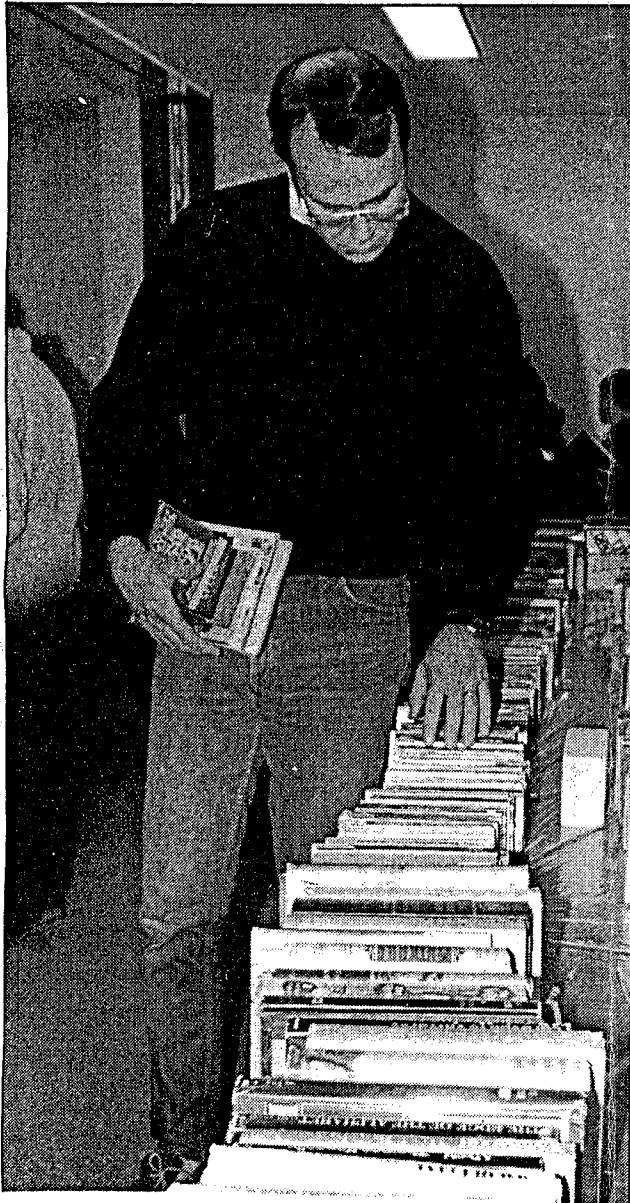


# Kourier-Standard

28TH YEAR, ISSUE 26, FRIDAY APRIL 2, 1993



## Get municipalities to build schools, says CBE trustee Bill Ellis

By Nancy Boughner  
Staff writer

Municipalities should be the ones to build schools in their communities and not the school boards. That was the unique concept that Kanata resident and CBE trustee Bill Ellis brought to council Tuesday night.

Ellis presented council with an article on the concept written by Toronto architect Julian Jakobs. Through conversations with Jakobs, Ellis discovered "many of his (Jakobs') ideas match those that Bill Teron had when he founded Kanata."

Ellis suggested that because the municipality is responsible for planning developments within its communities, then it should have some say on where schools are built and what impact they will have on the community.

"When you authorize official plans it is you that set in motion the chain of events that leads, for example, to the development of Emerald Acres. Yet you have no responsibility for the impact that that may have on the institutions that are required to provide an education to the children that will live in that area. And, if the existing schools are already overcrowded, you have created a problem that a school board may not be able to solve without an awful lot of upheaval," said Ellis.

Similar concerns were voiced from John Young PTA.

Ironically, council also had before it

*"Maybe we should take over school boards completely and keep all the tax dollars for ourselves."*

- Coun. Eva James, responding tongue-in-cheek to a presentation to council Tuesday night.

that night a letter from the president of the John Young Parent School Association Denyse Wade concerning a non-profit housing development slated for Hazeldean Road.

Wade wanted the project re-evaluated until it could be determined where the children in this 96-unit development would attend school.

"...The availability of schools has to be taken into consideration. As it now stands, both elementary schools in Glen Cairn are overcrowded. A recent boundary change approved by the CBE will see more students from the already overcrowded Bridlewood School be redirected to John Young, Glen Cairn, Katimavik and W.E. Johnston," said Wade in her letter.

Wade said that in the past, municipal governments, developers and school boards have tried to look at creative approaches to school accommodations but had met with resistance from the Ministry of Education.

"I am asking that the city of Kanata, the Carleton Board of Education and developers in Kanata seriously consider

again looking at alternate ways of building new schools for communities."

Councillor Alex Munter said the idea of schools being built by municipalities was "an intriguing idea." He asked Ellis if he had more information on how funding would be distributed. But Ellis said right now the suggestion was just a concept that would need considerable work.

Ellis said he would be sending a letter to the Ontario government suggesting municipalities rather than school boards should be providing school buildings.

"I fully agree these things are worth exploring," said North Kanata councillor Mark Gallivan.

Bridlewood councillor Eva James said there were a lot of changes needed in the education system. James said with 55 to 60 per cent of our tax dollars going to school boards, some results were needed.

"Maybe we should take over school boards completely and keep all the tax dollars for ourselves," said James, tongue-in-cheek.