

Music Festival: Is It the Last Stanza or Just a Tempo Change

The fact that the reorganization Music Festival can no longer exist in its present form was agreed upon at the annual meeting of the Association of Teachers, principals, two co-ordinators and music consultant with a few representatives of sponsoring groups met in the staff room of the Robert Little school Wednesday evening, October 15th for the meeting.

A committee was named after much discussion to prepare a questionnaire to be sent to all schools, consultants, music supervisors and sponsoring organizations in North Halton. It will seek answers to current problems, and an acceptable solution.

It was a letter to secretary-treasurer Mrs. Glenda Benton from one of the assistant principals, Jack Reed of Glen Williams school, which sparked the evening searching discussion.

With the new system of music instruction under the county board, there are now a number of schools without trained music supervisors. Action's two schools share Mrs. Slessor as music teacher, but in Milton only one school has a music teacher, Miss Etherington. Martin St. senior school, only Stewarttown Senior School has a music teacher on staff in Equeusing. In Nassagaweya, Mrs. Lenora Vickery teaches music in both Brookville and in Campbellville schools.

In most of Milton and Equeusing the only music instruction is by the regular classroom teacher, supervised by one of the five music supervisors of the county board. On an average, in 22 five now have 17 schools each to supervise, so, of course, they cannot give the same time to training as various itinerant music teachers did.

Mr. Reed also stated there is certain opposition to competition by some co-ordinators and consultants.

He mentioned the time needed for preparation. An operation music night in each school would actually include more children.

With great increase in the size of some schools, classes of competition are no longer fair. And wherever the competition is held, there isn't enough space for all the choirs and audience.

"But," stressed Mr. Reed, "if we just drop this, some schools would have no place to perform." He strongly felt a need for something to replace the festival, if it is dropped, and most of the teachers present agreed. Main consideration was given to a non-competitive concert of some sort, probably involving several schools.

Co-ordinator of creative arts for the county specializing in art, Ed Thorndike commented that the emphasis now is on competition among selves and participation, rather than competing school against school. He said the role of the five county music consultants is to be of assistance to the classroom teacher, and festival practice, as the past, would be impossible.

Tom Gibson of Martin Street, Milton, wondered aloud if adjudication without placement would be possible.

George Houslander, assistant co-ordinator of creative arts for the county, said teachers felt a festival is very time-consuming. "Repetition isn't education," he declared. "The question the standard of music in a festival, but it should be replaced with something. He suggested a North Halton choir, of as many as 200 voices with practices once a week in the late afternoons from a North Halton choir, some would be chosen to participate in an all-Halton choir.

Principals promptly expressed their concern over bussing problems. "The parents would have to take some responsibility," Mr. Houslander felt, but Stewarttown principal, Ron Chatten reminded him in many cases both parents work and would be unable to transport children.

Several commented that such a choir would involve very few children compared to the festival.

When Mr. Houslander was asked if the county co-ordinators would co-operate and give their backing to a revamped

festival, he said he did not see just how this could be done.

He said he assumed each school had their own concerts.

A rural teacher later explained, in her case, the school had no auditorium, and since she was also a regular grade teacher she could only lead a choir at noon hours in the hall. She felt the festival was a valuable place for her students to go, for experience in appearing on a stage.

If a concert were held, some principals felt a school would be able to put in a drama entry from some classes, instead of raising the standard of music in the general field of creative arts.

Linehouse W.I. representative Mrs. Sanford recalled that the festival had been set up to raise the standard of music in the schools.

A parent representative questioned the inclusion of drama, and when the problem of lack of music supervisors to train entries was restated, she exclaimed, "What's so good about the new system, then?"

Principal G. W. McKenzie of Robert Little School, Acton, pointed out schools with auditoriums could easily fill the gap left if there were no festival, but schools without auditoriums could not.

"We have a trust in the donors," commented principal Elmer Smith of the M. Z. Bennett School, Acton.

Named to the committee to prepare the questionnaire were North Halton music consultant Kenneth Harrison, president Jim Zehr, secretary-treasurer Glenda Benton, past president Jack Reed, Tom Gibson and Mrs. Vickery.

President Jim Zehr presided for the meeting attended by principals and teachers from Milton, Acton, Stewarttown, Glen Williams, Linehouse, Pineview, Campbellville and Brookville schools, W. I. representatives from Acton and Linehouse, and Acton-L.O.D.E. representative, two co-ordinators and one consultant from the county educational system.

The financial statement, presented by secretary treasurer Mrs. Benton, showed a balance of \$2,135.14.

She explained that donations increase each year. "For instance, each of 15 Women's Institutes contacted donated to the festival, and donations are increasing," Mrs. Benton felt this indicated good support by the public.

