

Wants Complete Education in French Available in Halton

The eight young children of French Canadians Mr. and Mrs. Roger Dupas are perfectly bilingual and that's the way the couple want to keep it.

But their French is suffering, Dupas claims, by their attending the Holy Cross elementary school here. The school has a bilingual section but this is not good enough, Dupas said in an interview.

It was at this school a few years ago that a week-long sit-in protest was staged by the French-Canadian families.

For the children to maintain their French, Dupas said, they need a completely French environment, not just a few bilingual classes at an otherwise English-speaking school.

French is extremely important to the Dupas family. They speak it in the home all the time, the music coming from the record player has French lyrics, the radio is tuned into the French-speaking stations.

There are more than 100 French-speaking families in Georgetown, and French is as important in their homes as in that of the Dupas family. The young children attend the bilingual section of the Holy Cross separate school but there is no bilingual secondary school in this area and the older children must go elsewhere if they want to keep up their French, and they all do.

Dupas bought a special van to transport about ten students to a bilingual secondary school in Toronto on his way to work every morning. The school is De Charbonnel located at Bayview and Lawrence in Toronto and although it turned out to be an expensive undertaking driving the students there every school day, Dupas feels it is necessary if the students are to maintain their French.

Dupas asked the new Halton region separate school board to help pay for transporting these students to the French School in Toronto but the board has refused.

"The board cannot be responsible for transporting students to a private school," said county chairman Peter Watters of Oakville.

Dupas said he began taking the students to Toronto at the start of the September term after parents in Georgetown's French community didn't want their children losing their French by attending the local English-speaking secondary school. He said he has received no cooperation or sympathy from the county board and criticized their "poor attitude."

"There's no reason for this attitude," Dupas said, "it is a bad situation we have here and it's been going on for years."

He said the school board has never shown any interest in the French community and although they added a few bilin-



ROGER DUPAS

gual classes to the Holy Cross elementary school, "anything you ask for now is automatically refused."

Dupas added he will not be able to keep transporting the students to the Toronto school indefinitely because of the cost in money and time (he works as an advertising manager for a Toronto firm). When he is forced to curtail the private bus service he is not sure where the children will continue their education but if it is at an English school there is no doubt their French will suffer, he said.

Closed Mind

"The school board has a closed mind when any request from Georgetown's French families comes before them," he said, noting that the poor attitude of the old school board has been inherited by the new county board.

Says Mystery Bird Red Tailed Hawk

A resident on the 6th Line of Esquesing north of Highway 7 has positively identified the huge bird which has been keeping one eye on the sky as a red-tailed hawk.

Mrs. Bu. told he Herald this week she was able to move to within a few feet of the bird on one occasion and checked its identification in an illustrated bird book.

She said she recently saw six such birds near Erin. The book states they range throughout the U.S. and southern Canada.

Mrs. Van Patter of RR 1, Georgetown said she recently noticed what looked like a Golden Eagle in a tree near the 401 which raises the possibility that more than one kind of huge bird is responsible for the rash

Watters in reply said that Dupas won't be happy unless he gets an entirely French school in Georgetown, and "I am not in favor of unilingual schools," the school board chairman said. Watters, who is himself bilingual, said the board is very conscious of the needs of the Georgetown French community and realizes that bilingualism is a "tremendous asset."

The board is prepared to listen to any application for a bilingual school in the area and would support that application, Watters said, but a completely French school "creates a separatist situation."

Watters said — "The children are growing up in an English-speaking province, they can't be educated entirely in French."

Dupas can see no reason why they can't have a truly bilingual elementary school in Georgetown (replacing the "unsatisfactory" Holy Cross School with its bilingual section) and a bilingual secondary school located at some central point in Halton County.

No Good

The Holy Cross setup is no good, Dupas explained, because English is the dominant language and the 175 or so French students keep going over into English during play periods and other times when the actual bilingual classes are not being held. The French students need a French environment at school, not an English one, said Dupas.

Teachers discourage parents from enrolling their children in the bilingual section, Dupas said, telling them that the section is "falling apart."

Board chairman Watters said that they may enlarge the bilingual section of Holy Cross. He said the difficulty with bilingual schools is getting the teachers because according to education department requirements the teachers in each classroom must be completely and fluently bilingual and these are not too available, Watters said.

Chargex Salesmen Begin Enrolment, Town Merchants

Chargex representatives began this week to call upon businesses in Georgetown, Hamilton, St. Catharines, Welland, Port Colborne and Niagara Falls where introduction of the new, all-purpose Chargex credit card plan was recently announced.

To those providing goods and services in more than 250 categories — Chargex credit cards will be a business-building boon. By June there will be over 230,000 Chargex cardholders in the area.

Merchants who join the Chargex plan will now be able to offer credit without the headaches and expense of checking, billing, special bookkeeping, collections or credit losses. In addition the Chargex credit plan offers immediate payment — unlike others that can take from 6 to 12 weeks to pay — the lowest possible discount, no annual membership fee, a most

desirable one-time enrolment charge and no recourse.

The Chargex plan also offers tremendous tourist dollar advantages, particularly to those in the hotel, restaurant, entertainment and retail merchandise fields. Because of interchange agreements, the four Canadian banks have reached with banks in other countries, Chargex credit cards are totally interchangeable with the U.S. BankAmericard, British Barclaycard, Japanese Sumitomo card, and, by this summer, with Mexico's new Bancomer card.

Merchants participating in the Chargex plan can therefore accept any of these cards, as well as any of the well over one million Chargex cards presently in use by Montreal, Toronto, Quebec City, Lewis, Ottawa, Hull and Sherbrooke residents.

Speaking on behalf of some 25,000 Canadian businesses, D. W. Rolling, general manager of the Retail Merchants Association of Canada Inc. called the Chargex plan "the answer to many credit problems for most retailers." He said "that the movement of four Canada's leading chartered banks into the Chargex operation is a most commendable effort to make it possible for retailers of all sizes, trades and services to extend credit to their customers

Teachers, Consultants Add \$100,000 to School Budget

The hiring of thirteen additional teachers and consultants estimated to cost \$100,000 a year in salaries was approved last week by the Halton County Separate School Board.

The positions, which will be advertised immediately, include two vice principals, one for the new St. Raphael's elementary school in central Burlington and the other for Holy Rosary school in Milton. Each school now has more than 16 classrooms and the board said that vice principals are needed when schools increase to that size.

The teachers and consultants will be hired for the next school year starting in September.

Some trustees questioned spending \$100,000 on the new educators before knowing how much the board will be receiving in grants next year.

The board estimated it will cost about \$35,000 in salaries from September until the end of this year.

School board chairman Peter Watters said: "I realize there is a lot of money involved, but if we want to get anyone we've got to advertise now."

He added the recommendation for the extra staff came from Superintendent J. H. Hogan "and we have to rely very heavily on the good advice of our chief executive officer."

Watters said he found it

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