

Farm Federation Chooses R. L. Davidson as President

OUR LIBRARY BOARD

R. M. Donovan, Librarian,
Fort William Public Library

Those who use the library regularly will eventually get to know, at least by sight, all the members of the staff. A smaller group will be on speaking terms with the Chief Librarian, who except for public appearances tends to lurk furtively in a dank and dingy back room, where, it might be conceived, he makes dark plans to confuse the patrons more. But the least known section of the people directly connected with the library, is the Board, whom a wit once dubbed "The Board of the Library" and quite unfairly.

The group of ladies and gentlemen does not go on tour like the Harlem Globetrotters, does not campaign for office, and seldom, if ever, appears in public as a group, and so with the exception of the annual announcement in the paper of new appointments, the striking of committees and election to the various executive functions of the Board, there is little or no overt publicity which could impress the people of the Community that the Board was anything but an assembly of blank faces, or a thing rather than a group of people with a responsibility.

The fact that the Board is appointed rather than elected, seems to have worked well, though it is a moot question, which no one has ever seriously questioned to my knowledge. The appointments are made by the three tax raising elected groups in the City — City Council, which appoints three, the Board of Education, which appoints three, and the Separate School Board, which appoints two. The Mayor is ex officio a member of the Board. Thus at least indirectly the Library Board derives its personnel from the will of the people.

Terms of office are arranged so that each appointing body makes one appointment each year, which prevents a completely green Board from coming into existence in any given year, and conversely can cause fresh blood to be injected periodically.

In essence this Library Board is responsible for determining the policy of the library, the procurement of finances, authorization of expenditures, generally speaking running the library. Naturally most of the running of the library is delegated to the librarian, who in turn delegates responsibilities to other staff members, but the final authority for any activity in the library, changes, innovations, etc., within the framework of the laws of the province, rests with this group of citizens.

There is no small responsibility, assuming that eventually all people in the City have available all the services which the library can offer, choosing personnel to perform these tasks, trying to make ends meet on budgets which never seem adequate to the needs.

They must attend regular meetings, by law, to avoid the accumulation of unfinished business, and such committee of special meetings as emergencies and the exigencies of the business demand. The job is performed entirely without remuneration and is in the truest sense of the word, a public service in time spent, and experience and guidance given. One might even say that this service given is greater than that of elected people who usually seek office, rather than have it thrust upon them, though such a thought could be disparaging to the efforts of those elected people.

There is a further complication in this affair, in that most of the members of a Library Board are busy people in other fields, though that does have the advantage of bringing wide experience to the directive function of the Board.

Library Boards are not perfect, they do make mistakes in deed and in judgment, but certainly no more than any other group of directors. Their influence is being felt very strongly in the Canadian and Ontario Library Associations in the form of better Library legislation, better mutual understanding of the problems of directors and librarians and of the whole library problem.

Library Boards are subject to criticism, but more important, they are open to suggestions at any time, and they welcome ideas and recommendations from the people whom they represent. It's only democratic anyway.

It just occurred to me that someone ought to say a word or two about this almost unknown body in the interests of better understanding and in recognition of a special public service. And so I have. — Fort William Times-Journal, January 30, 1954.

R. L. Davidson, of Esquewaug, was elected president of the Halton Federation of Agriculture at the annual meeting of the Federation held in the Hornby hall last Monday. The chief speaker was Herbert Arbutuckle, assistant secretary of the Ontario Federation of Agric. Mr. Arbutuckle presented a very interesting review of the recent brief presented by the Federation to the Ontario Cabinet. We were also interested to learn from E. R. Segsworth, chairman of the Halton Medical Services, that 25 per cent of Halton people are now covered for hospitalization, and a somewhat smaller percentage under the "Surgical Plan."

Other officers elected are as follows:
1st Vice-Pres., R. J. Laking, Moffat.
2nd vice pres., Mac Sprawl, Acton.
3rd vice president, Mrs. Maxine Ellerby, Acton. 4th vice pres., Harry Lee, Streetsville, secretary treasurer A. H. Coulter, Milton.

GLEN WILLIAMS

Party, Turkey Dinner For Beaumont Staff

Employees of Beaumont Knitting Mills had a happy night together on Friday at a Christmas party in Lamehouse Memorial Hall.

A group of Lamehouse ladies served turkey dinner and later in the evening there were games and dancing and a gift exchange from the Christmas tree.

Gordon Graham was chairman for the dinner and among those who spoke were Arthur Beaumont and Sam Penrice. Mrs. Ed Sanford replied to a toast to the ladies who catered.

One of the evening's highlights was a skit in which Cyril Horden and Gordon Graham were presented with an assortment of ladies' clothing. They kept the audience laughing as they dressed themselves in feminine costume. There were prizes for games and Jack Davidson won the door prize.



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Brampton	2:01 P.M.
Georgetown	2:15 P.M.
Acton	2:27 P.M.
Rockwood	2:35 P.M.
Guelph	2:51 P.M.
Breslau	3:07 P.M.
Kitchener	3:18 P.M.
Petersburg	3:28 P.M.
Balden	3:34 P.M.
New Hamburg	3:39 P.M.
Shakespeare	3:49 P.M.
At Stratford	3:59 P.M.
At Stratford	4:07 P.M.
St. Pauls	4:17 P.M.
St. Marks	4:26 P.M.
Kelley	4:36 P.M.
Thornedale	4:45 P.M.
At LONDON	5:03 P.M.

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