

Back in 1861

In 1861 there were 344,118 pupils at schools and colleges in Upper Canada and the government paid \$1,670,023 for education.

In those days roads were poor and of course telephones, television and department stores were not known!

Democratic government can be predicted only on universal education.

Education, therefore, must above all else set the foot of youth on the road to the things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report — Kandel

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Principal Suggests

How Parents Can Help Their Children Learn

"What can I, a parent, do to help my child with his school learning?"

M. Z. Bennett school principal Elmer Smith replies.

1. Provide a happy, companionable family atmosphere.
2. Build up in the child a wholesome regard for his teachers and school.
3. Help him feel that you consider learning at school a very important, serious business.
4. Cultivate in him self-reliance beginning long before he enters school.
5. See that he conforms to family regulations.
6. Require him to do certain regular chores and see that they are done promptly and well.
7. Strictly regulate TV and radio, ruling them out during study period.
8. See that he goes at his home work promptly and diligently early in the evening and at a regular place in the home where he will have the fewest possible dis-

tractions. Have him assemble his materials at the beginning of the study period. There should be no admission of pals except in a few instances when they might effectively join him in his work on some project.

9. If he has no homework (or says that he has none) see that he reads from wholesome books or magazines for half an hour or more during his regular homework period. Help him find reading materials of interest to him. Encourage, sometimes require, him to tell you in a few words the gist of what he read.
10. If the teacher sends home a few number combinations like 8 and 6 are 14, 9 from 13 leaves 4, 7 times 4 are 28, see that he learns them by heart. This or other memory work should be mastered without making a single error.
11. If he has a list of words he must learn to spell, induce him to study one word at a time until he has mastered its spelling, before attacking another word. You help him best as you cause him to go slowly and carefully.
12. When he does written work, induce, even require, him to do over work that was slovenly done.
13. Often read his assignments with him. This will prove to him that you are interested in his work.
14. When you help him with his lessons, manage yourself so well that your voice never rises or has the slightest suggestion of irritation.
15. If he must assemble information from books, magazines, or newspapers, be on the lookout for such materials and help him assemble them.
16. Always be an honest, eager learner with him and prove your interest in all he learns at school by listening raptly when he tells of such at home.

Education Week

It's Education Week in the public schools and this special page contains news of interest to parents and students as well.

It was compiled with the assistance of principal G. W. McKenzie of the Robert Little school and principal Elmer Smith of the M. Z. Bennett school.

Top Ten Acton High School Students During 1959-60



MARY BETH ELLIOTT SUSAN HEARD JEAN HART CARL GATHOF ELIZABETH FORCE
BRIAN BARBEAU ILENE VAREY DOREEN GORDON LOUISE WASOWICZ MARY LOU CREIGHTON

The top ten students at Acton high school during the 1959-60 school year in grades 9 to 13 as well as the runners-up in the various grades are shown above. During 1959, Mary Beth Elliott was top grade nine student and

received an award from the school board amounting to \$20; Susan Heard was runner-up and received a \$10 award. In grade 10, Jean Hart headed her class and received \$30, with Carl Gathof a close second, receiving

a \$15 award. Grade 11 student winning top honors was Elizabeth Force, who received \$50 and Brian Barbeau as runner-up was presented with \$25. Ilene Varey was top student in grade 12 and was presented with a \$100

award while Doreen Gordon, second, received \$50. Grade 13 student heading the class was Louise Wasowicz, who received the top money award of \$200. Mary Lou Creighton ran a close second to

cop the \$100 award from the School Board. This year was the first time the board awarded the cash scholarships. They were presented during the annual commencement exercises Friday evening at the high school.

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The Acton Free Press.

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Next in importance to freedom and justice is popular education, without which neither freedom nor justice can be permanently maintained — Garfield.

Play Prominent Part in Music Festivals

During the period that they attend elementary school pupils not only receive an adequate training in the basic subjects (English literature, creative writing, grammar, spelling, printing and writing, mathematics, science, history and geography) but acquire skills in physical training, home economics, and industrial arts and develop an appreciation for art and music.

Each year the students of grade six, seven and eight take part in a public speaking contest until one student is selected to receive the Rachlin Public Speaking trophy. Since the time when music was taught by Miss Moore the Acton schools have always played a prominent part in Halton County Music Festivals. This musical training has enabled the school to present an outstanding operetta annually.

