

Grade 9 parents' night both success and failure

The annual grade 9 parents' night was held last Wednesday at the high school. The evening was intended to provide parents with the opportunity to meet the teachers and to ask questions about the school and its programs.

To open the meeting, a brief assembly was held in the gymnasium. New principal Dave Katz, assistant superintendent for the Halton County Board of Education Don Thomas, and three of the high school's department heads addressed the gathering. Brian Skerrett, Ken Ellis and Keith Black. After the assembly, parents and teachers chatted over coffee in the cafeteria.

Two issues

Two issues were brought out at the meeting. Firstly, both administration and staff stressed the desire and need for parent and community involvement in school activities. Hopefully the community will accept the invitation to participate.

Secondly, it became quite clear that people were unaware or unsure of many things to do with the school, its programs, and education in general. To overcome this problem principal Katz is inviting readers to send any questions they might have to the high school. Your letters will reach the appropriate person

and, if possible, a reply will be printed in the Free Press. If the need is there, a regular column of questions and answers could appear in this paper.

Success, failure
The evening was both a success and a failure for principal Dave Katz and his staff. Those who turned out were genuinely interested and enjoyed the evening. However, Mr. Katz pointed out, there are 120 grade 9 students at ADHS and, therefore, by simple arithmetic, about 240 parents. Those that attended numbered 60.

These figures offer an especially dismal picture when one recalls assistant superintendent Don Thomas' simple but sometimes overlooked statement: "your children are your most prized possession". How then can parents send their children off to school and not concern themselves with school activities, let alone their children's programs?

Both Dave Katz and Don Thomas stressed the importance of community involvement in school activities when they addressed the grade 9 parents' night assembly. And the high school is opening its doors to the community. "Strange that the community should be more interested in highway construction and drag-strip noises," Mr. Katz remarked.

Notes From Acton High

By Mary Ann Frueler

Grade 13 students ambitiously washed cars last Saturday to help raise money for their history trip to Quebec. Over 70 tickets were sold, but the pouring rain prevented some of the drivers from coming to the school. The students worked in two shifts.

The Quebec trip had been planned for October 21, but has now been changed until next April. This will give the class more time for fund raising to help reduce the individual cost to each student.

Plan play

Last week, the Creative Drama class, along with English teacher, Mr. Sanson went to Burlington to see the play "The Star Spangled Girl". The actors were members of a high school in Burlington. In the future our own drama class will put on "Barefoot in the Park".

Soccer victory

Our soccer team defeated the players from Orangeville in their first game last Wednesday. The final score was 2-1. Bob Andrews and Dave Braida making the goals for our school. Members of the team are Bob Andrews, Danny Allen, Randy Bligny, Dave Braida, Randy Coker, Mike Cooper, Paul Cooper, Jim Frizzell, Bob Krul, Harry Lawson, Jim McNabb, Larry Quinn, Bruce Swift, Brad Timbers, Randy Weldon, Brian Sampson and Gord Williams.

Coaches for the team are Terry Churchill and Mr. Rowly. Then Oct. 19, 13 Cross Country teams will be competing at our school. It is quite an honor to have this placed upon us.

Opera tickets

Tickets are on sale at the English department, to attend an opera in Toronto. The dates are October 7 and Oct. 16, and the tickets cost only \$2.

The grade thirteen class will be visiting the University of Waterloo October 16. Several students will take part in the science labs and lectures while the remainder of the group will have a tour of the grounds.

Second dance

Also coming up on October 16, is the second dance of the school year. The music will be supplied by "Beaudree". Keep this date open and plan to attend.

Coupling split

Traffic was tied up Saturday night when a freight train split a coupling at Trafalgar Rd. and Maple Ave. on Georgetown's outskirts, at the North Halton Golf and Country club corner. It was almost two hours before repairs were made, and trains along the line were stopped.

North Halton police were called to assist.

NO COUNCIL meeting this week, since September had five Tuesdays. The meetings are usually every other week.



