home Lottery and Cars for Christmas Draw. They will also sell their cramped 10,000-sq. ft. facility in the city's industrial park and put that towards construction costs.

McCabe was pleased the school district agreed to enter negotiations for the land.

"I think it is a great location," she said.

The club president does not apologize for the city providing the land.

"We've never had any help from the city," McCabe said. "They should be helping those that help themselves."

No site is final until it is approved by the 25-year-old club's board.

Education pioneer Bill Dunne dead at 63

ELLEN LAWRENCE
Herald-Tribune staff

The Grande Prairie Catholic School Board lost 36 years of experience and dedication to students, teachers and administrators when trustee and vice-chairman Bill Dunne died suddenly from a heart attack Wednesday. He was 63.

Dunne, who served as a trustee for five years, had been a teacher, principal and administrator for 31 years. His death numbed both his friends and the people with whom he had worked.

"I always found him to be extremely honest, extremely knowledgeable and very much a person who understood the human side of decision making," reflected Catholic schools superintendent Bryn Kulmatycki. "He was so knowledgeable on how the operations of education worked and he could see the impact of decisions upon the schools, students and teachers."

Dunne's friend for 30 years and former Catholic superintendent Dennis Grant agreed the avid sportsman knew every detail of his local school system — a feature which made him an ideal trustee and administrator.

"He had kind of a way when dealing with issues, he was one to listen and to offer constructive criticism," said Grant, adding Dunne was more than qualified when he stood in as deputy-superintendent one year. "He had a very measured way of dealing with issues. He would look at the pros and cons; he wasn't one to move off in any direction without thinking about things carefully."

Dunne began his teaching career after graduating from the University of Alberta in 1959 with degrees in education and physical education.



BILL DUNNE

He taught in the Alberta communities of Red Deer, Innisfail and Trochu before coming to Grande Prairie and serving as administrator at St. Joseph high school, Kateri Mission Catholic school and St. Clement Catholic school. While he was also a coach and sports enthusiast, Grant says Dunne was somewhat ahead of his time when it came to technology.

"In the Catholic school system he was definitely one of the leaders and innovators in that area," said Grant, noting Dunne, who worked part-time at Hi-Tech Business Systems, was never intimidated by computers and was the first to try out the new technology. "When he was at St. Clement particularly, I noticed that he really brought that school along in terms of computer labs and working with the students hands on."

Dunne was also an active member of the Catholic community, serving in the Knights of Columbus and volunteering on the personnel and finance committees at St. Joseph's Catholic church.

"He certainly he was always will-

ing to help," noted Catholic board secretary-treasurer Grant Burge, who worked with Dunne for 14 years. "When you asked him for help he'd volunteer....He believed in the work he was doing."

Former Catholic board chairman Ken O'Shea, who worked with Dunne during his 10-year tenure, said the board always depended on his experience and practical advice when it came to decision-making.

"He was always very pro-active, always thoroughly researched, whether it was to be good news or bad news," said O'Shea of the person he described as dynamic and honest. "He was always the one who we relied on when we were building a new school...(because he) provided the principal's input, how things would work and the logistics of laying it out."

Kulmatycki said the Learning Minister's office has already been advised that the board needs to set a date for a byelection and will discuss who will act as temporary vice-chairman during its January meeting. For first-term trustee Alice Brick, who sat next to Dunne during meetings and worked with him on several board committees, it's going to be hard to see the empty chair.

"Anytime I wasn't clear about something and wanted a little more explanation I would just whisper to Bill and he would take the time to explain everything to me," said the former teacher, adding his genuine love for kids and his compassion made him an excellent principal and board leader. "I just know that there's another bright light shining up there for us to follow, he's sort of guiding us like a beacon. That's our friend Bill."

A date for Dunne's funeral was unavailable at press time.

Mitchell on board with byelection triumph

Former St. Joe's teacher prevails in Catholic school vote

ELLEN LAWRENCE

Herald-Tribune staff

The 20-year friend of former Catholic school board trustee Bill Dunne won the right to sit in his place following the Grande Prairie Catholic school district byelection Monday.

