

JONES, Lloyd

Today's grads brighter lot ^{Intell} says retiring superintendent ^{June 18/92} ^{p. 8}

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Lloyd Jones has no qualms about today's graduates. He believes they're a brighter lot than in years gone by.

With 35 years experience in teaching, curriculum development and administration, the superintendent of education bases his opinions on facts.

"The quality of today's graduates is considerably higher than I've ever seen. And that's because the demand on students is greater. You just have to be better to get into university," Jones said.

Today's curriculum, he noted, is far more demanding than in the past "in the amount of complexity of thought and the kind of information you must have at your disposal to even participate in the learning process".

The curriculum has changed from factual information-giving to an emphasis on skills and what a student can actually do.

Jones also takes exception to comments about today's drop-out rate.

"When I first started teaching, the drop-out rate was 70 per cent. Now it's about 20 per cent in Hastings County. It shows how society has changed — there are no jobs for dropouts to go to — and how schools have adjusted to meet students' needs."

Jones' first teaching assignment came in 1957

— after a degree from Queen's University and one year in teachers' college — in a high school in Chesterville, Ont. He taught history, Latin "and everything else you can imagine, including a full range of sports".

His first year was "truly an excellent learning experience"; from there he went to Collingwood, taught and got married, and came to Quinte Secondary School as history teacher in 1959.

He went to Centennial when it opened in 1957 as history department head and, in 1974, came to the Education Centre as curriculum co-ordinator and head of curriculum services. He became a superintendent seven years ago.

In the process, Jones completed his Master's degree and doctoral degree from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in Toronto.

Teaching, though, was what Jones liked doing best in his career.

"You learn as much as someone learns from you in teaching. I get a lot of satisfaction from seeing people learn something and become skillful and then succeed. Your job as teacher was to give them experiences to make them succeed."

Jones doesn't plan on ending his educational ties. He's planning a visit of schools in China next fall and someday wants to get involved in educational research.



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