CO-OWNERS Mr. and Mrs. Ed Startek (left) and Mr. and Mrs. Lou Wasowicz (right) greeted patrons at the Open House held at the recently renovated

Dominion Hotel, Thursday night. They wish to thank all those who attended the special event.—(Staff Photo)

ADHS teams fare well

Acton District High cross-country teams made creditable showings in a dual meet with Shelburne and White Oaks Secondary School of Oakville, here last Wednesday.

Junior boys, sparked by Pete Morrison's first place finish in a time of 15 minutes, 19 seconds, won their race with 15 points. White Oaks placed second with 28 and Shelburne third with 35.

Midget boys fell one point short of claiming victory in their race. White Oaks nosed them out 23 points to 24. Third place Shelburne had 35. Phil Morris placed first in the senior boys' event in a remarkable time of 14:11 and Bob Andrews finished second in 14:30. Both Acton and White Oaks

finished with 18 points, but White Oaks were awarded the win, since they had a fifth competitor in the race. Acton had only four entries. Points are counted against the first four finishers according to their position. Normally, the team with the lowest number of points against is declared the winner.

White Oaks won the girls' open event with 15 points to Acton's 22. Shelburne had no entries in either the senior boys' or girls' open events. All three boys' events were run on a 2 1/2 mile course, while the girls' race was 1 1/2 miles. Acton will host the annual cross-country meet for all Halton County schools, Monday October 19.

Big fair show

The regular monthly meeting of Acton Fair Board Ladies was held at the home of Mrs. A. Robinson; 15 ladies were present. Mrs. W. Linham, the president, was in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting and the financial report were given by the secretary Mrs. Isabel McDonald.

Each convener of the different classes gave reports. Discussions followed and some new ideas were mentioned which had been noticed at other fairs.

Advance lists

All conveners are to have their

advanced fair list ready and to be given at the next meeting.

The baby show which was the largest yet was discussed and the ladies decided to give the judges a gift for their work.

The district annual will be held at Markham Tuesday, Oct. 27. The ladies enjoyed a friendly time and Mrs. Matthews was courtesy convener. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. W. Linham, lunch committee Mrs. E. Archibald, Mrs. Elmer Smith and Mrs. W. J. McDonald.

Osprings guides begin season

First Osprings Guides started their second year with the same group of girls. The names of those who registered are Heather Smith, Barbara and Doreen Johnston, Janet VanderHiede, Christine Lundgren, Susan Hodge, Sandra Hay, Lou Anne and Laura Leslie.

The leaders of the company are Captain Mrs. June Smith, 1st Lieutenant Mrs. Marion Rolf and Cadet Teny VanderHiede.

Any girl age 10 to 16 is welcome to join the company on Tuesday nights 7:15 - 8:45 in Osprings school gym.

Free Press Personals

Mr. Gordon Cunningham is a patient in Toronto General Hospital.

Friends will be sorry to learn Mr. Thomas Lazenby is a patient in St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph.

Friends will miss Mr. and Mrs. Cam Winn, who have moved from their attractive home on Main N. to Listowel.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. MacDonald, Grosse Pointe, Lake Shore, Detroit, Michigan; Mrs. W. T. Bell, Toronto; Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Small, Niagara Falls, Ontario visited recently with Mrs. R. M. MacDonald.

Among the many visitors at Open House at Elm Tree Farm, R. R. 1 Moffat, Sunday, were Dr. Duff Wilson and his wife from Ayr. Dr. Wilson lived in Acton as a youngster when his father was Presbyterian minister.

Seven members of Trinity United Church Women attended the dessert luncheon at Nassagaweya Presbyterian church last Thursday, marking the 75th anniversary of the W.M.S. there. Guest speaker was Mrs. J. E. McGilvary of Toronto, a member of the W.M.S. council. She is a former Acton resident, as Margaret Wilson, and the mother of A.D.H.S. teacher Ian McGilvary.