Middle School Possible By 1970 in Halton

The establishment of middle schools in the county for grades 6, 7 and 8 is still being studied by the Halton education board.

The board has received recommendations from a special executive committee to begin the middle school program by September 1, 1970. Trustees will study the committee report.

Pilot projects of the middle school concept — which provides an intermediate step between elementary and high schools — would be implemented in one school in each education area in the county.

The board was asked to set up a committee to develop more specific details of the middle school program.

Assistant education director Douglas Lawless said middle schools must not be allowed to become a downward step from the secondary level or an upward step from elementary schools, but a middle ground between the two.

Executive committee board members recommended the middle school range at this stage should include grades 6, 7 and 8. However, the committee report added that "the changing enrolment patterns of the future might well indicate that a move to include grades 7, 8 and 9 range would allow better, more flexible use of available facilities."

The change in enrolment patterns refers to the predicted reduction of secondary school enrolments in the future.

Trustee Bill Priestner said he is "seriously concerned" at including grades 7, 8 and 9 in the middle school group. Trustee Doug Palmer said he is "disturbed" at these grades being considered for the middle school program.

One mother comes every day to the village school in Concepcion Pinula, Guatemala, to serve CARE milk to the 80 pupils. The volunteer, Senora Demetria Altan has 4 children attending — she wants to be sure they get it.

Typing and instrumental music cannot be supported at this time in the middle school program, the executive committee reported. Lawless said a lot more assessing must be done before the board decides if typing and music is necessary at the grade 6 level.

Halton County Plowmen Make Good Showing at International

Several Halton County plowboys made a good showing in the plowing competitions at this year's International Plowing Match near Paris.

Larry Pickett, R. R. 3, Georgetown won the Massey-Ferguson trophy in the mounted plow class on Wednesday, Oct. 15, the opening day of the contests. Dwight May, R. R. 2, Hornby was fifth in this class of 25 entries, and Carl Sinclair of Linehouse was also a competitor.

In the horse-drawn plow classes, Stan May, R. R. 2, Hornby, was fifth out of 11 entries. His brother Lloyd May of Ariss a former Hornby man came seventh.

Harley Pickering of Oakville claimed a third prize in the tractor mounted class, the Eaton's junior championships. There were 20 entries. Murray Breckon of Burlington was also a competitor.

Milton's Brian Marshall came fifth and Bert Robertson of Acton was 10th in 15 entries in the utility class, on Wednesday the Esso Champions class. Russell May of Minesing was the winner of the Esso trip, with Carl Timbers of Stouffville runner-up.

In the tractors mounted or trailer class, with 23 entries, Keith Leslie of Georgetown was ninth and John Wilson of Norval 15th.

Thursday competitions saw Bryan Marshall of Milton take third prize in the tractors mounted class. Carl Timbers was the winner of this one. Later that day Harry Brander of Milton and Allan Craig of Brampton, representing Peel County, won the inter-county junior match Haldimand was second, Norfolk third, Ontario County fourth and Waterloo fifth.

On Friday Harley Pickering of Oakville won the Texaco of Canada trophy in the tractor mounted class. Larry Pickett was second in the competition for the Case trophy.

And Saturday Milton's Mayor Brian Best came second in the competition for mayors of Ontario municipalities. Mayors Steamer Emmerson of Georgetown and Les Dudy of Acton also competed that day.

On Monday evening, on Channel 5 there's going to be a Georgetown "Merry" Griffen Television show — only instead of Merry from Hollywood, the host will be Julian Reed from Norval.

And he'll be interviewing some pretty exciting guests. Instead of Zsa Zsa Gabor, he'll talk with Mary Simpson. He couldn't get Paul Anka, but Paul Burrows will be there. And Goldie Hawn's look-alike, Donna Robbins will appear. So will a host of other soon-to-be-famous Georgetowners, including a dog.

The show should be a lot of fun, but the message is serious. The Georgetown & District Y campaign for funds starts that night and many people in the Y thought this might be a good way to tell a lot of people why the Y needs money.

"So many people think they are helping the Georgetown Y when they give to the United Appeal," said Julian Reed, actor, farmer, TV interviewer and Y worker. "But they're not! Every cent the Georgetown and District Y needs must be raised locally."

And Georgetown Y does need money! They need money to subsidize those programs that don't pay for themselves, like the baby sitting course and the leadership training for teenagers. They need money to buy mats for the Judo class, a projector for the educational courses, craft material for the summer Day Camps. They need money to pay for a secretary and a program director because they need them to keep things running. The big dream is to get enough money to own a building and build a swimming pool but right now they need enough money to pay the rent.

They hope to show in this TV "first" how essential the Y is to a community, how flexible it is, how it can change to fit the needs of a changing community because it is, in fact, made up from the community Y workers are people interested in making Georgetown a better place to live.