City resident Cliff Mitchell, who taught computer science and drama at St. Joseph's Catholic high school for 17 years, took 441 of the 929 votes casted in the byelection.

It was called to fill the vacant seat left by Dunne, who died of a heart attack Dec. 29. Beaverlodge resident Brenda Yamkowj finished second with 312 votes and Sexsmith resident Connie Vavrek finished third with 176 votes.

Mitchell, who had Dunne as his first principal when he started teaching at St. Joe's, celebrated the win with family and friends last night, including Dunne's widow Bev who supported him throughout the campaign.

He feels the win is what Dunne would have wanted.

"I think he would have been happy," said a pleased, but also a little emotional Mitchell. "He had asked me to run a year ago and I don't think he would mind (me sitting in his chair)."

The 59-year-old retired from teaching three years ago and decided to put his knowledge and experience of the district to the test.

The director of the Easter production Song of Mark II and a volunteer with the Festival of Trees, Mitchell is particularly interested in the Catholic school board's role in the Community Knowledge Campus. For now, however, he's content to "listen and learn."

Yamkowj, current chairwoman of St. Mary school



CLIFF MITCHELL

"He's a great communicator and he's retired so he can give the time commitment. That's really important because it is a time-consuming job."

— fellow trustee Morag Mochan

council in Beaverlodge, admitted she was a little disappointed with the loss, but knew that having two people from the county running in the race could split the vote.

"I think I'll probably come back...we still need somebody there and so we'll probably be there at some point anyway," she said.

Vavrek, who served as chairwoman of the Sexsmith Catholic school board before it amalgamated with Grande Prairie, wished voter turnout had been better and had hoped a community member from a non-teaching profession could have sat on the board.

"The ideal is the board have a cross section of the community; it just brings different viewpoints, and that would apply anywhere to any board," she said, adding running again in the future would depend on her time commitments.

Current Catholic school board vice-chairwoman and trustee Morag Mochan was pleased with how the election went, and feels Mitchell will be a great asset to the board partly because of how similar he is to Dunne.

"He has many of the same talents that Bill had," she said, adding she was delighted when she heard Mitchell had won.

"He's really into computers...he's a great communicator and he's retired so he can give the time commitment. That's really important because it is a time-consuming job."

Billie Ford



Billie (Alma) Ford, long time resident of Grande Prairie, passed away on December 16, 2009 at the age of 97.

Billie is survived by her brother, Harold Ulmer, sister, Edna (Ian) Renee, daughters, Bev Dunne, Charlene (Eric) Pettit, Wanda (Wayne) Johnson, and Karen (Brian) Coogan, son, Dwight (Marilyn) Ford and son-in-law Merle Baird. She also leaves 16 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, five great great grandchildren and numerous nephews and nieces to remember her.

Billie was predeceased by her husband, Charlie Ford, brothers, Victor and Roy, sisters, Verna and Violet, daughters, Wendy Ford and Marilyn Baird, son, Mervyn, son-in-law, Bill Dunne and granddaughter, Cheryl Dunne.

On December 11, 1912, Billie was born in Castor, AB to William and Ida Ulmer. After attending Normal School in Camrose, she began her teaching career in 1936, which eventually brought Billie to Bezanson, where she met and married Charlie Ford in 1938.

Her passion was music and many Christmas concerts and music festivals were organized under her care during her career at Montrose, Bezanson School and Harry Balfour.

Many fond family memories include the piano and singing and Billie was an active member of The Sweet Adelines for many years. Billie led an active life traveling throughout Canada, the United States and Germany. She was also a long time participant of "The Swimming Ladies" at The Club.

Billie will be sadly missed and fondly remembered for her zest for life, compassion for her family and friends, her true bass, and sense of humor.

A celebration of Billie's life will be held at Oliver's Funeral Chapel on December 29, 2009 at 11:30 am. If friends desire, in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Alzheimer's Society of Alberta.

Condolences may be sent by visiting www.olivers-grandeprairie.com

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