Friends will be sorry to learn that Mrs. Patricia Oakley is a patient in the Guelph General Hospital.

Mrs. Irene Terry has returned to Acton and is living in the Valley View Apartments, Churchill Rd. S.

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Rogvaldson and Mr. and Mrs. G. W. McKenzie visited on the weekend in Elliott Lake with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taylor; she is the former Janet Rogvaldson. Mr. Taylor is assistant business administrator for the school board of the area, which extends from Sault Ste. Marie to Sudbury, excluding the cities. Mrs. Taylor is supply teacher and leading the Rangers.

Michael Hurst, second son of Nan and Joe Hurst of Acton, has been appointed by his firm Labatts Breweries, to the position of Marketing Planning Manager for British Columbia. Michael and his wife Ann left London last weekend, travelling by plane to Calgary and thence by train to Vancouver, where they will take up residence.

Attending the Open House at the new Acton branch of the Toronto-Dominion Bank Monday were Ontario division general manager George Smithson, personnel supervisor Robert Simpson, special business development representative Alec Young and premises supervisor Doug Chivers.

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Ackman held a garden party at their home in Nassagaweya before Mr. Ackman was installed as the new president of B'nai B'rith at Beth Isalah Synagogue in Guelph. Mr. Ackman is also a Nassagaweya councillor.

Members of the industrial softball league champion Pete's Barber Shop team held a steak roast and dance at the country home of Fred and Sheila Buchanan, Saturday night. About 40 players, wives and girl friends attended.

World classroom

McLuhan has his global village. Keith Black has his pet philosophy too — the "World classroom."

"There is much to learn," the geography head told the grade 9 parents, "and the best way to learn is for students to observe things first-hand in the world around them." Once the student has observed and recorded the facts he should come back into the classroom to analyze and synthesize his findings. In this way "knowledge became understanding."

This is the philosophy around which Keith Black is building the geography program at ADHS. And it is in this context that a Mediterranean trip is being planned for next summer. Certainly, it is the type of program about which both students and teachers can be enthusiastic.

Education goals
Following are some excerpts from Mr. Black's remarks:
On the goals of education:

Stress "theme work"

Ken Ellis, who has returned to Canada after spending three years in Ghana, is an advocate of the thematic approach to literature. And the English department has developed a program along these lines.

Mr. Ellis pointed out to parents that the complexity of the theme depends on the maturity of the students. Two programs are in effect at the grade nine level: one of the themes is "man and the challenge of his environment"; the other concentrates on "problems of youth".

Prejudice theme

He has selected prejudice as the theme at the grade 11 level. In this course the pupils will study Cry the Beloved Country, Oliver Twist, and Black Like Me.

He is especially interested in students at the grade 11 level: "at

this point the student is just becoming aware of his position as a young adult—within the next 2-3 years he will be old enough to die for his country or even to vote; thus some of the real core problems facing society should be formally faced in the English class at this time.

Correlate art forms
The thematic approach operates on the assumptions that "literary works have more relevance if they can be correlated and not just treated as separate entities; and problems and solutions become more meaningful if the student can see the topic from different points of view."

Ultimately, Ken Ellis hopes that "exposure to a multitude of art forms may encourage a lasting interest in one or all of them in later life."

Student services dept.

The guidance department at ADHS headed by Brian Skerrett, has a difficult role to fill. One of their problems is that many students and parents do not really know what guidance is and what services a school counsellor can provide.

Mr. Skerrett pointed out the increasing importance of guidance by citing several statistics: "the average high school student will change jobs five times during the 40 years he is employed; unemployment among teenagers today is twice the national average; divorce rates are at an unprecedented

high; the most popular marrying age is 19; increased complexity in school programs and in most occupations necessitates assistance and clarification."

He summed up his speech at last week's grade nine night by making three suggestions to parents: give students all the assistance possible in his home study — show interest, especially when the child starts the conversation; come to the school and meet the teachers and find out what's going on; call him at the school if a problem arises.

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