As preparation for the TV program becomes more frantic it's gratifying to see so many community members pitching in with goods and services. Georgetown Cable TV has not only donated time, three cameras, the technical know-how of manager John Olivier, but they have also donated their president's office to be used as a studio.

Down the hall from the president's office Peter Healin and Monty Hyde, lawyers, have offered their office as a coffee shop, or first aid station should any of the performers need reviving.

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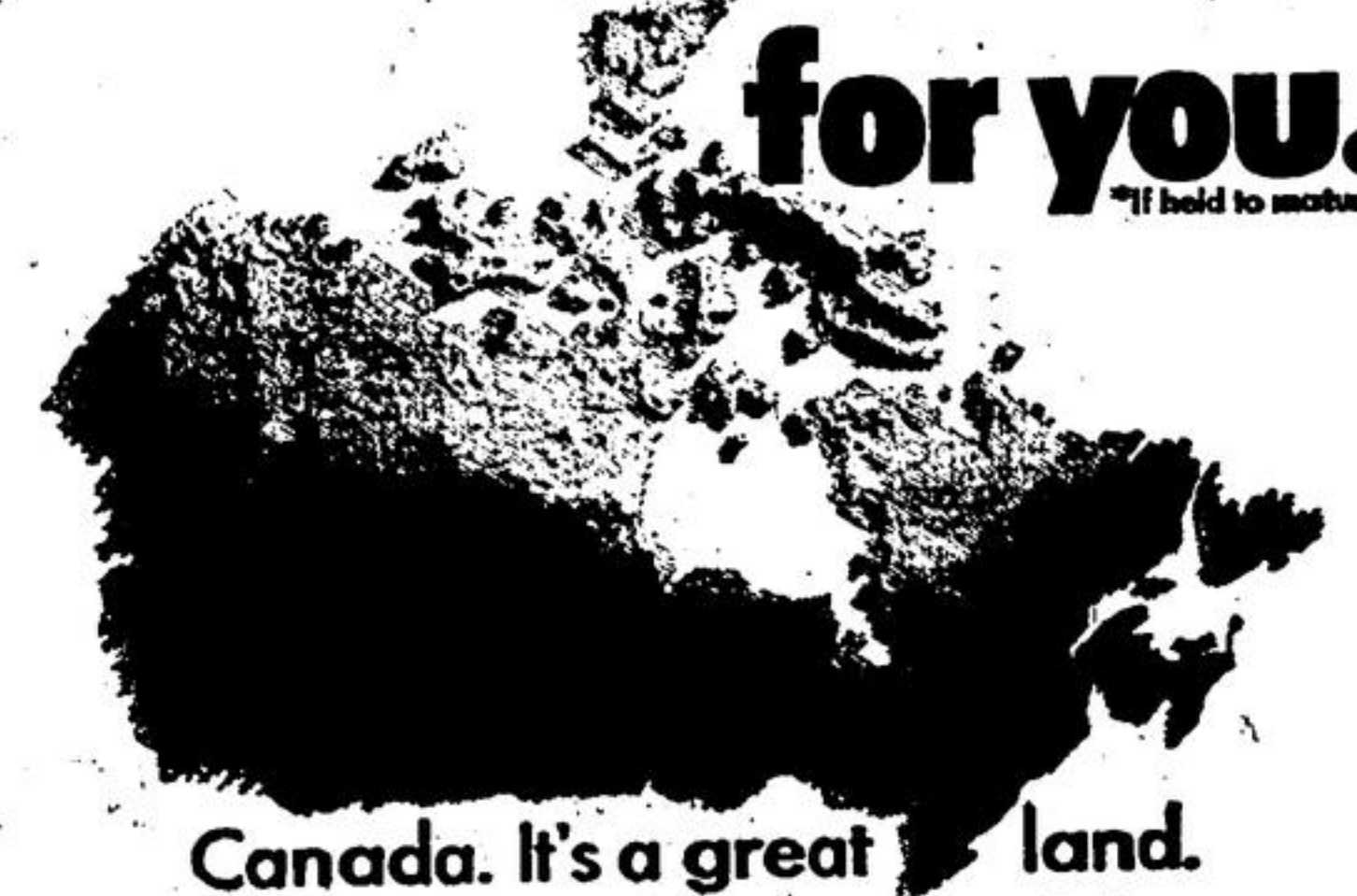


DONATE TRAY CART

Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital's food services supervisor, Mrs. G. Poulsen (right) accepts a tray cart on behalf of the hospital from Mrs. G. King, Noble Grand of Verdun Rebekah Lodge, No. 184, acting on behalf of the lodge members. This cart will be used to serve meals to patients in the obstetrical unit.

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