

# Community use of schools co-ordinator wanted

Nov 17-1976

A full-time co-ordinator for the community use of schools will be hired by the Cochrane-Iroquois Falls Board of Education if an application for a \$10,000 grant for community school development from the Ministry of Education is granted.

At the regular meeting of Cochrane-Iroquois Falls Board of Education on November 15, trustees approved application for the grant. Notification of its acceptance - or rejection - would be received sometime in December, reported Superintendent of Schools, R.G. Michon who serves on the board's Community Use of Schools Committee which has been meeting since 1974. The co-ord-

inator would begin work sometime in the early part of the New Year if the grant is approved. The grant will be applicable for a maximum of two years.

The person chosen would co-ordinate the use of school facilities in the Cochrane-Iroquois Falls board area for the 'best utilization and maximum use by the community.' He would organize and attempt to establish neighborhood councils to assure that the needs of each area of the board's jurisdiction were being met, and organize a program of continuing education.

At the present time, there are three part-time co-ordinators working for the committee in

Matheson, Cochrane and Shillington. They have been co-operating with recreation directors and liaison officers of each area to provide activities and courses which meet the needs of the community.

In Cochrane, a Community Action Council has been established. With the development of the sports complex at Ecole Secondaire Cochrane High School, it is hoped that the part-time Community Use of School co-ordinators will be able to continue to involve the school and the community as partners.

Added to the \$10,000 grant from the ministry, will be another \$9,000 from the board and the Community Use of Schools program. Salary of the co-ordinator will take \$14,000, travel expenses, \$2,000, professional development, \$1,200, and supplies \$1,800 making a total of \$19,000.

Trustee Alex Fulton of Matheson asked, "What happens at the end of the two years when the grant is cut off?"

Mr. Michon replied that he felt the program would be self-supporting. "I believe if the parents are involved, they won't mind extra expense, (if there is any)." Eventually the community will have to cover the full cost of the program.

"I believe that the renewal of the Community School develop-

ment grant will increase the community's awareness and understanding of the role and function of the school and will also continue to increase the schools and the school board's awareness and understanding of the community. It will also continue to help us encourage our schools and the school board to identify and use human and physical resources available in the community."

Mr. Dennis Draves, co-ordinating principal of Cochrane public schools who is past chairman of the board's Community Use of Schools Committee, was commended for his leadership.

Rules and regulations concerning the community use of schools were also accepted by motion at the board meeting on Monday evening. These will be published in the local press.