



ACTON'S GRAND Old Man, 100 year old C. K. Browne arrives with driver Alvin Clark to cast his vote, in Monday's municipal election. —(Staff Photo)



HAVING CAST his vote in Monday's municipal election 100 year old C. K. Browne leaves his polling station at Luxton Memorial Hall with his wife Doris and chauffeur Alvin Clark. —(Staff Photo)



ACTON'S OLDEST citizen Charles Kelly election. Laura Dittrich and Helen McMillan handed out ballots at Luxton Memorial Hall.

100
per cent
voter
at 100

**Changing
concepts
farmers'
theme**

Changing concepts in agriculture and food is the theme of the upcoming three-day annual conference - formerly called Farmers' Week - at the Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph, to be held January 4, 5 and 6, 1971.

The program will be divided into two parts, with both parts running concurrently for three days. One series of talks and discussions will focus on future food markets, while the other will deal with our rural environment. Programs each day will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.

North Education Centre serves 29 schools, 11,900 students

By Bob Burt

When school doors swung open in September, approximately 11,900 students passed through them into the North Halton area's 25 elementary and three secondary schools, plus a school for retarded children.

According to educators the student's opportunity to learn has never been greater. There are 5,027 teachers working in the 29 North Halton schools as well as 20 administrative and consulting staff working out of the North Education Centre located at Milton Heights. It is one of three district centres under the Halton County Board of Education.

Three assistant superintendents, two primary consultants, one consultant for each subject including art, science and physical education work in the north. Others at the centre include a psychometrician, a psychologist, an attendance councillor and two men involved in plant maintenance.

Frightening
The conglomeration of consultants and administrative personnel may frighten the average Joe Taxpayer who wonders just how far they'll be digging into his pocket for education taxes each year. However, North Education Chairman Jim Morrison insists the staff list is pared down as far as it can and still operate on an efficient level.

Contrary to what some people believe, the consultants and administrative personnel really do serve a meaningful purpose and provide a better education than the little red school style of education once did.

Can detect problem
Take the psychometrician, for instance. Once a child who had trouble with reading and math was classed a slow learner and doomed to remain that way. However a child in the same position now would be tested and often the tests indicate the child suffers from visual perception. In other words he doesn't see the words in print the way others do, and takes longer to read them.

In this case the solution might be a pair of glasses or treatment by an optometrist. The problem is often picked up by a psychometrician. Together with

the psychologist, perceptual or emotional problems can be discovered and often treated.

Seek solution

At any rate the psychometrician files a report with the chairman. Often co-operation between the psychologist and psychometrician or a community agency is needed to outline steps that should be taken.

Miss Mary Kirk and Miss Carol Bailey work in the north as psychometricians and the psychologist is Miss Isabel Davey.

Heading the ranks at the centre are three assistant superintendents. The three take on the responsibilities similar to that of what was once known as an inspector but with a wider range. They now work with kindergarten to grade 13 while once elementary and secondary schools had their own administrative set-ups.

One of the advantages of the county system is the fact that the link between elementary and secondary schools has been severed. Where once each level of teachers held meetings separately they now meet together, allowing grade nine teachers to know better what is going on in grade eight, and vice versa. According to Chairman Morrison the county system has served as a link and provides the first step toward continuous education.

For purposes of the three assistant superintendents the north area is divided into three, with each division centering around one of the three high schools. This way the assistant superintendents can follow the child's progress from kindergarten to grade 13.

New addition
A relatively new addition to the staff in the north is Bill Coon who works as an attendance councillor. The job carries with it a stigma from the days of the truant officer. Many people still look upon attendance councillors as dogcatchers after delinquent kids.

Mr. Coon and others like him act on the referral of the school principal. He serves as a catalyst for community agencies including the Children's Aid

Society, Health Unit, Police Department and others that might become involved.

Awkward hours

Because his work necessitates home visits the attendance officer works long and awkward hours. Each child he works with is treated on an individual basis. Sometimes the problem of his poor attendance at school is a health matter and can be treated. Other times the problem is linked with a child who has fallen into trouble with the law. Basically his job is in the rehabilitation line.

Sometimes the officer will handle the problem himself in discussion with the child and his parents. Other times he'll call for help from the psychologist.

Other consultants

Miss Hilda Clark works as a physical education consultant with the north centre while John Battersby in art and Earl Phillips in science also work as consultants.

As consultants they work with teachers to improve programs, set up workshops and develop new and better programs. They are available to assist teachers in the field of their specialty.

Also working with the north education centre but stationed in the schools are five itinerant teachers, two for speech and three for reading. They provide programs for those who need

special help in speech or reading. While the argument about something being lost in modern education may have some merit, there can be little doubt there is more that can be done for the individual today in today's schools with today's specialists than in the little red schoolhouse of yesterday.

Halton West nominating

Halton West New Democratic Party Association will hold a convention to name a candidate for the next provincial election. The convention is expected to be held in January.

Ted McDonald, a Burlington school teacher held the post last election in 1967 when he lost out to Conservative George Kerr. Kerr has since been named Minister of Energy and Resources in the Ontario Cabinet.

Roberts may quit
With rumors of Premier John Roberts stepping down, there is some speculation about a spring election but others in political circles tend to feel the government will not hold the election until next fall.

David Butler has declared himself as a candidate for the Liberal nomination in Halton East.

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