Before they graduate to secondary education, the grade VIII pupils organize and conduct a graduation banquet which is catered to by the Home and School Association.

It is generally felt by the school board, principals, teachers and parents that the educational standards in the elementary schools in Acton compare favourably with the larger centres in the Province of Ontario.

Acceleration, Standard Tests Prove Worth in Schools Here

Children who are five years of age or who will be five years of age by December 31, may start Kindergarten. These children, if they progress at an average rate of one year per grade, will complete Grade VIII at 13 or 14 depending upon whether their birthday is before or after June 30. Some children, who are permitted to take an acceleration program, will reduce this a year and complete Grade VIII at 12 or 13.

Some children, on the other hand, are retarded a year and consequently complete Grade VIII at 14 or 15. Very, very few children are accelerated by two years, or on the other hand, retarded by two years.

Acceleration is employed in the promotional practices in Acton as it is in many school systems. Brilliant children are our potential leaders. It is particularly important that their abilities be as fully developed as possible.

Under-Achievers

Relatively speaking, clever children are the greatest under-achievers. Pupils who are accelerated show unmistakable gains in achievement over those who do not have this experience.

When accelerated pupils reach secondary school their marks are higher than non-accelerated students and they receive more academic honours and prizes.

At university level, the academic achievement of the accelerated students is also found to be superior. Many things are considered by the elementary school in selecting children for accel-

Acceleration, Standard Tests Prove Worth in Schools Here

eration — mental ability, achievement in basic subjects, health, nervousness, out-of-school demands on his time etc.

Standard Tests

The elementary schools in Acton in addition to regular class tests, have in co-operation with the Guidance Department of the Department of Education adopted a Standardized Testing program. These Standardized Tests:

1. Aid the teacher in obtaining a better understanding of the child.
2. Aid in measuring the progress of the child.
3. Help the teacher identify and define various strengths and weaknesses.
4. Help the child evaluate his own work.
5. Test rate and mental growth of children.
6. Are helpful for promotional purposes.

Each grade receives one Standardized Test at a set time in the years as follows: Grade I, Reading Readiness; Grade II, Mental Ability; Grade III, Arithmetic Fundamentals; Grade IV, Reading Comprehension; Grade V, Learning Capacity; Grade VI, Arithmetic Fundamentals; Grade VII, Learning Capacity; Grade VIII, Achievement tests in Vocabulary, Paragraph Comprehension, English Grammar, Spelling and Arithmetic Computation.

Schools Stress Responsibility

In the schools here, much stress is placed on the development of responsibility — being responsible for assignments being done on time; being responsible for actions. Pupils are given training in self-discipline — to do what is expected without constant supervision and direction.

As these develop, pupils acquire a desire to excel, a desire to produce results which measure up to their capabilities. Acton is indeed fortunate to have teachers who are prepared "to walk the second mile"; teachers who are willing to serve overtime to help students who are experiencing difficulties.

Quotes

What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the human mind. — Joseph Addison.

The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet — Aristotle.

Too much and too little education hinder the mind — Pascal.

The important thing is not that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn — Lubbock.

Education is the eternal debt maturing on youth — Fisher.

Efficient universal education is the mother of national prosperity — Emerson.

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Interviews

This week, parent-teacher interviews took place in classrooms at the two public schools. Teachers discussed problems after school and in the evening.

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Tips on Touring
By Carol Lane
Woman's Travel Authority

If you want to feel taller in the driver's seat, fit an inflatable cushion (one of the latest articles auto accessory manufacturers have come out with) is a robe cushion combination. A pure wool robe about 50 by 60 inches, comes in a waterproof case, which has an inflatable cushion on one side. Perfect to give you that extra boost to see over the hood. Won't dent, too, for hard benches and chilly afternoons at football games.

A coin holder for your car is a handy gadget for paying tolls and parking charges. It mounts easily on your dashboard with the help of strong suction cups. Dimes, nickels and pennies are literally at your fingertips.

Carry Necessities

Most of us who drive carry a few necessities we like to keep handy—tissues, tobacco, camera supplies, pencils and such. A handsome leather case has been designed to hold all these items and to serve as an arm rest and seat divider.

A must for every car is a safety flare and roadside repair light. It's a flare, signal light and repair light all in one. Plugged into the cigarette lighter, it gives a bright beam through its clear plastic top and a good warning light through its red plastic body. A powerful magnet holds it to any metal surface and the 12 foot heavy duty cord gets light to any part of the car.

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