



AFTER THREE DAYS OF HIKING, looking for stuff under rocks and trees, and playing and finding plants and bugs, and playing and looking for fossils, and playing, and playing and playing, it's hard to tell who was more tired, the pupils or the teachers. Jennifer Arbic, Brad McPherson, Carol Chappel and David Lowe found that by sitting under a tree and listening to group leader Diane Buckman read stories it wasn't too hard at all to relax and enjoy the great outdoors. (Photo by J. Jennings)



JIMMY ALLEN found this piece of ancient history on the rocks and fossils hunt and now he has only to find out what made the little holes and marks in it. Steven Schonnop, meanwhile, thought that the M. Z. Bennett outing at Rockwood park was a lot of fun and he'd like to do it again. Tomorrow, maybe? (Photo by J. Jennings)

Outdoor learning for jr. grades

Outdoor education was an exciting — and wearying — novelty for the grades 1, 2 and 3 students of the M.Z. Bennett school three days last week. They rode each day up to Rockwood conservation area to experience a new field of learning with teachers Mrs. Vadeika, Mrs. Usher and Kathy McKenzie.

Some grade eight girls went along as group leaders for the program which followed trips and new experiences with booklets, questions and stories.

Of course one of their trips was to the famed caves. "Spooky!" relished the children.

They collected rocks, fossils and plants for classification.

Another highlight was lunch-time, which one day was a cook-out.

Three cheers for semester system!

By Corie Maxwell

This school year has been an eventful and changing one. We started with a new system of teaching (the semester system), a new addition was constructed and we had many new staff members. In reviewing the year, I would offer the following for your perusal.

The two semesters, taken in one year, have shown both the advantages and disadvantages of this type of system, and since we are to continue our courses by the same method next year, it would appear that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

Learning experience
The student assistance program has been in full operation all year and the High School students who helped have had a real learning experience besides much enjoyment.

Our intramural sports have been in full swing on a yearly basis and with a lot of training and hard work the Acton Track Team has proven itself worthy of the high esteem accorded it.

Instant success
The Student Council of '71-'72, consisting of Hank Wissenz, Sean Ahearn, Nancy Abram and Robert Ellerby has held many fine dances and events. Mini school was an instant success and such assemblies as the one by the Tramp Champs went over well.

The Theatre Arts department made an excellent showing in both semesters with two theatre nights.

School trips
England and Scotland were the places to be last March, while two other trips to Quebec were also enjoyed by many students during the year.

Acton High had two prize winning entries in the Hamilton Science Fair this past year. Not bad for a first try!

The Marketing '400' class set up a new school store — "The Closet". This venture proved to be quite successful and will continue next year.

Then there was the Winter Carnival with its fun loving, cold weather sports enthusiasts, to say nothing of the beautiful and

sometimes funny snow sculptures.

Sense of pride
That new addition, the Resource Centre, has allowed for many hours of concentrated study and research for students and has created a sense of pride in the community.

Open House! That was the night the parents, teachers and students mingled in the halls and classrooms and there was no such phrase as the "generation gap".

This year has witnessed many events and I have only mentioned a few. Opinions about the school year are varied and to give some indication of people's thoughts concerning it, I asked some staff members for a short summation. The following are their impressions.

Keith Black: Serious academic study in Geography, coupled with appropriate field trips and travel overseas, have combined to make 1971-72 at Acton High a stimulating exercise in relevant learning for students and staff.

Mrs. S. Burns: I've enjoyed this year. It's had its good times and bad times but I've learned a lot. The best thing is the involvement with the people around here.

Carl Cayer: The past year has been both exciting and hectic. New courses, new activities and a new system have created more work but next year should be better and even more rewarding.

Bill Coats: Last year will be "remembered" among those at Acton District High School where a significant change in the educational environment took place.

Brian Downes: An interesting experiment in semestering appears to have been successful. It has provided Mathematics students with more supervised practice time in class. This appears to be the key to more effective learning.

Ken Ellis: Challenging, exciting, hectic, frustrating, rewarding, enervating, invigorating — these words best describe this past year for me. It has been a year of great change in school organization. The learning experience has, as it should have, been one for both students and

staff. Again a rewarding experience to teach a remarkable group of very fine people.

Mrs. S. Fleming: Challenging, a lot of hard work. However, I really enjoyed working with most of the students. You're a good group!

Jim Goring: This year proved to be a "learning experience" for students, teachers and parents. Each group changed with amazing grace and extreme good humor.

Mrs. Dina Hueniken: The semestering system, the hour-long periods and the abolition of formal exams made this a most challenging year to both staff and students. Unfortunately, some students failed to realize that they were evaluated on a day to day basis until it was too late, and some staff members were disappointed that the abolition of formal exams did not reduce their work load but increased it instead. Hopefully, next year will work out better, as both staff and students will be familiar with the system. Generally speaking, however, I would like to say that this year was a successful one for most members of the Acton High School.

Mrs. J. Levy: This month concludes an interesting and stimulating phase of educational experience for me. Truly professional staff members and those enthusiastic students who enjoy art have helped expand a pioneer art department to full schedule in 1972-73. A great year!

Jim May: My impression of this past school year? Well, it was, you know, just about, well really the whole year was, but then again although, in addition — Well anyway.....

Ian McGillivray: Interesting. Miss Jennifer Mills: It was a record year at Acton High School. 15,729 baskets were "sunk", an improvement of 1,022 from last year. We expect bigger and better things for next year.

Mrs. Joan Morgan: It has been an exciting year at Acton High. Many changes were initiated and the semester system is generally proving to be a great success.

Miss M. Quinn: The school year has been a very busy year but an interesting one. The semester

School's out for writer Corie

Corie Maxwell has been an unusually capable high school reporter through the past school year. The Free Press very much appreciates her efforts to provide a well-balance and interesting account of events at the school for the entire reading public.

system appears to have succeeded and next year should prove to be an even better year.

Clarence Rognvaldson: Academically speaking, the year was successful. It proved that the Semester Program was workable in our school and it also brought out two or more problems needing professional solutions. I was not impressed by student dress or deportment during the year.

Geoff Sansom: Semestering is obviously not a panacea, but, as a teacher, I greatly prefer a semester system. Apart from semestering, the high points of the year have been two successful Theatre Nights — and the creation of an operating Drama Club.

Boris Shean: I like the semester system. I think it has been good for students as well as teachers. Time has gone very quickly (or so it seems) yet a lot has been accomplished.

Brian Skerrett: The most significant difference between this year and last is that the students seem to be more proud of the school, presumably because of semestering.

Harold Swallow: The year, 1971-72, is an historic year in the development of education at Acton District High School.

Dr. Paul Tambllyn: A year of personal learning and excitement about the realities of education. Hopefully, my students have also learned things that are important and meaningful for them.

Joe Bray: THREE CHEERS FOR ACTON HIGH SCHOOL!!

As I write "30" to this column, I would like to thank those people who have helped me in the past year. I have tried to present the readers with an integral report and make them more aware of the happenings at the High School. Although at times it has been frustrating, there has been a happy feeling of accomplishment and interest which has made it a very rewarding experience. Have a good summer!

Corie



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