Property of Sunderland Historical Society & Museum

The Ontario County School Board came into being on Jan 1st, 1969, taking in an area from Washago in the north to Oshawa, Whitby,

Ajax and Pickering to the south .

Education at the time this area (county of Ont.) was settled was controlled first by the church and then by local autonomy, until 1951 when it was taken over by the townships: hence the township school area boards. One by one the rural schools were closed and the yellow school bus became a familiar sight, transporting all students from Gr's one to thirteen to their respective schools. Those of us who can remember the continuation schools will also recall that at this time the district high schools came into being which meant that all students could take advantage of education opportunities up to and including Gr. thirteen without extra cost to the parents, - the extra expense being borne by the tax-payer.

As the era of academic education and technology took over, and became more sophisticated, education from kindergarten to Gr. thirteen, under the control of the province, on Jan. 1st 1969 was put under the jurisdiction of the county with one board serving both the rural and urban areas. This system has only been in operation for a short time and there are a lot of snags to be ironed out.

Only time will tell if the change is justified. Of one thing we are certain and that is that the development on this country and particularly Ontario County is progressing at an accelerated pace. One wonders what the next decade will bring forth.

Good By Red School Mouse



