



WHEN THE BIG TRAILER moves out of Acton, with it will get the facilities and a teacher who has provided many worthwhile hours for students young and older who took advantage of a Sheridan College skill course casually conducted in the mobile unit parked for the last eight weeks behind the Robert

Little Public School. Picture 1: Jeff Salt, 10, an MZB student is being coached by the teacher as he works on his particular piece of pottery; 2: he proudly displays his sugar bowl completed; 3: Sandy Pratt, 14, an Acton High school student polishes off a frog image pitcher which has required both skill and

imagination to design; 3: Sandy is back at the wheel preparing to knock off another intriguing piece of artistry; 5: A talented student from MZB, Adele Titon, 10, a grade 5 student, expresses her interest in the course, "I just love it" and, although Adele enjoys all phases of art, pottery is her favourite.

## Sheridan trailer offers opportunity to develop skills

By Lorraine Root  
For the past eight weeks the mobile trailer which has been parked unobtrusively behind the Robert Little public school in Acton has been a place of productive creativity where skills have been developed and crafts encouraged as part of the Sheridan College open concept program involving both the very young and older students.

Operating under the Community Services Branch, school children have been offered opportunities to develop craft skills extending to five hours a week, one hour per day, in a program which has included a choice of pottery, puppetry, macrame, batik and tie die, leather-craft, and off-loom weaving, with all courses under the leadership of professional instructors.

### N.H.A.M.R. Elects Russ Hunt president

This year was rewarding for the North Halton Association for Mentally Retarded. It was reported at the annual meeting of the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded, last week.  
For the first time a summer day camp for the retarded operated in the area. Through the co-operation of recreation departments in Acton and Milton, the camp was conducted at Pineview School. It was well attended.  
A branch of Youth Across Canada for the Mentally Retarded was formed in Georgetown. This group of young people helped in the day camp and took the children on social outings.  
Third highlight of the year was the government licensing of Tinkerbell Nursery for pre-schoolers.  
At the annual meeting Russ Hunt was elected president for the coming year. Executive elected were past president William Treahy, 1st vice president Les Griffiths, 2nd vice president June Beene, treasurer Ruth Mitchell, recording secretary Joan Hunt and corresponding secretary Lucille Virus.  
Appointed chairman of the many committees necessary for the smooth functioning of

"This is not a therapy course" said Elaine Foote, the teacher in charge of the unit. "We are, instead, attempting to introduce pupils to working in a studio situation as individuals as opposed to a structured classroom." In some cases Miss Foote's proteges have been children requiring enrichment in their school curriculum but, mostly, it has been incorporating the special Sheridan crafts with regular art lessons.

Elaine has been affiliated with the trailer teaching program for the past two years as it has been operating in both Halton and Peel counties. She feels that, although it has been interesting to move about in smaller communities such as Campbellville, Pine View, Norval, Belfountain, Caledon and Palgrave, feasibility of conducting programs in the

better populated areas with more complete facilities, is now showing itself.  
Miss Foote expects that very soon now, decisions will be made to keep the mobile education centre permanently involved in the largely inhabited communities.  
The trailer has not lent itself exclusively to children but has also offered extensive craft courses for adults in the Acton community including off-loom weaving from fleece through to the completed articles, and pottery, painting and weaving classes.

Teachers Involved  
Mrs. Ethel Bessem was the teacher on the children's leather-craft time-table, Mrs. Dorothy Goodwin of Limehouse the weaving teacher, Mrs. Ruth Camplin of Norval, painting and teaching pottery and off-loom weaving was Elaine Foote of Brampton's Sheridan College staff.

The youthful teacher who enjoys watching adults and children working together constructively feels the trailer centre could, conceivably, decide to establish Bolton, Caledon, and Acton, as its regular set-up grounds. Elaine says she has enjoyed her weeks in Acton and has been impressed with the hospitality which both the children and residents have bestowed on her plus their enthusiastic participation in the classes.

"I would like to have seen more adults involved," she says, but added that she feels that, when the trailer moves into town next year, this year's classes will have created the necessary interest for more people to register in the '74 sessions.  
As it stands now, the big unit will move out about Christmas time. The \$2 fee for the children's courses has been minimal in comparison

to the instruction they have obtained. Many of the students have not only added to the quantity of merchandise for seasonal Christmas gifts but have also cultivated keen interests in basic hand skills thus providing potential leisure hour activities as well as a healthy understanding of the warp and wool skills of their pioneer ancestry.  
Elaine Foote, teacher co-ordinator of the college trailer is, herself, an example of diversified versatility as she relates her background as a graduate social worker from Concord, New Hampshire, near Boston, U.S.A.,

coming to Canada and graduating from the Sheridan College School of Design. A deliver in the craft of pottery for the past eight years, she is presently working on a night university course in psychology and, at the same time will soon be a licensed pilot graduating from the Brampton Flying School. Next year she hopes to spend some time working on an Indian reserve although she plans on being in the driver's seat when the trailer centre rolls into Acton again.  
Next stop for the mobile vehicle after Christmas will be Bolton. The school-time classes in Acton involved

approximately 15 pupils per class with interest accruing rapidly.  
"The trailer school actually has a capacity to accommodate 300 children."

said the enthusiastic teacher who said she looks forward to next year's sessions expanding to include many more students both adult and children.

### Rides needed for children

Halton Children's Aid Society is looking for volunteer drivers from Georgetown and Acton areas.

Foster children need transportation to visit with their families or with social workers in Hamilton, Burlington or Toronto.

If you are free to donate some of your time for this important community work

contact Nancy Ross, co-ordinator of Volunteers for CAH at 639-8193 in Burlington for an appointment.

### Sanding

Sanding trucks were out for the first time Sunday night, and right there with them the snowmobilers.

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